

Barbarians U18 squads split double-header



By Jake Courtepatte

The Under-18 Aurora Barbarians Premier team brought their record above the .500 level with a win over Brampton at home on Thursday, while the 'B' squad failed to rally against North Halton.

Shawn Hamid put up two tries in the winning contest, while Anthony Vella and George Caccamo put up singles in a 26 - 0 blowout. Alex Railton had three conversions.

The team's updated 3 - 2 record is a welcome sight after starting the season off with two straight losses.

"We've really picked up our game," said Sandy Townsend, head coach of the Barbarians. "We had a fairly new team to start the year, so it's nice to see them come together and learn to work together."

With much of the team graduating last season and the season prior, a good portion of this year's U18 squad is made up of those graduated from the U16 program.

"It's nice to see those kids stay with us," said Townsend. "It shows the quality of the program."

The double-header took place at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School on Thursday.

It was the second time this season that the Barbs have laid a beating on Brampton, having won their first match of the season mid-July with a 41 - 5 victory over the Beavers, which Townsend credits as their "turning point".

"We've got their number, it seems. We put up a lot of points against Brampton, and those kind of wins can do a lot for a team's confidence. It's just something we've got to carry into the next game."

In the early game on Thursday, the 'B' Barbarians put on the jets late but a weak first half killed their chances. North Halton used their speed and acceleration to jump ahead in the first half, while Aurora couldn't convert in time from the goal line before the half ended. Colton McDonald had two tries for the Barbs in a 19 - 15 loss.

"Both of our teams have a lot of potential," said Townsend. "They're a dedicated group and exciting to watch."

They fall to 2 - 3 on the season.

The U18 boys are at home again this Thursday against the Oakville Crusaders, 7:30 and 8:45p.m. at St. Max. The Crusaders are the

only undefeated team in the Premiership division.

For more information on the Aurora Barbarians club, visit www.aurorabarbarians.com.