

## KCSS Lions jump out to early lead in YRAA hockey



The King City Secondary School Lions (white) tied the St. Max Mustangs at Nobleton Arena on Friday to stay unbeaten this season.

### By Jake Courtepatte

If there was any doubt that King City Secondary School should return to the ice a team in the YRAA, those doubts are being swiftly erased in the early hockey season.

Leading the West division with a record of 2-0-1 is impressive enough, made even more impressive by the fact that the Lions are in the first year of their varsity program.

"We started back up again after not having a team for over a decade," said Brad Matwijec, the team's head coach.

There were talks of the school returning to varsity hockey last season, which ramped up when a short experimental season culminated in King City claiming the York University Tournament Cup.

"That was a good jumping off point to sanction a team in the fall," said Matwijec. "With five tryout practices I was able to prepare the team."

The preparation paid off immediately, with the Lions opening the fall season with a 3-1 win over Aurora's Cardinal Carter just two weeks ago. They followed up with a victory over St. Theresa of Lisieux last Monday, before tying St. Max Kolbe in a 1-1 draw at Nobleton Arena last Friday.

The only puck to get past goaltender Steven Sentaguida was a deflection off a screened shot, while Matwijec said Sentaguida has played a key role in the team's success.

"Last game he made 43 saves vs. St. Max," said Matwijec. "He's earned the nickname Cash because he always makes the big save. He's also very humble and a great kid."

Sporting the best goals-against-average early on in the West division, credits his team's unselfish play, and said they have a strong commitment to team defence.

"We take it personal when we are scored upon."

Utilizing a balance of Grades 9 to 11 students in last year's test matches, the Lions coaching staff were able to see a zero-percent turnover rate heading into action this fall, while maintain a balance of all the grades.

The Lions host St. Elizabeth this Wednesday at Nobleton Arena, who won their only game of the season so far 4-1 against St. Theresa.

Puck drop is set for 2:30 p.m. For schedules, visit [www.yraa.com](http://www.yraa.com).