

Blades, Voyageurs split first two games in semifinal

After a strange split to the first two games of their Ontario Junior Hockey League semifinal, the Oakville Blades and Kingston Voyageurs had fans guessing heading into Game 3 last night (Tuesday).

The Blades opened the series Friday at home with a 30-save shutout by Daniel Savelli in a 1-0 victory. Two nights later, the Blades suffered their worst defeat in years after they were blown out 9-1 in Kingston.

Despite killing off a five-minute spearing major to Pat Sitko, the Blades, the league's top penalty killing team in the regular season, surrendered five power-play goals.

Oakville actually opened the scoring on a goal by

Stefan Thompson just 1:36 into the game. However, Kingston tied the game midway through the period and took the lead for good, scoring with just four seconds left in the opening period.

Friday, the Blades needed just one goal — Josh Ranalli's eighth of the playoffs midway through the second period.

The series opener featured just three minor penalties, only one by Oakville. That was in sharp contrast to Game 2 where the teams combined for 61 minutes, 47 racked up by the Blades.

Results of Game 3 were not available at press time.

Coach has players optimistic about World Cup

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poised to improve on that finish.

"It's really exciting," the White Oaks grad said. "I think this is our best shot to get a medal."

A big reason for the optimism is head coach Carolina Morace. When Morace announced her intent to resign after the World Cup due to a dispute with the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA), the Canadian team backed its coach by threatening to boycott its future international games. That forced the CSA to make some changes and Matheson believes Morace will be around to lead Canada into the Olympics in 2012.

"They've definitely made progress," she said. "It's not 100 per cent resolved but I'm confident she will

stay."

Matheson said the players were willing to take such a drastic step because of their belief in their coach.

"She's made a huge difference in the way we train, the way we think about playing the game. We play a fun style of soccer, especially for me because I get to attack a lot more."

Matheson said most players play for the national team until they are about 30. When reminded that's

how old she'll be when Canada is slated to host the World Cup in 2015, she says she isn't ready to commit to it, though it would be hard to resist.

"It's always fun to play at home. Having the World Cup here would be even more amazing," she said. "But I've got two solid years with the team ahead. It's too soon say. Of course, I have no backup plan."

Matheson didn't have a backup plan eight years ago, either. And that has worked out pretty well.

WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE

For our flyer ending March 24.

Page 4: Mini Edge Broadcast Spreader (#1601683); page 11: Evenflo Chase Booster Seat (#2884762) and the inset photographs for Stork Craft Bradford Crib (#2885238) are not exactly as shown.

Page 12: Hydroxycut Max Advanced 120's should be 60's and it is not exactly as shown.

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