

No Bull: Lawmaster a champ in OHL

By BRAD EMOUS
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This season has been pegged: "The Running of the Bulls." But this storyline is not to be confused with annual event in Pamplona, Spain.

Instead the scene is set in Belleville, Ontario.

These Bulls are winners of their first-ever Ontario Hockey League playoff championship, taking a grueling 4-3 series from the London Knights with a 9-2 victory Tuesday at home before 4,000 screaming fans in the seventh and deciding game.

"The town has erupted, you'd think the Red Wings had won the Stanley Cup," said Belleville defenseman Jason Lawmaster of Westland. "People are just going crazy. It's by far my greatest feeling in hockey. It was just great to see the look on people's faces."

Lawmaster and the Bulls are headed Sunday to the Ottawa Civic Center to take on the Calgary Hitmen, champions of the Western Hockey League for the prestigious Memorial Cup, junior hockey's most coveted prize in Canada.

The four-team field also features the host Ottawa '87s and Quebec Junior League champ Acadieville-Bathurst Titan from New Brunswick.

The 6-foot, 205-pound Lawmaster, however, is anything but a matador for the Bulls on the ice.

He has been a steady influence and a model of consistency, a far cry from an enforcer role where he racked up a team-high 227 minutes in 61 regular season games.

The playoffs have been a complete different scenario for the 20-year-old. He ranked among the OHL's best in plus-minus category, recording a plus 19.

In 21 games, Lawmaster has scored five goals and had 13 assists (compared with six goals and 32 assists during the regular season).

The most amazing number, however, is penalty in minutes, cutting his average nearly in half—just 34 for the playoffs.

He made a commitment to playing more disciplined hockey.

"You just can't take penalties in the playoffs, it's something I had to address," Lawmaster said. "I just had to take more control and lead the younger guys."

The Bulls, second in their division, opened the OHL playoffs by sweeping Sudbury in the first round, four games to none. Then, they stunned Ottawa, which enjoyed the third best regular season record in the OHL, 4-1.

That was followed up by a 4-1 series triumph over Oshawa.

Against London, Belleville jumped out to a 3-1 series lead, but lost the next two, forcing a pivotal Game No. 7.

"It feels great to be champions, especially after the adversity we went through against London," Lawmaster said. "What made it all work is that our younger guys stepped up and our big guys came through with key goals."

"There's nothing scientific about the system we play. We just forecheck hard, always keep a guy high and overall just play hard."

Lawmaster has been sort of a gypsy during his junior career.

He has played for such teams as the Guelph Grizzlies, Port Hope (Ontario) Buzzards and the Plymouth Whalers (of the OHL).

Lawmaster, who attended John Glenn High one year, thought he'd found a comfy home right in his own backyard when he was signed by the Whalers.

But just one month into the 1997-98 season, Lawmaster found himself traded to the Bulls, joining coach Lou Crawford, younger brother of former Colorado Avalanche coach Marc Crawford.

"I was disappointed, not only to be traded, but not being able to play really for the first time in front of my family and friends," Lawmaster said. "At first it was a shocker, but things worked out beautifully once I made the commitment. And my parents were able to come up a lot and see me play."

Plymouth, which sported the league's best regular season mark, was bounced by London in the second round, 4-3.

"They (Plymouth) had tons of talent and a lot of first-round (NHL draft) picks," Lawmaster said. "Yes, I was surprised they got knocked out that early. I think everybody was a little shocked."

There is no better place to be right now than Belleville, Ontario, population of 54,881 and located 90 miles northwest of Toronto (just off Lake Ontario).

"There's a lot around it, I'd say it's a city like Belleville, Michigan," Lawmaster said. "The fans have been really supportive. It was also great to see us win for our owner (Dr. Robert Vaughn)."

One of the most famous Bulls' alumni is former NHL All-Star defenseman Al Iafate (from Livonia).

And some day Lawmaster hopes to make it to the NHL.

He's a free agent and will likely wind up either in the American Hockey League, International Hockey League or East Coast Hockey League next season.

"This time next year hopefully I'll have a pro career," Lawmaster said, who completed school correspondence classes last December.

Another strong showing in the Memorial Cup could put Lawmaster on the priority list for some NHL club.

Twelve long years on the ice are starting to pay off.

"I started playing organized hockey at 8," Lawmaster said. "My dad (Fred) never played hockey. My cousin, Richard Sewell, got me playing. He's my mentor. I give him a lot of the credit."

