

SPORTS

HOCKEY / JUNIOR B

Better by the dozen as Kings' winning streak continues

Victories over Guelph and Cambridge give Elmira 12 straight wins, place atop of the conference standings

» WHITNEY NEILSON

MAKE IT AN EVEN dozen for the Elmira Sugar Kings, who pulled off another pair of wins over the weekend to bring their winning streak to 12 straight.

They sit at the top of the Midwestern Conference with a 17-3-1 record, four points above second-place Listowel.

The Kings defeated the Guelph Hurricanes 4-3 on Nov. 5 at the Sleeman Centre. They returned home the following night to earn a 3-1 victory over the Cambridge Winter Hawks.

Despite watching his players find ways to finish both games on the right side, head coach Ty Canal notes it wasn't their best weekend.

"We didn't get off to the start we wanted. We got down a goal. That hasn't happened a lot to us this year where we're down after the first, so that's nice to see our guys were able to battle back through that. I'd say it definitely wasn't the 60-minute game that we were hoping to play," Canal said.

In Guelph, the Sugar Kings fell behind 2-0 in the first period, the first time they had trailed behind another team since Oct. 11. Hurricane goals were scored by Alex Ritchie and Chris Poletek, assisted by Anthony Mota, Lyam Cripps, Cameron Stokes and Harlen

VanWynsberghe.

Elmira's Ty Biles put his team on the score board with less than a minute of play left in the first period. Helpers were Ethan Skinner and Jake Brown.

Guelph increased to a 3-1 lead in the second as Stokes scored, assisted by Poletek and Mitchell Morrison. The Kings took advantage of a power play opportunity as Quinten Bruce (Skinner) scored to head into the final frame still behind by a goal.

Andrew McIntyre evened the score with a power play marker of his own early in the third, helped by Zack Cameron and Klayton Hoelscher. And with less than two minutes on the clock, Kyle Soper put the puck in Guelph's net shorthanded. Jonathan Reinhart and Skinner assisted.

"It wasn't a consistent game by us, by any means. There were good things out of the weekend but there were still some areas that we were playing better at before and we'll look to improve on obviously," Canal said.

He notes they didn't spend much time shorthanded in Guelph which was a nice improvement.

On home ice at the Dan Snyder Arena on Sunday the first period was fast-



Jake Brown celebrates after scoring the Sugar Kings' third goal of the night against the Cambridge Winter Hawks at home on Nov. 6. The game was Elmira's twelfth straight win. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

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NOT SO GREAT
OUTDOORSMAN /
STEVE GALEA

Sometimes it's all a blur for avid hunters



OPEN
COUNTRY

ONE OF THE MOST important traits of a successful deer hunter is the ability to interpret signs. Your interpretation doesn't have to be correct, however, just interesting.

For instance, if you pointed to an old set of dried up deer tracks and casually quipped, "Well, at least this indicates a deer was in the area," people would begin to refer to you as Captain Obvious. Trust me; this is a title you don't want in deer camp.

Once labeled with that title, every stupid question in camp is referred to you.

Someone might ask: Do you think it is safe to drink water out of a beaver pond?"

The universal answer would be: "I don't know. Why don't we ask Captain Obvious."

This is followed by several har-har-hars and one or two hardy-har-har-hars - neither of which is good.

In order to get respect from fellow hunters, you need to offer more.

Seasoned deer hunters approach it like this.

First, they place both bare hands over the tracks to feel for residual heat. Then, they smell the track. Lastly, they place an ear

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THE SCORE

WOOLWICH WILDCATS

Tyke: SELECT
Nov. 5 vs Guelph
 Home: 4 Visitor: 1
Goals: Zack Forwell (3), Mason Gear
Assists: Colton Brito, Zach Wiseman (2), Reese Martin

Tyke: SELECT
Nov. 6 vs Halton Hills
 Home: 12 Visitor: 1
Goals: Luke Frey (5), Nolan Martin, Colton Brito (2), Evan Hall, Reese Martin, Zack Forwell (2)
Assists: Evan Hall, Cameron Fisher (5), Mason Gear (2), Matt Kochut (4), Liam Straus, Max Krasovec, Zach Wiseman

Novice: AE
Nov. 1 vs Stoney Creek
 Home: 8 Visitor: 0
Goals: Bryce Brubacher (2), Evan Reger (2), Fraser Allen (2), Sammy Kruschat, Declan Martin
Assists: Rhys Taylor (2), Bryce Brubacher, Sammy Kruschat

Shutout: Mills Devrieze

Novice: AE
Nov. 4 vs Orangeville
 Home: 1 Visitor: 7
Goals: Bryce Brubacher
Assists: Fraser Allen, Rhys Taylor

Novice: AE
Nov. 5 vs Stoney Creek
 Home: 4 Visitor: 0
Goals: Bryce Brubacher, Fraser Allen, Levi Adams, Declan Martin
Assists: Bryce Brubacher, Harrison Hartwick, Logan Cluthe, Levi Adams

Novice: LL#2
Nov. 5 vs Ayr
 Home: 6 Visitor: 6
Goals: Luke Forbes (4), Owen McAdam (2)
Assists: Carter Crummer, Zach Carter, Casey Dronick, Owen McAdam

Atom: LL#1
Nov. 4 vs St. George
 Home: 4 Visitor: 6
Goals: Tanner Armstrong (2), Evan McDowell, Jack Hacock

Atom: LL#1
Nov. 5 vs Plattsville
 Home: 12 Visitor: 0
Goals: Tanner Armstrong (2), Hunter Lance (2), Matthew Ramage (2), Evan McDowell (2), Adam Short, Carter Lipp, Becket Wadel, Jakob Geimer
Assists: Jack Hacock (4),

Evan McDowell (2), Hunter Lance, Clyde Chico, Jakob Geimer, Matthew Ramage, Carter Lipp, Benjamin Lipp
Shutout: Ryan Lashbrook

Atom: LL#2
Nov. 5 vs Plattsville
 Home: 8 Visitor: 2
Goals: Ben Lowther (3), Carter Harrow (2), Owen Tettman, Connor Airdrie, Ethan Adams
Assists: Evan Suave, Evan Hori, Ben Lowther, Alex Hiller, Connor Airdrie

Atom: LL#2
Nov. 6 vs LL#3
 Home: 5 Visitor: 2
Goals: Owen Tettman (2), Evan Hori, Carter Harrow, Andrew Zettler
Assists: Sam Brown (2), Ben Lowther, Patrick McCarthy

Atom: LL#3
Oct. 29 vs Twin Centre
 Home: 4 Visitor: 4
Goals: Lucas Hubbard, Evan Yorke (2), Zach Snider
Assists: Hayden George

Atom: LL#3
Nov. 5 vs New Hamburg
 Home: 1 Visitor: 6
Goals: Ben Hibbard
Assists: Lucas Hubbard, Connor Haley

Atom: LL#3
Nov. 6 vs Woolwich LL#2
 Home: 2 Visitor: 5
Goals: Lucas Hubbard, Ben Hibbard
Assists: Connor Haley, Branden Girling

Atom: MINOR A
Nov. 1 vs Guelph
 Home: 6 Visitor: 2
Goals: Josh Carson (2), Ethan Burkholder (2), Owen Weppeler, Danny Schaefer
Assists: Danny Schaefer

(2), Karsten Smith, Josh Carson, Hayden Weber, Drew Snyder, Keaton Kidd, Connor Goebel, Ethan Burkholder

Atom: MAJOR A
Nov. 1 vs Milton
 Home: 1 Visitor: 1
Goals: Stuart Sinclair

Atom: MAJOR A
Nov. 5 vs Halton Hills
 Home: 4 Visitor: 3
Goals: Pacey Camm (2), Eric Kane, Mitchell Walker
Assists: Andrew Chumley, Elijah Weiss (2), Evan Passmore, Pacey Camm, Ian Leech

Atom: MAJOR AE
Nov. 5 vs Milton
 Home: 2 Visitor: 2
Goals: Preston Hackert, Josh Gibson
Assists: Tyson Roth

Atom: MAJOR AE
Nov. 6 vs Erin-Hillsburgh
 Home: 11 Visitor: 0
Goals: Tyson Roth (2), Seth Shantz (2), Josh Uhrig (2), Jake Patterson, Josh Gibson, Jack Rozema
Assists: Seth Shantz, Preston Hackert, Tyson Roth (2), Keegan Martin, Owen Weber, Jack Rozema, Hunter Brown, Daniel Kochut (2), Josh Gibson, Josh Uhrig, Jake Patterson (2)

Peewee: LL#2
Oct. 28 vs Woolwich LL#3
 Home: 1 Visitor: 6
Goals: Ethan Murr
Assists: Andrew Palmer

Peewee: LL#2
Oct. 29 vs Tavistock
 Home: 2 Visitor: 3
Goals: Turner Dulhardt (2)
Assists: Ethan Murr

Peewee: LL#2
Nov. 5 vs Hespeler

ATOMS TAKE GOLD IN FORT ERIE



The Woolwich Atom Minor A Wildcats won gold at the Fall Classic Tournament last week in Fort Erie. The team is Dylan Burkholder, Ethan Burkholder, Joshua Carson, Riley Dettweiler, Brandon Fishman, Connor Goebel, Keaton Kidd, Jakob Noot, Ayden Schapp, Danny Schaefer, Karsten Smith, Andrew Snyder, Hayden Weber, Owen Weppeler and Evan Woods.

