

Brampton Guardian

Cardinals edge Bears in first of back-to-back meetings

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Byline: FRANK JUZENAS

Round one went to the St. Thomas Aquinas Cardinals in an unusual bit of scheduling in the Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association (ROPSSAA) Tier 1 senior boys' hockey league. The Cardinals downed the St. Edmund Campion Bears 5-3 at Cassie Campbell Community Centre on Tuesday in the first of games on consecutive days between the teams. They were scheduled to play the re-match on Wednesday at Greenbriar, the home rink for Aquinas. The result left both teams at 1-1 with Aquinas having lost 4-3 to Mayfield in its opener while the Bears topped St. Marcellinus Spirit 8-1 in their first game. Cardinals coach Kevin Kilinskas said he had a chance to scout the Bears before hand and knew what to expect. While he does not plan to change up much, he thinks Campion might make some changes. "I won't change our game plan. I knew what they had, they didn't know what we had so I'm sure they will do some different things," he said. Campion coach Andrew Nahirniak said he expects his players might approach the rematch a little differently. "I told them before there was both good and bad (about playing back-to-back)," he said. "The good is that it was such a good clean hockey game. Now they get the chance to go home, go to bed, go to school and then get a chance for redemption." He felt beating St. Marcellinus by such a wide margin might have had the players thinking things might go easily for them his season. "I don't think beating St. Marcellinus 8-1 was an indication of how good we are or how bad St. Marcellinus is. It was just one of those games that happens in hockey," he said. Gabe Valenzula, who missed the season opener, returned to the Aquinas line-up and collected two goals and two assists, scoring two third-period goals that brought the Cardinals back from a 3-2 deficit. Cody Hulan gave Aquinas a lead, 21 seconds into the contest. Ryan Mouser scored in the second period. Brett Bloor was awarded a goal with eight seconds left as he was hauled down from behind going in on an empty net. Alex McMillan had three assists while Stephen Christie picked up a pair. Tyler Besco, Rory Doyle and Cameron Cruickshank scored for the Bears. Anthony Loveless, Justin Roth, Zach Lamb and Andrew Crestini managed single assists. The Aquinas junior team, which includes six players who are with the senior squad, won the championship on Monday of a tournament at York University, going undefeated. There are just eight teams in the Tier 1 league, divided into North and South divisions with four teams each.

In the North Aquinas, Campion and Mayfield (1-2)
all have two points while St. Marcellinus is 0-1.

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