Invictas juniors pound Orangeville for second win of OMFL season

The Oakville Invictas improved to 2-1 on the Ontario Minor Football League junior varsity season with a 35-6 victory in Orangeville last weekend.

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Wayne Doyley and Ashton Rochester scored two touchdowns each, while A.J. Singh added another. Adam Powell was good on all five of his conversion attempts, and

quarterback Josh Adams kept the offence moving by completing seven passes on the day.

Te Nguyen keyed the Oakville running attack, gaining three first downs on the ground during one Invictas possession.

Defensively, Oakville limited the Outlaws to only one major. Marcus Simopoulos had two interceptions for the Invictas.

Earlier in the season, Oakville fell 6-2 at Toronto and then defeated the Halton Hills Wildcats 27-7 in Milton. Rochester and Doyley had two majors apiece against Halton Hills, while Connor Moen, Ford Simpson, Powell and Nguyen contributed fumble recoveries. Mark Falcioni added a sack and an interception.

The 37-player team, comprised of all Oakville residents, will be in action again tomorrow when it visits the TNT Express in Tottenham. The first home game for the Invictas will be played the following weekend (Sunday, June 15) against the Toronto Jr. Ti-Cats at T.A. Blakelock High School.

Tigers ranked second at OFSAA

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after a 6-0-1 season in which they allowed just five goals. They followed that up with a 3-1 win over Assumption in the Halton semifinals and a convincing 6-1 victory over Hamilton's Bishop Tonnos last Friday to earn the Golden Horseshoe berth at OFSAA.

Despite having secured that larger goal, Blakelock was not taking the Halton title any less seriously. The Tigers

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showed that by controlling the play in the early going, which led to a goal by Joyce.

"We knew we were going to get our chances. To bury one early, that set the tone," Butler said. "Even more important"

than the goal was that they didn't let down after they scored."

Still, Blakelock went into the half leading only 1-0. Its play didn't result in another goal until Steve Hay put Blakelock up 2-0 in the second half.

Loyola, which had provided a stiff challenge to the Tigers in a 3-2 regular season loss, didn't have the opportunity to advance beyond Halton but had its own motivation. It had lost last year's final in penalty kicks.

"We would have liked to have taken Halton," said Hawks coach Reno Malisa, whose team was looking for its first title since 2004. "Returning, we were wishing for a better ending."

The Hawks may well be back next season. The team won the 32-team Hamilton Spectator Cup early in the season and, apart from captain Anthony Scalia and Alex Conti, the majority of the team is in Grade 10 and 11 and will be returning.

"Hopefully, with a little luck, we get back and learn from the experience," Malisa said.

They may very well be facing the Tigers, whose roster includes 13 Grade 11 players.

Joyce is part of a group of talented players who had played only rep soccer. Last year, when he realized the potential of what kind of team Blakelock could field, he joined the high school team.

"It seemed we had the talent and had all the pieces," said Joyce, who plays for the Oakville under-17 Energy.

Other players, such as Keenan Randall, switched from rugby to soccer.

"We played a lot of different sports but we were all soccer players first," Joyce said.

That group will now try to bring Blakelock a provincial high school championship, beginning with two games on Monday. The Tigers are ranked second in the 20-team tournament.

"We're looking forward to it," Joyce said. "We're going to have some fun and bring a championship home."

That would do a lot to quickly build a soccer tradition at Blakelock.





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