Home: 6 Visitor: 2
Goals: Josh Moore (2), Gabe Hicknell, Ashton Weber, Josh Moore, Turner Dulhardt
Assists: Daniel Grant, Turner Dulhardt, Owen Hackert

Peewee: MINOR AE
Oct. 28 vs New Hamburg
 Home: 2 Visitor: 4
Goals: Jett Renon, Riley Snider
Assists: Teagan Cadeau, Jett Renon, Ben Wilkie

Peewee: MINOR AE
Oct. 29 vs Milton
 Home: 1 Visitor: 9
Goals: David Taylor
Assists: Nathan Lipp

Peewee: MINOR AE
Nov. 2 vs Guelph
 Home: 1 Visitor: 10
Goals: Evan Lucier
Assists: Owen Brown

Peewee: MAJOR AE
Nov. 3 vs Guelph
 Home: 1 Visitor: 3
Goals: Lucas Radler
Assists: Oscar Fitch

Peewee: MAJOR AE
Nov. 5 vs Erin-Hillsburgh
 Home: 9 Visitor: 0
Goals: Lucas Radler (3), Sebastian Garrett (2), Corbin Schmidt, Shelby Rempel (2), Mitchell Brubacher
Assists: Shelby Rempel, Coleton Benham, Tristan Kraemer, Mitchell Hartman, Oscar Fitch

Peewee: MAJOR AE
Nov. 6 vs Halton Hills
 Home: 1 Visitor: 3
Goals: Corbin Schmidt
Assists: Sebastian Garrett

Bantam: LL#1
Nov. 4 vs Twin Centre

Home: 3 Visitor: 4
Goals: Dante Del Cul, Danny Soehner, Tanner Mann
Assists: Gavin Wright, Tyson Mifflin, Tyler Newton

Bantam: MINOR AE
Nov. 5 vs Milton
 Home: 2 Visitor: 5
Goals: Alex Hutton, Andrew Weber
Assists: Connor Waters, Cody Kroetsch, Colton Schmidt

Bantam: MINOR AE
Nov. 6 vs Guelph
 Home: 1 Visitor: 8
Goals: Alex Hutton

Midget: LL#1
Nov. 4 vs Hespeler
 Home: 9 Visitor: 2
Goals: Ryan Diemert (3), Kyle Gingrich (2), Tyler Horst (2), Tim Brunkard (2)
Assists: Kyle Gingrich, Nick Campagnolo (2), Tim Brunkard, Mike Devries, Connor Bentley, Owen Lucier, Tyler Horst

Midget: LL#2
Nov. 6 vs Beverly
 Home: 1 Visitor: 5
Goals: Alex Metzger
Assists: Blake Richardson, Adam Anstett

Assists: Calvin Witt, Tim Hodson, Jackson Andrews, Matthew Ball

Atom: MAJOR AA
Nov. 6 vs Brantford
 Home: 6 Visitor: 7
Goals: Hayden Taylor (2), Mason Mohr, Carter Merritt, Easton Oberholtzer, Calvin Witt
Assists: Jackson Andrews (2), Calvin Witt, Tim Hodson, Ben Yong, Riley Webster, Griffin Beddis, Matthew Ball

ELMIRA JR SUGAR KINGS

Midget: A
Nov. 6 vs Dundas
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1
Goals: Riley Runstedler, Evan Gowing
Assists: Noah Zeller (2), Aidan Ruston

Midget: A
Nov. 4 vs Hespeler
 Home: 1 Visitor: 3
Goals: Cole Altman
Assists: Noah Zeller

Midget: A
Nov. 1 vs Fergus
 Home: 3 Visitor: 8
Goals: Noah Zeller, Ryan Shantz, Cole Altman
Assists: Ryan Shantz (2), Mitch Waters, Cameron Brown

WOOLWICH WILD

Novice: B
Nov. 6 vs Huron

Home: 2 Visitor: 5
Goals: Lexie de Jeu (2)
Assists: Sophia Metzger

Atom: B
Nov. 5 vs Mount Forest
 Home: 5 Visitor: 0
Goals: Avery Grundy (3), Sara Forwell, Brienne Brezynskie
Assists: Claire Jacklin (3), Kara MacPherson (2)

Peewee: B#7106
Nov. 3 vs Cambridge
 Home: 3 Visitor: 2
Goals: Rachel Mills, Megan Pickett, Julia Doerbecker
Assists: Avery Durrer, Lexi Runstedler, Nicole Hehn

Peewee: BB#7100
Nov. 2 vs Wilmot
 Home: 4 Visitor: 0
Goals: Haylee Clemmer (2), Chloe Hislop, Faith Katsube
Assists: Haylee Clemmer (2), Tanis Uhrig, Paige Woods

Shutout: Mackenzie Koenig

Peewee: LL#7130
Nov. 6 vs Wilmot
 Home: 1 Visitor: 0
Goals: Haley Newton
Assists: Karli Gingrich
Shutout: Lauren Gerth

Bantam: B #7106
Nov. 5 vs Walkerton
 Home: 3 Visitor: 1
Goals: Avery Durrer

TOURNEYS

Peewee: MINOR A
 Owen Sound Silver Stick Tournament
 Owen Sound, Nov. 4 - 7
Game 1 vs Centre Wellington
 Home: 2 Visitor: 3
Goals: Parker Alles (2)
Assists: Joe Martin (2)

Game 2 vs Brantford
 Home: 2 Visitor: 2
Goals: Joe Martin (2), Ethan Martin
Assists: Drew Birmingham (2), Keenan Martin

Game 3 vs Halton Hills
 Home: 1 Visitor: 1
Goals: Joe Martin
Game 4 vs Barrie
 Home: 3 Visitor: 3
Goals: Parker Alles, Ethan Martin (2)
Assists: Keenan Martin, Joe Martin, Ethan Bickerton

Atom: MINOR A
 Fall Classic Tournament
 Fort Erie, ON
Nov. 4-6
Game 1 vs Humberview

Home: 5 Visitor: 4
Goals: Danny Schaefer (3), Ethan Burkholder, Drew Snyder
Assists: Evan Woods (2), Ethan Burkholder, Danny Schaefer, Brandon Fishman, Hayden Weber, Owen Weppeler

Game 2 vs Vaughan
 Home: 2 Visitor: 2
Goals: Ethan Burkholder, Josh Carson
Assists: Jakob Noot

Game 3 vs Vaughan
 Home: 3 Visitor: 0
Goals: Ethan Burkholder, Danny Schaefer, Connor Goebel
Assists: Ethan Burkholder, Danny Schaefer, Connor Goebel

Game 4 vs Aurora
 Home: 3 Visitor: 4
Goals: Danny Schaefer, Riley Dettweiler, Connor Goebel
Assists: Ethan Burkholder, Riley Dettweiler, Danny Schaefer (2), Karsten Smith, Evan Woods

Juvenile: A
 Greg Dietz Memorial Juvenile Tournament
 Mildmay, Nov. 4-7
Game 1 vs Lucknow
 Home: 8 Visitor: 0
Goals: Jasper Bender, Jacob Bruder, Darren Martin, Cole Lenaers, Tim Shuh (2), Mathieu Fife, Jordan Shantz
Assists: Cole Lenaers (2), Mathieu Fife (2), Darren Givlin, Tyler Moser, Luke Brown, Austin VanDerGeld (3)