And now Lawmaster is getting much of the credit for Belleville's success. And that's no Bull.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL Monday, May 17 Shelton CC at Redford High, 4 p.m. Toronto at Wayne, 4 p.m. Chubbuck at Harrison, 4 p.m. Canton at Franklin, 4 p.m. Huron Valley at Fairlee, 4:30 p.m. Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at W.L. Western, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 PCA at Oakland Christ, 4:30 p.m. Fordham at Franklin, 4 p.m. Northville at Stevenson, 4 p.m. Huron Valley at Fairlee, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 Farmington at Canton, 4 p.m. Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m. H. Farmington at Franklin, 4 p.m. Salem at W.L. Western, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Harrison, 4 p.m. Ellet Ford at Wayne, 4 p.m. Discho Foley at Redford CC (2), 4 p.m. Thursday, May 20 Baptist Park at PCA, 4:30 p.m. Deledda at Huron Valley (2), 4 p.m. Friday, May 21 Churchill at Canton, 4 p.m. Salem at Stevenson, 4 p.m. PCA at A.A. Greenhill (2), 4 p.m. Franklin at W.L. Western, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Harrison, 4 p.m. Wayne at Garden City, 4 p.m. Saturday, May 22 (all double-headers unless noted) Canton at Salem, 11 a.m. Southgate at Wayne, 10 a.m. John Glenn at Garden City, 12 a.m. Huron Valley at Deledda, 11 a.m. GIRLS SOFTBALL Monday, May 17 Harrison at Churchill, 4 p.m. Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m. W.L. Central at Stevenson, 4 p.m. Salem at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Wayne at Trenton, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 A.A. Pioneer at Canton, 4 p.m. PCA at S. Trenton, 4:30 p.m. Huron Valley at Deledda, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 Canton at Farmington, 4 p.m. W.L. Western at Garden City, 4 p.m. Churchill at Stevenson, 4 p.m. H. Farmington at Franklin, 4 p.m. Harrison at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Wayne at Ellet Ford, 4 p.m. Thursday, May 20 Oakland Christ at P. Py. Christian, 4:30	Baseball Zoe at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 21 Canton at Churchill, 4 p.m. W.L. Western at Franklin, 4 p.m. Salem at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Wayne at Trenton, 4 p.m. Farmington at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Wayne at Thurston, 4 p.m. Saturday, May 22 (all double-headers unless noted) PCA at Light and Life Town, 9 a.m. Huron Valley at Macdonald, 11 a.m. GIRLS TRACK Monday, May 17 Ratford CC vs. U.D. Jesuit at Farm, Hills County, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 Farm. Harrison at Canton, 3:30 p.m. Salem at H. Farmington, 3:30 p.m. Franklin at Churchill, 3:30 p.m. Farmington at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m. John Glenn at W.L. Central, 3:30 p.m. Ypsilanti at Wayne, 4 p.m. Lutheran North, Clarensville at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 21 Class A Regionals at RU, 2:30 p.m. GIRLS TRACK Tuesday, May 18 N. Farmington at Salem, 8:30 p.m. Canton at Farm. Harrison, 3:30 p.m. Churchill at Franklin, 3:30 p.m. Stevenson at Farmington, 3:30 p.m. W.L. Central at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m. Wayne at Taylor Kennedy, 4 p.m. Lutheran North, Clarensville at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 21 Class A Regionals at RU, 2:30 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER Monday, May 17 W.L. Western at Canton, 7 p.m. Salem at W.L. Central, 7 p.m. Taylor Turner at Wayne, 7 p.m. Harrison at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Fairlee at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m. Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m. Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 20 Luth. East at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m. (W.L.A. Chubbuck) Canton vs. Edgemoor, at Centennial Education Pl., 7 p.m.
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BOYS TRACK RESULTS

NORTH FARMINGTON 89.5
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 47.5
May 13 at John Glenn
Long jump: Nate Kenon (NF), 19 feet, 1 inch;

High jump: Darnell Dorris (JO), 5-6; pole vault: Jim Gabriel (NF), 11-0; shot putt: James Doherty (JO), 40-0; discus: Nick Samples (JO), 127-1; 3,200-meter relay: North Farmington (Charlie Stamboulis, Mike Millar, Isaac Kaufman, Matt Wiegand), 8:42; 1,600-meter relay: John Glenn (P.J. Wolcho, Justin Keyes, Josh Keyes, Kevin Dugan), 3:42.7. Dual meet results: North Farmington, 14 overall and 13 Western Lakes 1 overall, 0-4 WYLA.

