

Cougars ready to take on Hornets in GMOHL Championship series

By Jake Courtepatte

The stage is set for the final act of the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League season.

A double-overtime loss for the Alliston Hornets against the Orillia Terriers proved to be simply a bump in the road to the championship, as they closed out their semifinal series in five games on Friday with a resounding 5-0 win.

Waiting for the Hornets in the finals is the Schomberg Cougars, who have put together a somewhat Cinderella performance through two postseason series.

The sixth-seeded Cougars toppled the number-three Huntsville Otters in six games in round one, before disposing of the reigning league champion Penetang Kings in a four-game sweep in the semi-finals.

However, it is the Hornets that present their biggest challenge yet.

Not only did they lead the league in standings, but also sat atop the statistics page in goals-for and goals-against.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle facing the Cougars is their performance on the road. With Alliston holding home-ice advantage as the top seed, they could get to play in front of a home crowd up to four times, a crowd that has shown immense support throughout the season.

The Hornets had the highest attendance rating throughout the regular season, with over 350 fans per game showing up each night to cheer them on. They lost three games at home all season.

Meanwhile, the Cougars put up a less-than-mediocre 7-11-2 record on the road this season, countered only by a strong performance at the Trisan Centre.

The Cougars will be hoping that their nine-day rest period is an advantage over the still-warm Hornets, as they visit the rowdy New Tec Rec on Wednesday (after press time for Game 1).

The series resumes at home at the Trisan Centre on Thursday, where the Cougars have achieved resounding success this postseason. They are 5-0 when playing on home ice.

Alliston has been in every championship series since 2008, winning on six of seven occasions. Schomberg last won the Junior C championship in 2003 over the Stayner Siskins.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.schombergcougars.com.