

Shorthanded Raiders keep racking up points

By EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Turns out that playing without four of their top players over the last couple of weeks wasn't much of a problem for the Georgetown Raiders.

Taking at least a point away from each of the five games missed by the four skaters who represented Team Canada East at the World Jr. A Challenge in Penticton, B.C., the 17-6-2 Raiders won three of the contests, including a convincing 6-3 victory over the visiting Hamilton Red Wings on Saturday evening.

Georgetown will welcome back its four players— forwards Scott Wilson and Evan Rodrigues, along with defencemen Tyler McCarthy and Matt Chiarantano— for Wednesday's Ontario Jr. Hockey League home date with the Orangeville Flyers. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Wilson scored twice for Canada East in Sunday night's tournament championship game, a 6-4 comeback victory for the U.S. for its third Challenge title in a row. Rodrigues was named to the tourney's all-star team.

While the Red Wings were missing their star centre, Florida Panthers' draft pick Zach Hyman, also on the Canada East roster, the Raiders had to employ a few call-ups for their recent starts and were able to rally back for a big point last Wednesday in a 5-4 OT loss to the Burlington Cougars, who lead Georgetown by one point atop the West Division standings.

Goaltender Michael Nishi was named Saturday night's first star for a 42-save effort and his teammates launched an early ambush on the Wings, building a 3-0 lead 5:15 into the contest.

"It shows the depth and leadership we have here that we can play well with those guys not here," said the 17-year-old Nishi, who also didn't have veteran defencemen Tyler Shiplo (suspension) and assistant captain Mike Sullivan (traded to Markham Friday) in front of him.

"It was great to get a win against Hamilton after we lost to them twice earlier this season."

And as if the Raiders haven't seen enough of the Red Wings recently, the two divisional rivals will meet again Saturday at the Alcott Arena starting at 7:30 p.m.

Duston Hebebrand (2), Patrick Megannety, newcomer Mike Charbonneau and blueliner Kyle Dube tallied for Georgetown versus Hamilton, with Michael Capicotto (2), Justin Basso and Hebebrand finding the net in the loss to Burlington.

Nishi, who has a 9-5-2 record with a 3.32 goals-against average, said he's put the disappointment of being beaten out in training camp for the backup role with the Ontario Hockey League's Windsor Spitfires behind him.

The Raiders dealt away 20-year-old netminder Derek Mohny to allow Nishi to return for a second season in Georgetown and the latter intends to be back in a Spitfires' jersey after a solid season at the Tier II level.

"I need more game experience to grow further in order to play (in Windsor)," said the 6-foot-1, 165-pound backstopper from Etobicoke.

"If I was playing in Windsor now, I don't think I would have done as well as I would have liked. We have a good team here in Georgetown and I want to help us to be successful."



Georgetown Raiders' forward Brock Labelle (23) attempts to deflect a point shot past Hamilton Red Wings' goaltender Drew Fielding during an Ontario Jr. Hockey League matchup Saturday at the Alcott Arena. The Raiders turned in one of their better performances of the season despite having several players out of the lineup, scoring a 6-3 win.
Photo by Eamonn Maher

High school roundup

Senior volleyball titles elude local schools

Both Georgetown schools had their bids for berths in the Halton senior boys' volleyball Tier I championship stopped with straight-set losses in last week's semifinals, but one of the teams is still alive in post-season play.

The third-place Georgetown Rebels were swept by second-place Milton, while Christ the King's Jaguars bowed out to top-ranked Assumption of Burlington last Wednesday.

But the Rebels aren't finished, however, as they'll host the Hamilton-Wentworth representative this Wednesday in the Golden Horseshoe quadruple-A championship match beginning at 3:30 p.m., with the winner moving on to the provincial finals in Mississauga later this month.

In junior HSSAA action, Oakville-Trafalgar defeated CtK and first-place Loyola eliminated Georgetown in last week's semifinals.

FOOTBALL: Christ the King will host a doubleheader of playoff action this Thursday afternoon as both the junior and senior Jaguars have advanced to the HSSAA Tier III semifinals.

The time, location and opponents for those games had yet to be determined at *The Independent & Free Press* deadline on Monday afternoon.

The junior Jags improved to 7-0 overall this season after flattening Burlington Central 36-0 last week in the quarterfinals in Milton, while the seniors prevailed over Robert Bateman 11-8.

The Tier III championship games are set for McMaster University in Hamilton Nov. 24.

Georgetown's seniors were knocked out of the Tier II playoffs after a 28-0 loss to Assumption last week.



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