Shutout: Thomas Vickers

Game 2 vs Thorold
 Home: 9 Visitor: 0
Goals: Colby Bond (2), Tyler Moser (3), Mathieu Fife (2), Austin VanDerGeld, Jacob Bruder
Assists: Mathieu Fife (2), Colby Bond, Darren Martin (2), Jacob Bruder (2), Jasper Bender, Tim Shuh, Luke Brown

Game 3 vs Lincoln
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1
Goals: Tim Shuh, Tyler Moser
Assists: Tyler Moser, Mathieu Fife, Cole Lenaers

Game 4 vs Beverly
 Home: 5 Visitor: 3
Goals: Kelby Martin, Austin VanDerGeld, Jordan Shantz (2), Mathieu Fife
Assists: Tyler Moser, Jacob Bruder (2), Kelby Martin, Mathieu Fife, Jasper Bender

JUVENILES VICTORIOUS IN MILD MAY



The Woolwich Juvenile team won the 22nd annual Greg Dietz Memorial Juvenile Hockey Tournament held last weekend in Mildmay. Front row: Tim Shuh, Austin VanDerGeld, Connor Bauman, Connor Duench, Thomas Vickers, Jake Lewis. Middle row: Cole Lenaers, Colby Bond, Jacob Bruder, Tyler Moser. Back row: Mike Lenaers (manager), Rick Moser (head coach), Luke Brown, Ryan Moser (equipment manager), Eddie Huber, Jasper Bender, Mathieu Fife, Kelby Martin, Jordan Shantz, Darren Martin, Ben Martin (trainer), Gavin White (asst. coach). Absent: Darren Givlin, Jayden Hipel, Kevin Moser (trainer), Ryan Dowler (asst. coach).

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GALEA: Stating the obvious can make you the wrong kind of captain of men

FROM | 11
to the ground over the track and listen for a few seconds and, should some nimrod make a sound, they shush them right up. Once the hunter rises, he or she then tests the wind by wetting an index finger and holding it high.

Then the hunter holds court.

"That track was created by a big buck," the hunter begins. This is critical be-

cause no one cares about tiny fawns.

"I know the tracks look extremely tiny and fawn-like," the hunter will continue, "but that just goes to show you how crafty a 324-pound buck can be. Unless I am totally wrong, I'd say that buck is a 15-pointer, and judging by the fact that the left track is microscopically deeper than the right, I'd say the buck broke off the top half-

inch of its right brow tine fighting with an arthritic 13-pointer that prefers beech nuts over acorns..."

Then, the hunter will inhale deeply and add, "That fight took place at six minutes before noon three days ago in the southwest corner of the swamp near a maple tree that's 47 years old..."

This kind of detailed analysis garners respect.

As a longtime hunter, I

know this. That's why I was able to correctly analyze a photo I had on my trail camera that shows three blurs running by at full tilt.

I showed it to a friend and went on to explain I had set up my trail camera there precisely because I knew this was a trail where irresponsible deer, after a night of eating fermented apples, came to drag race.

I further noted I had found the deer I wished

to harvest and pointed to the last blur in the photo. I said the first deer was far too fast to be a mature heavy bodied animal. The second deer, I suggested, was the same age as the first deer but was slower because of the poor aerodynamic qualities of its antlers.

"So you are saying that you are going to shoot the slowest of the three because mature, big antlered

deer are usually slower off the line," he said.

I nodded and added, "You see, that's why trail cameras are great. They show you what deer are doing when you are not there."

"Thanks Captain Obvious," he said.

By the way, the answer to the question posed earlier is never drink stagnant water out of an active beaver pond.

Applejacks scuttle Navy Vets in team's sole action of the week

Wellesley crowd treated to a disciplined squad doing the right things en route to a 6-1 victory

▶ WHITNEY NEILSON

THE WELLESLEY APPLEJACKS ARE heading into a busy weekend with another win under their belt.

The Jacks had a bit of a break over the weekend, playing just one game, instead of their usual two and sometimes even three. Capitalizing on their one chance, they defeated the Woodstock Navy Vets 6-1 at home on Saturday night.

The Jacks are third in the league behind Ayr and Paris.

Wellesley took the lead early as defenseman Lucas Spence put one past Woodstock goalie North Davies. Sean McEwan and Jake Wilkinson assisted.

Woodstock evened the playing field with a power play marker from Braden Hutchison four minutes later, assisted by Jack Taylor and Austin Whetham. With 28 seconds to go in the first, Wilkinson gave the Jacks back their lead, helped by Nick Mercier.

"We talked before the game about making sure we got the two points that weekend. I didn't think we came out too bad. Woodstock, they're quick, they can skate. They're not a real big team but I give them credit, they held us down for a bit there. I thought we definitely got better as the game went on and we got the end result," said head coach Brad Gerber.

The second period didn't see any action between the pipes until Wellesley's Jordan Hoekstra scored on the power play with 23 seconds remaining. Shaun Pickering and Mercier were helpers.

Wellesley continued to find ways to score in the third. Wilkinson earned his second of the night less



The Jacks enjoyed a perfect two-point weekend, beating Woodstock 6-1 at home on Nov. 5. Clockwise, Cal Jefferies and Jake Wilkinson celebrate after Wilkinson scores with less than 30 seconds left in the first period, Jordan Hoekstra gives the Jacks their third goal of the night, and goalie Ryan Porter makes a big save to keep the puck out of the net. (WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER)

than a minute into the final period. Alex Uttley and Matthew Lantz assisted.

Uttley scored twice, both on power plays, to give the Jacks the 6-1 decision. Mercier, Spence, Hoekstra and Pickering earned assists.

Wellesley spent 44 minutes in the box compared

to Woodstock's 72 minutes of penalty time.

"We've been talking a lot about being a lot more disciplined and I think we have been. Staying out of things after the whistle, especially the scrums. Sometimes it's hard to do that. I thought we stayed

out of the box pretty good that night," Gerber said.

He also commends the team for getting pucks to the net and driving to the net, which they had been talking to the players about improving.

"We've got good speed and we need to use it and

go wide and then drive the puck to the net and have somebody go in hard. That's how other teams score goals against us and that's what we have to do too," Gerber said.

Goalie Ryan Porter stopped 33 of 34 shots that came his way. Gerber says

the coaches expect good goaltending from both of their net-minders because they've played well for the Jacks for two years.

"I thought Porter played well. He made some big saves when the game was still 2-1 in the second period. There was one particular play that it had come across the crease and he came across and made a really nice pad save," Gerber said.

He also pinpoints Lucas Spence as a big contributor for the team. Despite playing defense he's been showing himself as an offensive threat, which they like to see from their defencemen.

The team is nearly at full strength with Mark Lebold out with a bad wrist and Trent Dundas out with a lower body injury.

This week they're working on some flow drills to prepare for a busy weekend, as well as their special teams.

"We always work on our penalty kill and our power play and so far we've had good results. Our special team's been pretty good. If you look at our numbers compared to other teams in the league, we're right up there in the top 10 out of the 64 teams in Ontario in both penalty kill and power play. We're pretty happy with that right now," Gerber said.

The Jacks have a full weekend of hockey ahead of them with three games in as many days. First up, they're off to Woodstock to play the Navy Vets again on Nov. 11 at 7:45 p.m. They're back home in the orchard on Nov. 12 for a 7:30 p.m. game against the Ayr Centennials. They hit the road on Nov. 13 to take on the Burford Bulldogs for a 8:00 p.m. start.

KINGS: Team looks to extend streak against Listowel Friday, then home Sunday to face Brampton

FROM | 11

paced but saw no scoring. Bruce opened the scoring, assisted by Cameron six minutes into the second. Josh Slegers increased the Kings lead to 2-0 four minutes later, helped by Biles and Jacob Black.

Kole Scott put the Winter Hawks on the board helped by Sean Ross and Mathieu Mercier to head into the final frame 2-1 for Elmira. A late goal from Brown (Mitch Hoelscher, Skinner) sealed the deal for the Kings.

“We got some timely scoring when we needed it. We got some really big



Ethan Skinner



Jake Brown



Jonathan Reinhart

saves from Jonny when we needed it to keep us in the same especially early on, on Sunday. Things just

seemed to click at the right time during the game,” Canal said.

