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JUNIOR "B" NORTH STARS HOST YEAR-END TOURNAMENT IN WIARTON, ON

TORONTO, ON – September 16th, 2021 – The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA), together with the Ontario Junior "B" Lacrosse (OJBLL) Executive, are proud to share the results of the league's year-end invitational tournament in Wiarton, ON on September 11th. Hosted by the Owen Sound Junior "B" North Stars and featuring the Guelph Regals, Hamilton Bengals and Six Nations Rebels, the event was a resounding success. North Stars President Mark Rouse had worked alongside the [Chippewas of Nawash](#) First Nations Council to organize a fundraising event which included local vendors, family-friendly activities and a number of Junior "B" lacrosse games for community members to enjoy. The purpose of the event was to support an initiative to build a new box on the Cape Croker Indian Reserve #27, which was officially renamed Neyaashiinigmiing on January 21, 1992. The name means "point of land surrounded on three side by water" and is located about an hour north of Owen Sound on unceded territory. Unfortunately, just days before the tournament was to take place, the community faced an unavoidable extension to their COVID-19 State of Emergency which resulted in the lacrosse-portion of the event being moved off the reserve to the Wiarton Community Centre. Approximately 150 spectators attended the "by donation" event, those in attendance complimented the quality of officiating and remarked on numerous occasions how great it was to witness the return of lacrosse.

The first game of the day was between the host Owen Sound North Stars and the Guelph Regals. It was a closely contested battle ending in a 7-5 score for Guelph.

In the second game, between the Hamilton Bengals and the Six Nations Rebels, Six Nations jumped off in the first period with three unanswered goals, but Hamilton coach's first intermission talk energised his team and the second period ended with a 4-4 tie. The final frame saw Six Nations scoring the go-ahead goal, Hamilton coming back midway through the period, only to have the Rebels score again. The last minute was a hard fought battle with the Bengals scoring the tying goal with only 15 seconds left on the clock for a 6-6 final.

Game 3 featured Guelph and Hamilton with back and forth scoring to end the 2nd period with a 5-5 tie. The Bengals broke the tie with a goal 10 seconds into the period only to see Guelph knot the score again just two minutes later. The game was then interrupted by a loss of power from the high winds that extended throughout the town. After about a 45-minute delay, power was restored with the use of a generator. When the game resumed, the Regals scored again at the midway mark and the game ended with the 7- 6 final in their favour.

Six Nations and Owen Sound took to the floor for Game 4, and the Rebels came out with a vengeance. The first two goals were scored by Six Nations with one answering goal from the North Stars. Over the rest of the game, the Rebels managed to pot eleven unanswered goals, with Owen Sound managing to net the final goal of the game with 18 seconds left, resulting in a 13-2 final.

The fifth game was a back and forth affair with the first period ending in a 2-2 tie. Six Nations scored the only goal in period two. Period three began with the Regals scoring back to back goals early to go ahead, only to see Six Nations match those two to take the lead again. Guelph popped in two more late in the game to give them a 7-6 win, leaving the Regals undefeated for the day.

Game 6, the last of the tournament, was played between Owen Sound and Hamilton. The Bengals started with 4 goals in the first, while the North Stars managed only one near the end of the period. In the second period, the hosts took the game to their opponents, outscoring the Bengals two goals to one. The third period was a one sided affair with Hamilton scoring four more to finish the contest 9-3.

With the success of the event and the energy behind it, initial planning is already underway for the 2022 season to return the tournament to Nawash territory.