

Brampton Guardian

Cardinals down Bears again

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Byline: FRANK JUZENAS

There was a familiar result as the St. Thomas Aquinas Cardinals and St. Edmund Campion Bears battled for the second consecutive day in Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association (ROPSSAA) Tier 1 senior boys' hockey on Wednesday at Greenbriar Arena. Once again the Cardinals went into the third period trailing by one goal and once again they scored three third-period goals to win by two. This time 6-4 after a 5-3 victory over the Bears the previous day at Cassie Campbell Community Centre, the Bears' home ice. With the two wins Aquinas is at 2-1 while Campion saw its record fall to 1-2. Aquinas also eliminated the Bears in last year's quarterfinals so has won three consecutive games against Campion. Cardinals coach Kevin Kilinskas is understandably happy with the way the set of back-to-back games worked out. "Everybody is playing their role. The guys that need to score are. The ones who need to keep the puck out of the net are doing that. Our penalty killers are playing well. The ball is really rolling," he said. Campion coach Andrew Nahirniak said his team has had opportunities but is not taking advantage of them. "Puck luck. Sometimes you get it, sometimes you don't. Right now we're not getting it," he said. Garrett Ferguson had a pair of goals for the Cardinals. Alex McMillan, Brett Bloor, Austin Ferguson and Brandon McGrath also scored. Gabe Valenzula drew three assists and Curtis Ledain collected a pair. Mike Hackett and McMillan managed singles. Campion was led by Paul Grimaldi who had three goals. Rory Doyle also scored. Tyler Besco, Anthony Loveless and Zach Lamb had assists. Nahirniak said that Grimaldi, who is about 5-foot-4, has a big heart and never plays a bad game. "If he were 6-foot-1 he wouldn't be playing high school hockey. He is the hardest worker I've ever coached," he said. After playing on consecutive days, the teams have a week off before they return to the ice. The Cardinals face the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Bulldogs at home on Wednesday while the Bears host the Mayfield Mavericks on Thursday. The Bulldogs, are 0-1 in the South division while the Mavericks have a 2-2 record in the North. Mayfield earlier defeated Aquinas 4-3 and then played two cross-over games against the South. The Mavericks lost 8-1 to Loyola and then 5-1 to Lorne Park, before returning to the North with a 5-1 win over the St. Marcellinus Spirit on Wednesday.