Captain Jeff Jordan is out

with an injury and Canal estimates he’ll be out for another three weeks. Tyler McBay and Tyler Mazzo-

cato are both still out.

Canal says without a doubt they can’t wait to have Jordan back in the line-up, but in the meantime it’s giving other players a chance to play with different guys.

“It’ll be a good test for our guys,” Canal said.

October was a big month for three Kings players. Skinner and Brown were named the Midwestern Conference Co-Offensive Players of the month for October and Jon Reinhart was named Midwestern Conference Goaltender of the month for October.

“It was definitely good for them. They’re guys that

have been in the league for awhile and they’ve played a lot of hockey games. Especially for our busy month for those guys to play as well as they did is good to see and good for the young guys to hopefully follow and see the work ethic they put in. It’s good for them to be rewarded for that type of thing too,” Canal said.

This week the team will be refocusing and preparing to play this weekend.

The Kings head up the 86 to Listowel to face the Cyclones on Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. They’ll be back on home ice on Nov. 13 for a 7 p.m. game against the Brampton Bombers.

LANCERS FALL TO VISTING GRCI



The EDSS junior boys’ volleyball team closed out their season last week with a 3-1 loss against Grand River Collegiate Institute. The quarterfinal matches were held at the Elmira high school on Nov. 3. [LIZ BEVAN / THE OBSERVER]

SR. BOYS SPLIT LAST GAMES OF THE SEASON

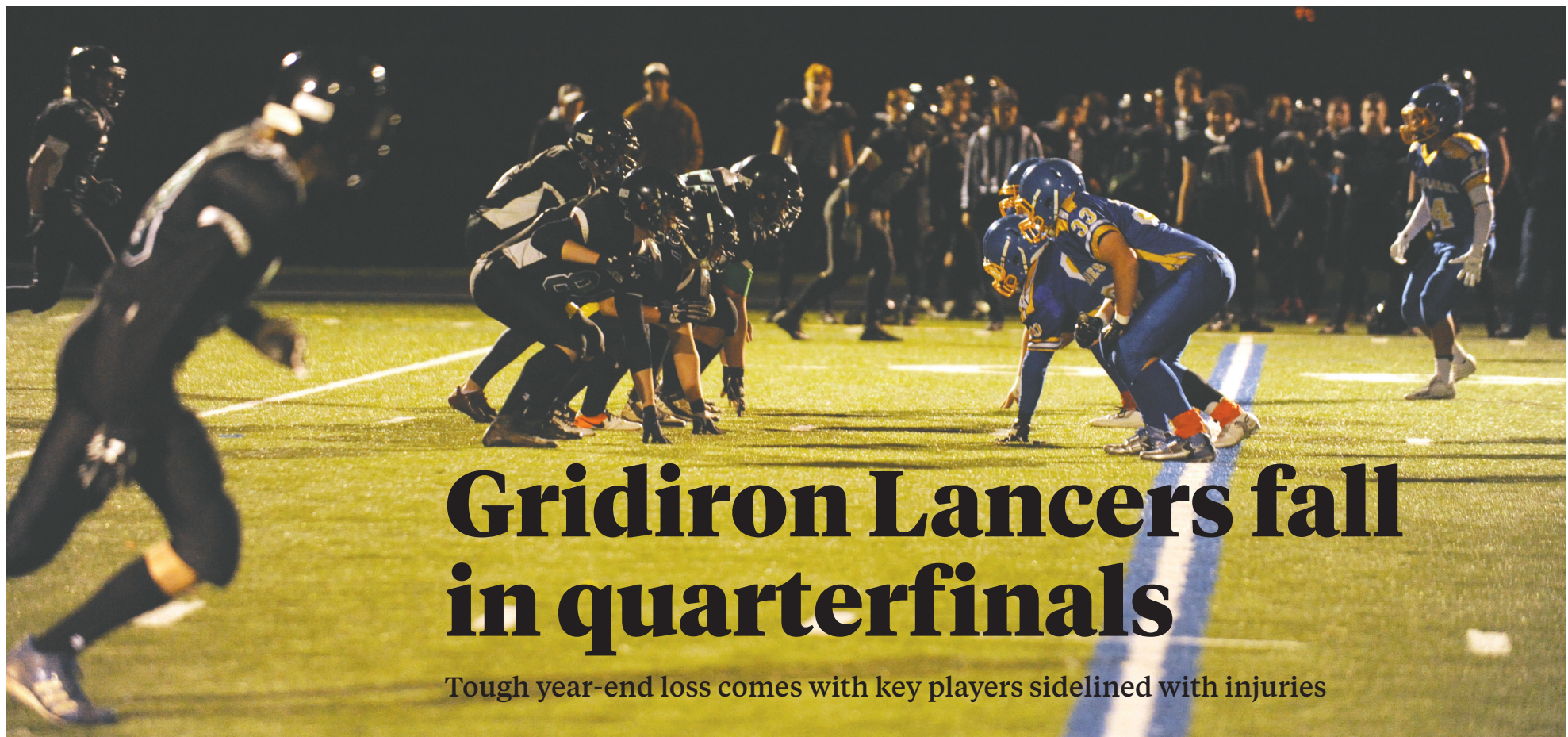


The EDSS senior boys’ volleyball team wrapped up their last home game on Oct. 27 with a 3-1 loss to Halton Hills Secondary School. They went on to beat Galt Collegiate Institute 3-2 on Nov. 1. Clockwise, Ethan Westbrook sets the ball for Bailey Weiss, Denny Nedelkovich sends the ball back over and Emmett Bartley goes for the spike. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

ELMIRA CURLING CLUB CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY WITH OPEN HOUSE EVENT



The Elmira Curling Club celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special event last week. On the left, lifetime curling club members received a gift commemorating their involvement. Club president Paul Fusari and curling committee chairperson Melody Martin address the crowd at the anniversary open house. On the right, Eugene and Charlotte Read, two of the lifetime member award recipients. [SUBMITTED]



Gridiron Lancers fall in quarterfinals

Tough year-end loss comes with key players sidelined with injuries

The EDSS senior football team finished the season with a 23-0 loss against Grand River Collegiate Institute last Thursday night in Waterloo. With three key players on the injured list, the team wasn't able to field the lineup that it had given it success during the season. (LIZ BEVAN / THE OBSERVER)

LIZ BEVAN

AFTER A 4-2 FINISH this season, the EDSS senior boys' football squad were eliminated in the quarter-final game against Grand River Collegiate Institute.

Head coach Steve Karn says some of the team's best players were out with injuries and couldn't play in the game that ended in a painful 23-0 loss.

"These were all fifth-year guys. It is sad for them to end their high school career like that. Being without our quarterback, Connor Bauman, was a big thing, and Cory Cressman, our middle linebacker, and Luke Decorte, our number one corner," he said. "He had also run back five touchdowns on punt returns this return. He was key. Those three guys were a big piece of the puzzle that was missing."

Coaches made the decision to play a Grade 11 quarterback in their quarter-final game, and Karn says he, along with the rest of the team, left it all on the field last Thursday night.

"They gave it all they had. They knew they were going to be in tough missing those three guys, but you know, they played their hearts out. It is nothing against them," said Karn. "We put in a Grade 11 quarterback, and there you are, saying, 'get in there, buddy' and you know, throwing him into the fire. He did very well for a Grade 11 kid being put in that position. He did his best."

Throughout the season, the players improved with a finish the guys can be proud of, winning four of



Evan Seip goes for the catch in EDSS' 23-0 loss in Waterloo last week.

six games in the regular season.

"It was a great season. We did 4-2 on the year,

tied for first place in their pool, and you know, a lot of positives and a lot of good commitment this year, especially at practices. We had some great games. One game we put up 56 points, and I think that is the most we have ever had. That was against KCI who was a good team. They did some things that we hadn't done before. Lots of positives came out of it," said Karn.

With 13 fifth-year players, the guys on the team next year had valuable mentors on the roster.

"It is nice to see that there is a core group of guys that are coming out next year.

"We had five Grade 11 guys as starters. The younger guys got a lot of good valuable experience and lessons from the fifth-years, too," said Karn. "It is really encouraging for next year. I told them, 'guys, you were committed and at the end of the day, 4-2,

we have to hold our heads high. That is pretty phenomenal."

Karn says the team played hard, and did their best, and without those valuable players on the injured list, who knows what could have happened in the finals.

