

Sports stories
from the Georgian Bay



Ryan Davies

R.D.

GEORGIAN
SPORTS NEWS

THE LATEST SPORT STORIES IN THE GEORGIAN BAY REGION



*Flying Start for
River Dragons
in Home Opener*



Mayor Brian Smith speaks with Ryan Davies
about the exciting evening

Photo by Beach BOOSTER Media Group

The Wasaga River Dragons got off to a perfect start in their inaugural Greater Metro Jr. A Hockey League (GMHL) game with a 7-2 victory over the Toronto Flyers.

Joel Texmo scored a hat-trick while Lazarus Constant bagged a double with an assist in their first-ever appearance in front of a packed brand-new Wasaga Stars Arena.

Before the puck dropped, Mayor Brian Smith shared his thoughts with Beach BOOSTER about the new team and the significant impact the arena has on the community. "The town's very excited," he said. "It's been a long time coming. We signed our agreements last year, waited all summer, and the day's finally here. I heard that season ticket sales are already as high as in other areas. The parking lot is full, so I think we'll have a great crowd tonight."

Mayor Smith added: "The arena, although a big ticket item, has been very well received. Moving into 2025, the Wasaga Beach Sports and Entertainment Corporation will soon release the 2025 music lineup for concerts here. It's an exciting year and facility, with exciting things happening in Wasaga Beach. I'm proud to be a part of it."

After a crowd generated a cappella rendition of the national anthem due to technical difficulties with the speaker, the River Dragons started hot with Constant scoring within the first two minutes. They doubled their lead ten minutes later with a Texmo deflection that squeezed its way through the goal keeper's legs from close range. Texmo scored his second of the night with one minute left in the first period as Wasaga rounded off a perfect start to their GMHL season.

In the second period, the Flyers fought back with a goal of their own. However, Wasaga bounced back swiftly three minutes later when Constant won a face-off in the Flyers' end and calmly slotted the puck into the bottom corner. Constant almost secured his hat trick moments later with a breakaway one-on-one, but the keeper was up to the challenge. Texmo completed his hat trick with a fantastic team goal and Tristan Sanders' long range effort made it 6-1 after the second period.



Mayor Brian Smith drops the puck

Despite the Flyers adding one more consolation goal, Wasaga capped off a perfect opening night with a top-corner shot from Emil Mouantri, securing a 7-2 victory.

New Wasaga coach Ryan Wood told Beach BOOSTER that he was happy with the team's first performance and expressed his goals for the team this season: "We made plays in the offensive zone and seeing the players' creativity there was really nice. It gives me a good idea of who those players are. The first five games of the season are almost like exhibition games. We're figuring out where our players are, who they are, and what they're good at because it's a brand new team. They're getting to know us as coaches, and we're getting to know them as players. We're building our identity as a hockey team."

"I've won this league twice before. I'm competitive, so the expectation is always to try to win a championship. It will take time, but we'll keep putting the pieces in place and developing our players. The end goal is to bring a championship to Wasaga as quickly as possible, kind of like how Vegas did it with the Golden Knights."

Wood also noted the great home crowd that came out to watch: "Seeing all the fans come to the game shows what kind of community this is. We're going to keep working hard every game for the people who support us. Our goal in year one is to be a contender and try to win a championship for Wasaga. That's the end goal."

Ryan Davies
for Beach BOOSTER Media



Editor's Note:

'Hockey Night in Wasaga' takes place every Tuesday with the River Dragons taking to the ice at 7:00. Check the updated schedule on the Sports Pages of each issue of beach BOOSTER. Remember that beverages and eats are provided by Boston Pizza Wasaga Beach and the Wasaga Beach Lions Club in The BOOSTER Room, proudly sponsored by Beach BOOSTER Media Group.