



# SPORTS



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## Oakville Blades off to a 3-0 start



Glen Thiessen • Special to the Beaver

By Norm Nelson  
BEAVER SPORTS EDITOR

Chris Hyk was just one perfect set-up away from a shutout in the Oakville Blades' home opener last Sunday night at Ice Sports Oakville.

Instead, he had to settle for his second 'W' in as many starts — 5-1 over the Bramalea Blues.

Hyk was also in net for the previous Thursday night's 4-2 season opening win in Buffalo against the Lightning.

For the Blades, it marked their third win in four nights — a great start to their provincial junior A hockey campaign.

The team's other veteran goaltender, Dan Giffin got the honours in last Saturday night's 7-3 win in Mississauga.

Hyk wasn't about to get too irritated at the player whose third period gaffe spoiled the shutout bid — namely himself.

He had to watch helplessly as his routine clear-out attempt from behind the net was batted down and banged into the open net by Bramalea's J.F. Houle.

Had the Blades not still gone on to win their third game in four nights, the humour might have been lost. But as it was, head coach Frank Carnevale couldn't resist a chuckle: "Actually I said to everybody, well, Chris can do what he

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The Oakville Blades have had lots to cheer about so far this young season with a 3-0 start.

## Cobras hold on for Ontario Cup championship win over Oshawa

By Norm Nelson  
BEAVER SPORTS EDITOR

The Oakville Cobras proved themselves to be the best U-17 girls club soccer team in the province, edging the Oshawa Kicks 3-2 in last Sunday's Ontario Cup championship game at the Soccer Centre in Vaughan.

Oakville built up a surprising early 3-0 lead — on goals by Stephanie Muldoon, Chantalle Dugas and Ava Alati — and then had to hold on for dear life as the defending indoor and outdoor Ontario Cup provincial champions from Oshawa showed their moxy by mounting a furious comeback that fell just short with two second half goals.

The Oshawa team had had Oakville's number this season beating them in all three previous meetings — 2-1, 2-1 and 5-3.

As well the same two teams had met up earlier this year in the indoor Ontario Cup championship with Oshawa winning 1-0.

"We knew we had to sharpen up defensively and that's what we worked on for the last two weeks," said head coach Michael Nevans.

The Oakville team, however, isn't without its own fine pedigree, and have now won three Ontario Cup championships since competing in their inaugural Ontario Cup championship in their U-12 entry year.

"I think that's the most Ontario Cups in their division," said coach Nevans, adding that a nucleus of six players have remained with the club from the start — Karen Zmirak, Ali Skinner, Adrienne Johnstone, Stephanie Muldoon and Laura Bandy.



Jill Kitchener • Special to the Beaver

This unidentified Oakville Cobras player withstands a charge by an Oshawa player. The Cobras withstood a late Oshawa onslaught for a 3-2 win on Sunday.

Other players on the roster are Nikki DeGroot, Kaitlyn Stewart, Lisa Telebar, Amanda Celeste, Kirsten Bodashefsky, Gulsah Iyigun, Danielle Bernier, Emily Goebel, Jordon Pekrul, Courtney Linton and Cristina Jakimtschuk.

The assistant coach is John McKenna, the manager is Linda Linton and the manager is

Carol Muldoon.

The Ontario Cup was a fitting cap to a year that started and finished with a bang.

After making it to the Ontario Cup indoor championship, the Cobras had a slow start to their regular league season. But an eight-game unbeaten string has vaulted them into a position where they can now capture second place with a win in their final upcoming regular league game.

"We made it to the Ontario Cup indoor final and won the indoor league, and here we won the Ontario Cup outdoor and so it's a pretty successful season," agreed coach Nevans.

The championship game, he said, was obviously "won in the first 30 minutes."

"We came out strong. We've been practicing the set pieces all week and that's what we scored the second goal on which really gave us a lift."

He gave full credit for Oshawa for their determined comeback.

"We were hanging on by a thread in the last 20 minutes. I think they (the Cobras) were a little excited at the end and I think it was just natural momentum on the other team coming on in the last 20 minutes."

Oakville had an outstanding year with four teams represented in the Ontario Cup championship game. Compare that, for instance, with Burlington, also traditionally strong in soccer, which was not represented.

But it took the Cobras — who were the last Oakville team in action and the second last game on this year's championship slate — to bring the trophy back to Oakville.



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