"With a little luck here and there and not being injured, who knows how much farther we could have gone," reflected Karn. "They gave everything they had and worked as a team and at the end of the day that is all you can ask for."

Snowflakes are falling. Shoppers are calling. Tall pines are humming. Cause Christmastime is coming.

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SPORTS

HOCKEY / JUNIOR B



Kings' Tyler McBay commits to playing for St. Lawrence University

WHITNEY NEILSON

ANOTHER LOCAL ATHLETE IS rising through the hockey ranks, as Sugar King Tyler McBay has committed to St. Lawrence University where he will play NCAA Division 1 hockey.

The 16-year-old Elmira resident began the 2016-17 season with the Elmira Sugar Kings. He was also selected in the eighth round of the 2016 OHL Priority Selection by the Saginaw Spirit, but has spent the season with the Elmira team.

He visited SLU in October as well as Pennsylvania State University, chatted with a few other schools

and made his decision to commit to SLU last month.

St. Lawrence called him and invited him to visit the campus in Canton, New York, and attend a hockey game, which he did.

"From the moment I stepped on campus I was welcomed by all. It was a warm welcoming that I can't forget. It was kind of like a welcoming that made you feel like you were part of the university already. It was a smaller school which I personally liked more because the atmosphere around campus felt more like family and the hockey games played at the Appleton Arena were so much fun to

attend," McBay said.

He plans to study kinesiology – or sports medicine, as it's called in the U.S.

With Grade 12 still ahead of him in the fall he expects to play one more season with the Sugar Kings. In terms of the OHL, he says he's leaving his options open, but he likes to tell people he's heading to the NCAA.

"I experienced going to Saginaw for my OHL camp, but when I went to the NCAA school in St. Lawrence it was a way different experience. Just thinking about going to play hockey and get your four years of education paid for is something that I wanted and St.

Lawrence can offer that," McBay said.

SLU's men's hockey team has a 15-7-6 record so far this season.

Sporting green and gold this season the defenseman has recorded nine assists for the Kings. He spent the previous season with the Waterloo Wolves AAA Minor Midget team, earning six goals and 19 assists.

He says SLU's scouts liked his skating and his ability to push the pace. "They liked my game. They liked how I'm creative offensively and I can also be a defensive player as well," McBay said.

Playing professional

hockey has always been a dream for him and he hopes to pursue that.

He has a lot of people to thank for helping him get this far, including friends, family, coaches, the community of Elmira and last but not least, the Sugar Kings organization.

"It's given me the opportunity to play in a league with 16, 17, 18 and 19 year olds and it's helped me to develop as a hockey player playing in this league. The competition throughout the league is phenomenal and having the older guys talk to you and pushing you on and off the ice, I've benefited a lot from it."

NOT SO GREAT OUTDOORSMAN / STEVE GALEA

Taking a walk on the wild side over the weekend



THOSE WHO KNOW ME would probably describe me as a wild man. The kind of person who changes course recklessly and goes off on a dangerous tangent at the drop of a hat, just to see people react and pay attention so he can feel something – basically, anything – stir inside his cold and lifeless soul.

Oh wait, that's my description of Trump.

I'm actually the kind who just enjoys getting a little crazy on the weekends. This weekend, however, I took that to a new level.

My weekend went into overdrive immediately with me tying, not one, but two dozen flies on Saturday morning.

Most folks are already well aware of the reputation we fly tyers have as thrill seekers, but let me just say, this was nuts. I started off by tying a dozen pheasant tail nymphs in the classic style and then tied the second dozen with hot orange thoraxes!

Even Jenn recognized that I was walking the knife's edge.

When I showed her what

GALEA | 11

• Thank You •

To all who donated to Elmira Legion Branch 469 Poppy Campaign for 2016 in Memory of Veterans. All monies collected are given out to current and past Veteran only with our members and Provincial Command Approval.

This year a total of \$40,130.05 was collected.

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THE SCORE

WOOLWICH HOSTS TEAMS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE IN CUP CHALLENGE TOURNEY



The Woolwich Minor Hockey Association hosted novice and atom teams from around the province for their annual Woolwich Cup Challenge on Jan. 14-15. Here, the Atom Woolwich Wildcats #2 take on the Centre Wellington Lightning. Centre Wellington took the game 7-1.

[WHITNEY NELSON / THE OBSERVER]

WOOLWICH WILDCATS

Tyke: SELECT
Jan. 28 vs Flamborough
 Home: 3 Visitor: 4
Goals: Reese Martin, Matt Kochut, Lucas Frey
Assists: Zack Forwell, Evan Hall

Tyke: SELECT
Jan. 29 vs Brampton
 Home: 3 Visitor: 4
Goals: Lucas Frey, Mason Gear, Evan Hall
Assists: Zack Forwell (2), Reese Martin, Colton Brito, Lucas Frey

PeeWee: MAJOR AE
Jan. 28 vs Guelph
 Home: 3 Visitor: 5
Goals: Shelby Rempel, Oscar Fitch, Lucas Radler
Assists: Mitchell Hartman, Jonathan Staken, Tristan Kraemer, Sebastian Garrett

PeeWee: LL #2
Jan. 28 vs Twin Centre #2
 Home: 3 Visitor: 2
Goals: Gabe Hicknell, Josh

Moore (2)
Assists: Ashton Weber, Ethan Murr, Andrew Palmer

PeeWee: LL #2
Jan. 29 vs Beverly
 Home: 5 Visitor: 2
Goals: Josh Moore (2), Daniel Grant, Gabe Hicknell, Owen Hackert
Assists: Andrew Buehler, Turner Dulhard, Ashton Weber, Daniel Grant, Andrew Palmer

Novice: MAJOR A
Jan. 25 vs Burlington
 Home: 3 Visitor: 2
Goals: Adam Bloch, Spencer Hume, Sutton Meier
Assists: Caleb Paquet, Adam Lavigne, Mitchell Krasovec, Tristan Hill, Alex Veitch

Novice: MAJOR A
Jan. 28 vs Burlington
 Home: 6 Visitor: 1
Goals: Spencer Hume, Adam Bloch, Caleb Paquet, Mitchell Krasovec, Zack Forwell, Alex Veitch

Assists: Mitchell Krasovec, Luke Wood, Adam Bloch, Tristan Hill, Carter Weir

Novice: MAJOR A
Jan. 30 vs Caledon
 Home: 5 Visitor: 2
Goals: Spencer Hume, Mitchell Krasovec, Adam Bloch, Tristan Hill, Caleb Paquet
Assists: Alex Veitch, Adam Lavigne (2), Mitchell Krasovec

Novice: LL #2
Jan. 28 vs Ayr
 Home: 3 Visitor: 4
Goals: Owen McAdam (2), Luke Forbes
Assists: Luke Forbes

Novice: LL #2
Jan. 29 vs Hespeler
 Home: 2 Visitor: 2
Goals: Owen McAdam, Luke Forbes
Assists: Emmet Schell, Braden Hardman

Atom: A
Jan. 25 vs New Hamburg
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1

Goals: Josh Carson (2)
Assists: Brandon Fishman, Ethan Burkholder, Connor Goebel

Atom: MAJOR A
Jan. 27 vs Halton Hills
 Home: 6 Visitor: 0
Goals: Mitchell Walker, Stuart Sinclair (3), Pacey Camm (2)
Assists: Nathan Martin, Isaac Lopers (2), Eric Kane (2), Liam Wood, Ian Leech
Shutouts: Justin Strohoff

Atom: MAJOR A
Jan. 29 vs Milton
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1
Goals: Eric Kane, Nathan Martin
Assists: Pacey Camm, Isaac Lopers, Evan Passmore, Michael Gear

Atom: LL #1
Jan. 28 vs Twin Centre
 Home: 4 Visitor: 4
Goals: Tanner Armstrong (2), Evan McDougall, Gavin Sager
Assists: Tanner Armstrong, Evan McDougall, Clyde Chico

Atom: LL #1
Jan. 29 vs Ayr
 Home: 4 Visitor: 1
Goals: Tanner Armstrong (3), Jack Hacock
Assists: Clyde Chico, Jakob Geimer

Atom: LL #2
Jan. 21 vs Plattsville
 Home: 12 Visitor: 0
Goals: Ben Lowther (4), Dawson Brubacher (3), Alex Hiller (2), Ethan Adams, Carter Harrow (2)
Assists: Andrew Zettler, Evan Hori, Dawson Brubacher, Connor Airdrie, Ben Lowther
Shutouts: Tommy Madison