PLYMOUTH BLENTH 78
FARMINGTON 88
May 13 at Farmington

3,200 relay: North Farmington (Adam U. Gay, Tom Esion, Aaron Schindler, Bryan Grijio), 9:40.6; 1,600-meter hurdles: Ryan Sova (PS), 18:1; 300-meter dash: Jason Sparks (F), 11.4; High jump: Layne Body (F), 5-10; 800 relay: Farmington (Andrew Buck, Jeremy Mazza, Pat English, Dustin Grass), 1:30.8; 2,000: Nick Allen (PS), 9:42.5; discus: Brent (PS), 132.7; shot putt: Matt Snyder (PS), 45.4; 400 relay: Farmington (Buck, Jason Blach, Todd Anthony, Mazza), 4:53.4; 400: Grass (F), 53.1; pole vault: Deinger (PS), 10.0; 300 hurdles: Ryan Thomas (PS), 41.3; 800: Allen (PS), 2:03.8; 200: Anthony (F), 22.6; 1,600: John Little (PS), 4:53.4; long jump: Pat Johnson (PS), 19.4; 3,600 relay: Salem, 3:44.1. Dual meet records: Plymouth Salem, 4-1; Farmington 3-2.

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MAY 10, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vagnozzi at 7:30 p.m.
Council Present: Barnett, Bates, Eilla, Grant, Oliverio, Soronen and Vagnozzi.

Council Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Dorman, Assistant City Manager Whinnery, Directors Boyer, Lasley, Rosch, Police Chief Dwyer and Attorney Domichian.

CITY COUNCIL

TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Recognized Proclamation honoring the outstanding work of *The American Arab and Jewish Friends*.
- Received Attorney's Report for May.

PROCLAIMED:

- May 15-22, 1999 as *Michigan Week*; recognized *Mayor's Exchange Day*.
- May 14, 1999 as *Day of Hope*.
- May 2-9, 1999 as *Araon Awareness Week*.

INTRODUCED ORDINANCES TO:

- Require persons less than 16 years of age operating a bicycle, skateboard or using roller-blades to wear a safety helmet.
- Re-state provisions of the City's Employee Retirement System to incorporate accumulated changes, remove obsolete material and conform to applicable provisions of State and Federal law.

APPROVED:

- Transfer of Class C liquor license with Dance and Entertainment Permit at 26600 Grand River from Legacy/Dinner Club, Inc. (Mexican Garden) to Priya Priya, Inc.
- Resolution designating City Clerk as Freedom of Information Act Coordinator.
- Special Event Permit for Finnish Center's Ethnic Festival, June 4-6, 1999.
- Employment in accordance with Section 10.01A of City Code.
- City Council regular meeting minutes of April 19; study session and regular meeting of April 26; budget study session of May 3, 1999.
- Entering into executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues.

AWARDED BIDS/PURCHASE ORDERS FOR:

- Police car conversions to Custom Ordered Police Supply in the amount of \$52,725.70.
- Athletic field stripper for Special Services Department to Kromer in the amount of \$10,694.00.
- Memorial Park project to F. J. LaFontaine & Sons Landscaping in the amount of \$128,635.88.

MAYOR ALDO VAGNOZZI
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

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1999 Michigan Panthers Coming Events

Baseball Clinic

for ages 8-14

Featuring appearances by local Collegiate Coaches from U of M, MSU, EMU, U of D, Oakland, Siena Heights and Henry Ford Community College

June 5th and 6th
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Bicentennial Park
7 Mile Road, Livonia, MI

Limited to first 200
\$105 both days

Skills Evaluation Clinic

for Players Ages 15-18

Friday, June 25, 1999
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Eastern Michigan University
Oestrike Stadium

College Coaches and Professional Scouts
In Attendance

Register by
June 1st

Limited to first 100
\$75

For more information contact:
Rita (248) 960-3900
or visit our website www.michiganpanthers.com

YO! Students!

Need a job this summer?

If you're looking for something to do this summer—mowing lawns, babysitting, — whatever, we'll run your ad totally FREE during May 1999.

That's right! No charge! Just call us with your ad, which in five lines or less, should tell our readers:

- what kind of job you'd like
- what area you live in
- describe your experience

Please FAX us your ad, if possible, to 734-953-2232.

Otherwise give us a call at one of the numbers below and Good Luck!

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Employers: Check our classified section (classification 532) during May and find a student to help you this summer!

This newspaper hereby offers the opportunity for young persons seeking employment to list their first names only, job skills, and telephone and/or beeper numbers. However, we assume no responsibility for the nature of jobs offered or negotiations between applicants and prospective employers. These are the responsibility of the parties involved.