

THE TRI-CITY NEWS

A's look to close gap with Bellies

By Bruce Walkinshaw – Tri-City News - July 10, 2008

The Coquitlam Adanacs beat up on the Nanaimo Timbermen 14-3 Saturday and the Maple Ridge Burrards 11-7 Sunday putting them temporarily within two points of the league-leading New Westminster Salmonbellies in the Western Lacrosse Association standings.

However, Wednesday night's 13-9 Salmonbellies win against the Victoria Shamrocks bumped the divide back up to four points.

With five games left in the regular season, none of them against the Salmonbellies, the Adanacs will likely have to run the table on their remaining games, while getting help from other WLA teams to catch the 12-1 Salmonbellies.

"We're not too worried about catching them now but it certainly would be nice," said Adanacs general manager Les Wingrove. "The top four teams going into the playoffs are all pretty good teams, so we just have to make sure we are ready for them when we get there."

Playing the Timbermen before fans at the Coquitlam Sports Centre, Adanacs goalie Chris Levis turned away 20 shots in the first period, to lead his team to a 3-0 lead with goals from Gary Bining, Andy Secore and Dane Dobbie.

"Levis played really well for us, especially in the first period but also throughout the whole game," said Wingrove. "At the end of the first, it could have easily been two or three to three, but he closed the door early for us."

The second period saw Coquitlam take control of the game both offensively and defensively. Holding Nanaimo to just two goals on 10 shots, the Adanacs scored six times on 18 shots, with three from Jason Wulder, two more from Dobbie and another goal from Secore. Coquitlam led 9-2 after two.

The third period did not get much better for Nanaimo, with Coquitlam holding them to a single goal while scoring another five, with goals from Dobbie, Gary Binning (2), Peter Veltman and Ray Guze.

Dobbie finished the game with four goals and eight points to be named first star. Wulder was named second star with six points and three goals, while the third star went to Levis.

"It was pretty much a good game for everyone," said Wingrove. "We really moved the ball well."

Travelling to the Maple Ridge Rink the next day to take on the Burrards, Coquitlam took a 2-1 lead into the first intermission with goals from Veltman and Dobbie.

The second period saw the Adanacs give up four goals on 20 shots, responding offensively by scoring five goals of their own with another two from Dobbie, another one from Veltman, a goal from Wulder and a goal from Secore.

Taking a 7-5 lead into the third period, the Adanacs cemented their win with four straight goals from usual suspects Secore, Veltman (2) and Dobbie.

Maple Ridge ended the game pulling their goalie to score twice but it was too little, too late. The Adanacs won 11-7.

For the second straight night in a row Dobbie was named the first star, finishing the game with four goals and two assist.

"[Dobbie] is playing extremely well this year," said Wingrove of their number one pick in this year's draft. "He's really making us look pretty good for drafting him."

The Adanacs will travel to Nanaimo tomorrow night to play a rematch against the 3-9 Nanaimo Timbermen.

They will be without many of their starting players. Rich Catton will be getting married, with some of his teammates attending as guests.