Atom: LL #2
Jan. 28 vs Embro
 Home: 3 Visitor: 1
Goals: Carter Harrow, Owen Tettman (2)
Assists: Andrew Zettler

Atom: LL #3
Jan. 28 vs Plattsville
 Home: 8 Visitor: 0
Goals: Evan Yorke (2), Myles Hunter (2), Lucas Hubbard (2), Zach Snider, Ben Hibbard

Assists: Lucas Hubbard (2), Declan Johnson (3), Caelan Haley
Shutouts: Connor Huber

Atom: LL #3
Jan. 29 vs Embro
 Home: 1 Visitor: 1
Goals: Declan Johnson
Bantam: LL #1
Jan. 28 vs Ayr
 Home: 5 Visitor: 5
Goals: Tyler Newton (4), Danny Soehner
Assists: Tyson Kraemer, Tyler Newton (2), Danny Soehner (3), Seth Horst

Bantam: LL #1
Jan. 29 vs New Hamburg
 Home: 4 Visitor: 2
Goals: Danny Soehner (3), Cole Brubacher
Assists: Patrick Perry, Tyler Newton (2), Tyson Kraemer

ELMIRA JR SUGAR KINGS

Midget: A
Jan. 21 vs Flamborough
 Home: 8 Visitor: 2
Goals: Riley Runstedler (2), Evan Gowing, Mitch Waters, Earl Schwartz, Noah Zeller (2), Brad Hale
Assists: Evan Gowing, Tyson Bender (2), Noah Zeller, Earl Schwartz, Mitch Waters

Midget: A
Jan. 24 vs Centre Wellington
 Home: 3 Visitor: 6
Goals: Earl Schwartz, Evan Gowing, Riley Runstedler
Assists: Cole Altman (2), Riley Runstedler, Evan Gowing

WOOLWICH WILD

PeeWee: LL
Jan. 28 vs Kitchener
 Home: 4 Visitor: 3
Goals: Alison Martin (2), Michaela Bauman, Haley Newton
Assists: Annie Sargent, Emily Sargent, Kyla Bloch, Katie Brubacher, Hailey Brubacher, Kylie Stevanus

Novice: LL #1
Jan. 19 vs Woolwich LL #2
 Home: 1 Visitor: 2
Goals: Chloe Futher
Novice: LL #1
Jan. 28 vs Cambridge White
 Home: 0 Visitor: 0
Shutouts: Jaiden Radler

Novice: LL #2
Jan. 19 vs Woolwich LL #1
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1
Goals: Emily Hibbard (2)
Novice: LL #2
Jan. 28 vs Cambridge Grey
 Home: 5 Visitor: 6

Goals: Alexa Grundy (2), Grace Gow (2), Emily Hibbard
Assists: Alexa Grundy, Addison Fitzgerald, Ellie Clemmer, Grace Gow

Novice: B
Jan. 28 vs Kitchener
 Home: 1 Visitor: 0
Goals: Lexie de Jeu
Assists: Emma McCoubrey, Emily Metzger
Shutouts: Riley Nelson

Novice: B
Jan. 29 vs Waterloo
 Home: 1 Visitor: 5
Goals: Sophia Metzger

Atom: LL
Jan. 27 vs Cambridge Teal
 Home: 3 Visitor: 2
Goals: Emily Martin, Nora Beatty, Kayleigh Futher
Assists: Kelly Grant, Sofia Fitch

Atom: B
Jan. 28 vs Waterloo
 Home: 1 Visitor: 0
Goals: Brienne Brezynskie
Assists: Claire Jacklin, Claire Catton
Shutouts: Makenna Kroetsch

Atom: B
Jan. 29 vs Kitchener
 Home: 3 Visitor: 2
Goals: Claire Jacklin, Olivia Straus, Sara Forwell
Assists: Claire Jacklin,

Avery Grundy

TOURNAMENTS

Novice: LL #2
Cambridge Roadrunners Tournament
 Cambridge Jan. 20-22
Game 1 vs Cambridge White
 Home: 4 Visitor: 0
Goals: Alexa Grundy (3), Emily Hibbard
Shutouts: Lyla Naughton

Jan. 21 vs Cambridge Grey
 Home: 4 Visitor: 4
Goals: Grace Gow (3), Emily Hibbard

PeeWee: BB 7100
Flamborough Tournament
 Flamborough Jan. 27-29
Game 1 vs Brantford
 Home: 2 Visitor: 1
Goals: Paige Woods, Jocelyn Pickard
Assists: Haylee Clemmer, Tanis Uhrig, Brealyn Macpherson, Jocelyn Pickard

Jan. 28 vs Flamborough
 Home: 3 Visitor: 1
Goals: Paige Woods
Assists: Haylee Clemmer, Chloe Hislop

Goals: Kayla Foy
Assists: Emma Sommer, Ciara Roth
Shutouts: Kirsten Livingston

WATERLOO WOLVES

Atom: MAJOR A
Jan. 29 vs Burlington
 Home: 8 Visitor: 0
Goals: Matthew Ball (2), Hayden Taylor, Griffin Beddis, Riley Webster, Jackson Andrews, Tim Hodson, Calvin Witt
Assists: Griffin Beddis (2), Tim Hodson (2), Hayden Taylor (2), Carter Merritt (2), Jackson Andrews, Calvin Witt, Lucas Skanes, Easton Oberholtzer, Mason Mohr
Shutouts: Noah Bender

KARATE

Jan. 21 | White Heron Martial Arts
 The following students have passed the grading and advanced to the next belt:
Green Belt: Liam Hanley, Nathan Chinnick
Red Belt: Caleb Martin-Carman, Connor Goebel, Xander Straus
Orange Belt: Gavin Atkinson
Yellow Belt: Adam Arjune, Adam Dueck, Angela Levac, Cole Harth, Colson Ruppert, Erin Bagg, Nolan Adams, Norah Boose, Victoria Kordasiewicz

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SUN RAYS PUT ON A SHOW FOR THE HOMETOWN CROWD



The Woolwich Sun Rays hockey team played a short game between periods at the Sugar Kings' win over Guelph on Jan. 22. [LIZ BEVAN / THE OBSERVER]

GALEA: The wild, wild adventures of an angler who just loves to tie one on ... repeatedly

FROM | 9
I had done, she looked up from her book momentarily and said, "You are a wild man."

But I wasn't through shaking things up yet. You see, normally, Jenn and I follow a very strict but exciting routine on Saturdays. We go to the dump in the early afternoon and go grocery shopping afterwards.

Exciting as that is, I thought, "Why not really rock her world? Why not

add a whole new level of excitement to the weekend?"

So, in a fit of mad spontaneity, I proclaimed, "You know what? Let's forget going to the dump today. We'll go tomorrow!"

I've never blown anyone's mind before, so I'm not 100 per cent certain that rolling your eyeballs is an indicator that this is happening. But since Jenn did that right after my suggestion, I'm guessing that's

probably the case.

Shortly thereafter, we went to the grocery store as always and then – get this – completely avoided the landfill. The excitement was palpable. Even now, I get the chills thinking about it.

On the drive home, I said, "I guess, no one can ever call us boring, huh?"

Again, her response probably indicated that I had just blown her mind.

So much for Saturday;

Sunday was even more exciting. I tied two dozen gold-ribbed hare's ear nymphs, possibly the most classic nymph fly pattern going.

In case you're not keeping track, that's the second two-four of the weekend.

When I showed them to Jenn, she tried to be cool but, believe me, her "how about that?" betrayed her excitement.

We're talking four dozen flies in a weekend! And

then we gathered our recyclables and garbage and went on a dump run. On Sunday!

On the way there, I thought, "OK, let's live even more dangerously."

So, as we got to the landfill gatehouse, I flashed my landfill card rather than held it still for the attendant to read.

That stunt got us through the front gate and further excitement was in the air as we noticed not one of the

people we normally see at our routine Saturday dump run time was there. Better yet, the contents of the bins seemed a little more exciting. I've never seen so much corrugated cardboard on a Saturday.

Soon after, we drove home again, each of us showing our exhilaration in our own way: me by singing "A Whole New World!" from Disney's 1992 classic *Aladdin*; Jenn by rolling her eyeballs.

STRONG SEASON FOR SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



The EDSS senior girls' volleyball team dug deep for the win on Jan. 19 against Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School. The team has won seven of their ten games this season so far.

[LIZ BEVAN / THE OBSERVER]

HIGH SCHOOL / TAKING TO THE SLOPES

EDSS ski team preparing for its first meet of the season in Beaver Valley

» LIZ BEVAN

THE ELMIRA DISTRICT SECONDARY School alpine ski team is prepping to hit the slopes next week for their first Waterloo County Secondary School Athletic Association meet.

The team will be heading to Beaver Valley Ski Club on Feb. 9 to compete against other schools in the region, trying for the fastest time down the hill.

The recent weather patterns put a damper on their practice meet plans earlier this month, but one of the team's coaches, Chris Finnie, says there is still time to prepare for the competition.

"We had one training day at Beaver Valley last month, and we were supposed to have a second mini-meet where the skiers could get their times, but it didn't count. It was supposed to be a timed race so they could see where they ranked, but unfortunately, we couldn't make it up there," he said. "However, we do have a day, on Feb. 7,

when we are going to Chippewee and there is going to be a race set up there."

Finnie says the team is competitive compared to other schools despite one less day of practice.

"About half were on the team last year, and then we have the other half who are trying it out for the first time," he said. "We have two students who could really compete. Last year, we had one of our female racers do really well at the mini-meet last year, and had some difficulties after that, but this year should be good."

The alpine ski teams are divided into two groups: amateur skiers who just have fun on the slopes, and more experienced skiers who ski in clubs outside of school. This year's EDSS team has only amateur skiers, but Finnie says that doesn't matter.

"They are mixed in with all the other students who just love skiing, and want to try out the racing. We're hoping to do well in some of the individual races, and

it is nice to have the whole team of guys to compete as well," he said, adding there were enough sign-ups for alpine skiing to have a full team of boys. "We wanted more girls, so we don't have a full team there, but the guys will definitely be competing as a team and trying to get a medal."

When they aren't strapped in to their skis, team members have the option of dry land training at the school with help from coaches Finnie and Dave Vandenberg, but the main coaching responsibilities deal with safety, encouragement and of course, paperwork.

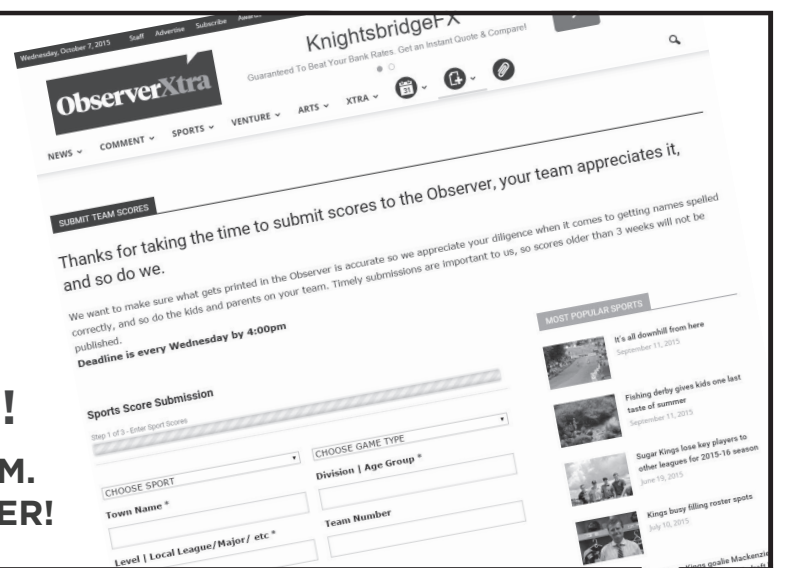
"There isn't much in the way of telling them what to do on the hill, so it is just about support and really putting them in the position so they can succeed," said Finnie.

The team will be heading to higher level competition, the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) on Feb. 16 at Beaver Valley Ski Club.

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DEADLINE: Tuesdays by 4pm

Return of the white stuff a boon for Linwood Snofest

Popular annual event offers something for all age groups returning this weekend

» LIZ BEVAN

THE LINWOOD RECREATION ASSOCIATION is holding their annual Linwood Snofest this weekend, sticking with a formula that is tried, tested and true.

Organizers are keeping with tradition, hosting the firefighters' breakfast, sno-pitch tournament, solo card tournament and of course, activities for the kids.

"Everybody has their thing that they are inter-

ested in at Snofest. It is really enjoyable to watch everyone come together," said rec. association member Lori Sebben. "People volunteer to help with the food, working the bar and it takes a lot of hands."

As with every year, the Feb. 4 event starts out with the sno-pitch tournament at 9 a.m. Teams from around the area compete to take home the title of best sno-pitch team, trudging their way through drifts and slipping along icy baselines

working for the most runs.

"Spectators are welcome, for sure," said Sebben.

For those who want to stay indoors and keep warm, there is a Solo card tournament with registration starting up at 9:45 a.m. at the Lion's Den.

"One of our residents from town runs it. You just have to sign up with him that day," she said. "Players sit in tables of four, and it is a card game. It is similar to euchre and bridge. That's what I have been told any-

way. I have never played it but everyone who has says it is a lot of fun."

Sebben says to bring your appetite with you because the Linwood firefighters are cooking up a hearty breakfast for \$5 a plate, or a large plate for \$7.

"The firefighters are wonderful for cooking. They are such a big help and they seem to have fun. They keep coming out every year, so I hope they are having fun."

There is plenty to do

for the kids, with Cricket the Klown painting faces, Erick Traplin, a children's entertainer, singing songs and telling stories and balloon creations with Master Kenton.

"Cricket is fantastic. She is great. She does such a good job," said Sebben.

The event starts bright and early with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 2:30 p.m., closing out with a hay ride.

For Sebben, the annual event is all about bringing

the community together, and even getting to know some new neighbours.

"We have some new people in town, and we sent out some flyers, so hopefully the new residents will come on out. It is always nice to get to know your new neighbours, putting faces to names," she said.

The event takes place all day on Saturday Feb. 4, with breakfast being served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Linwood Community Centre.

HOCKEY / JUNIOR B

Kings take two of three in weekend play

Elmira now just two shy of catching the Cyclones as the GOJHL regular season is winding down

» WHITNEY NEILSON

THE ELMIRA SUGAR KINGS are now just two points behind Listowel after two wins and a loss over the weekend.

Starting off the weekend in Stratford, the Kings overcame the Warriors 5-1, with a big performance from goalie Jon Reinhart who made 52 saves.

"Jonny was good, he kept us in the game. That's the beauty with him, he gives you a chance to win every night and Friday was definitely one of those," said head coach Ty Canal.

The Warriors took an early lead with a goal from Jack Scanlan, assisted by Ryan Nicholson and Kameron Shearer, but Reinhart wouldn't let anything in for the rest of the game.

Elmira finished the first with goals from Ethan Skinner, Keanan Stewart and Jake Brown. Mitch Hoelscher, Jeff Jordan (2), Klayton Hoelscher, Skinner and Austin Ulett picked up assists.

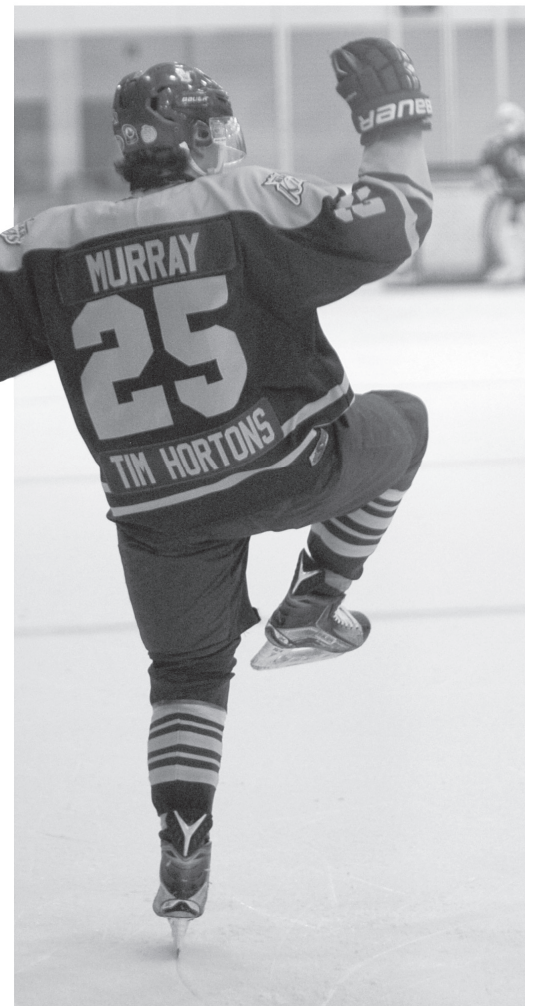
The second period saw no scoring, despite the Kings spending six minutes shorthanded.

In the third, Brown (Skinner, Dawson Shackelton) and Josh Slegers (Stewart, Jordan) scored to solidify the win for Elmira.

Canal notes they may have got the two points, but it wasn't their best game by far.

"I thought there was a lot of things we need to improve on after that game. We gave up way too many odd-man rushes, way too many turnovers, way too many shots," Canal said.

The Kings couldn't pull out a win in Brantford the



Looking to make up for their Saturday night loss to Brantford, the Sugar Kings defeated the Cambridge Winter Hawks 2-0 on Sunday at the WMC. From left, Jeff Jordan looks for a pass, and Matt Murray celebrates after scoring to put the Kings on the board. (WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER)

next night, where three third period goals from the 99ers left the Kings with a 4-2 loss.

The first period was scoreless. The Kings took a 2-0 lead in the first half of the second frame with goals from Klayton Hoelscher (Zack Cameron, Ty Biles) and Jeremy Goodwin (Skinner). Brantford's Mike Finger (Max Racicot, Kevin Bray) got his team on the board.

Hunter Dubecki (Derek Seguin, Joel Nagy) tied the game less than two minutes into the final frame. Nick Visser (Jay Dekker, Racicot) scored to pull Brantford ahead. And an

empty net goal with one second to spare from Kyle West sent the Kings packing with a loss.

"We weren't doing the little things. They have a team that can put the puck in the net. They compete, they skate hard. We were second to the puck a lot of the night and that goes a long ways when you have to chase in all three zones and that's what we ended up doing," Canal said.

Gunning for redemption, the Kings returned home on Sunday afternoon for a tightly matched game against the Cambridge Winter Hawks, who are

chasing Elmira for second place. Canal says they were more focused on bouncing back from Saturday's loss than worrying about the standings.

"I think that was more important to see in how that reaction was going to be for our guys, whether they have that short memory or whether they carry it on that extra day," Canal said.

They ended up with a 2-0 win, but for much of the game it seemed it could go either way.

Elmira's Matt Murray sniped one past Ryan Wagner to put his team on the board late in the first.

Goodwin and Jordan assisted.

There was no scoring in the second, despite Sugar King Jacob Buch being awarded a penalty shot after Mason Sinkeldam – a former Sugar King – was called for hooking.

Both goalies were vigilant for the final 20, and it was only when the Winter Hawks pulled the goalie in an attempt to tie the game that Elmira was able to add one more goal, an empty netter from Skinner.

Reinhart made 43 saves for the shutout win, and was the player who stood out the most to Canal for an excellent weekend. Canal

notes there's a calming effect knowing he's in net.

"Now we've just got to try to build intensity and momentum off of it. When he's playing that well we can't be giving up more and more chances or more and more scoring opportunities because we know he's back there."

The Sugar Kings are back in action tonight (Thursday) for a 7:30 p.m. game in Brantford. They'll head to Guelph on Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. matchup with the Hurricanes and they're back on home ice on Sunday for a 2 p.m. matinee, hosting Cambridge again.

Jacks face Woodstock in first round of playoffs

Having finished the regular season in third, Wellesley opens the series Friday night on home ice

» WHITNEY NEILSON

IT WASN'T THE GOLDEN finish to the regular season they were hoping for, but the Wellesley Applejacks are off to the playoffs nonetheless.

They finished in third place behind Ayr and Paris, with a 24-14-2 record, which is slightly better than last season when they finished the regular season in fourth.

"At the beginning of the season we always talked about finishing in the top three, to be realistic finishing first wasn't going to happen, but we always talked about finishing second or third. So we are pleased where we are," said head coach Brad Gerber.

"We've had some highs and we've also had some lows, but I think for the most part we've played quite consistently and I think we are getting better as a team as the season's gone on."

The Jacks spent Friday night in Woodstock, where they came away with only one point, instead of two, as a result of a 3-3 tie with the Navy Vets.

Wellesley was first to take the lead with a marker from Kyle Soper, assisted by Cal Jefferies and Sean McEwan.

Woodstock jumped ahead in the second on goals from Jacob Brown (Chris Nauts, Kurtis Christo) and Chris Jensen (Dan Haig, Austin Whetham). With only 11 seconds remaining in the period, Wellesley's Nick Mercier found the back of Woodstock's net to tie the game. Alex Uttley and Shaun Pickering picked up assists.

The Navy Vets took back their lead in the third with Brown's second goal of the night, assisted by Dylan Wettlaufer and Justin Elms. But the Jacks evened the playing field as Pickering sunk his own, helped by Mercier and Jordan Hoekstra.

Overtime couldn't settle it so both teams received one point for the tie. Wellesley goalie Ryan Hergott made 45 saves.

"In Woodstock Friday night I thought we actually played quite well. I thought we skated really well for a big ice and they're always a very tough team to play, especially in their arena. Coming away with a point, I thought we did okay and I thought we could have even pulled it out," said



Cal Jefferies takes a shot at Tavistock's goalie in the Wellesley Applejacks' 4-2 loss to the Braves on Saturday night in Wellesley. The Applejacks begin the first round of playoffs this Friday at home against the Woodstock Navy Vets. Game time is 7:30 p.m. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

Gerber.

Back in Wellesley the next night for their final regular season game, they weren't able to pull out a win over the Tavistock Braves.

Josh Borys opened the scoring for Tavistock in the first period, assisted by Sullivan Murphy.

Pickering, helped by Uttley and Hoekstra, got his team back in the game with a late goal.

The Jacks couldn't get

the right bounce in the second, and the Braves were able to push ahead 2-1 on a goal from Kellen Gedies (Braedon Hancock). Tavistock carried that momentum into the third, where Mathew Walsh (Kieran Van Boekel) and Gedies (Hancock) increased their lead to 4-1.

Pickering added his second of the night, assisted again by Uttley and Hoekstra, but it was too little, too late.

"We weren't as sharp as we probably should have been for a few reasons. One being we were in third and stuck there, so it's kind of hard to motivate the guys all the time, even though you expect the most out of them every game and sometimes it's hard to get the guys up," said Gerber.

Gerber says they've been telling the guys all season

if you don't show up to play you're not going to win, and that was one of the cases. While at times they had the right energy, they weren't playing smart with and without the puck for much of the game.

Ryan Porter made 30 saves for the Jacks. Gerber says his and Hergott's goaltending have been one of the team's strong points

this season.

"Hergott played really well in Woodstock and Porter had a good game, the score could have been even worse if Porter hadn't made some big saves for us. Our goalies have been solid. We expect that from our goalies because they're both veteran guys and going forward to the playoffs here we're going to need those guys to be at their best and that's what we expect, so hopefully we get that," said Gerber.

The first round of playoffs kicks off this Friday at home in a best of seven between Wellesley and Woodstock. Gerber says they'll have to match the Navy Vets' energy and work ethic, but the Jacks are up to the task.

The Jacks host the Navy Vets at 7:30 p.m. before heading down to Woodstock on Saturday for a 7:45 p.m. game. They'll repeat those game times and locations on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11. The final three games, if necessary, are Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. in Wellesley, Feb. 17 at 7:45 p.m. in Woodstock and Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Wellesley.

TWIN CENTRE NOVICES ENTERTAIN JACKS' CROWD



The Novice: LL Twin Centre Stars enjoyed a quick game between periods of the Wellesley Applejacks' game versus Delhi on Jan. 15. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

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LANCERS FALL TO GRCI



The EDSS boys' hockey team hosted Grand River Collegiate Institute on Jan. 18, falling 3-0. Elmira has a 3-4 record. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

JUNIOR GIRLS DEFEAT VISITING PRESTON SQUAD



The EDSS junior girls' volleyball fought hard on Jan. 12 to defeat Preston High School 3-1 (28-26, 16-25, 25-23, 25-20). The Lancers have nine wins and one loss this season and are tied for first. [WHITNEY NEILSON / THE OBSERVER]

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