

Raiders record third straight win

Riding a three-game win streak for the first time this season, the Georgetown Raiders have a couple of home games this week before taking a two-week break in the Ontario Junior Hockey League schedule.

The 9-8-1 Raiders pulled off a 5-4 shoot-out victory Saturday evening in Burlington against the Cougars and will get a shot at catching up to the West Division's leaders, the Buffalo Jr. Sabres, this Saturday at the Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Raiders entertained the last-place Orangeville Flyers Wednesday night.

On Saturday, the Raiders held a 3-1 lead early in the third period but nearly self-destructed, allowing the 2-9-3 Cougars to take a 4-3 lead with less than five minutes remaining in regulation.

However, Liam Clare's point shot was directed in by Liam Board with 30 seconds left to force extra time. Georgetown's Adam Nanji netted the winner and goalie Michael McNiven was named first star.

Also scoring for the Raiders were Nanji, Anthony Marra and John Adams.

Following Saturday's game against Buffalo, the Raiders don't play until Nov. 9.

"We wanted to get a lot of games in early to see where we're at as a team," said head coach & GM Greg Walters.

"Obviously it hasn't gone as great as we would have liked, but it still gives us a chance to see where we can improve."

NOTES: The Raiders hope to get their longest-serving player, defenceman **Tyler MacPherson** of Brampton, back from a lower-body injury in the next week... Georgetown's **Stephen Silas** has opted to pass on the pro circuit for now and has enrolled at the University of Waterloo to play for the Warriors' varsity men's team... Just a day after former Raider netminder and current University of Toronto Blue **Michael Nishi** practised with the Toronto Maple Leafs when their goalie, **James Reimer**, was slightly injured, another ex-Raider, **Brandon Pirri**, notched his second career NHL goal for the Blackhawks against the Leafs in Chicago.



Braeden Silva of GDHS finished ninth in the GHAC senior boys' 7km race in Milton Tuesday to help the Rebels earn a second-place team result and earn a spot at the OFSAA meet in Sudbury Nov. 2, while Andrew Pund-sack of Christ the King was 10th as the senior Jaguars just missed out on qualifying for provincials. Photo by Eric Riehl/Metroland Media Group

Runners race to OFSAA

Several Halton Hills athletes are headed to the provincial high school cross-country championships in Sudbury next week thanks to their performances at Tuesday's Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference meet in Milton.

Christ the King's junior girls literally ran away with the team title after placing four entries in the top six, including the 4km race's top finisher, Mackenzie Cameron.

Stephanie Knowles (4th), Maddie Shiell (5th) and Nicole Waddick (6th) contributed to the Jaguars' result at the Kelso Conservation Area.

Georgetown's senior boys, consisting of Matt Knebel (6th), Braeden Silva (9th), Liam Carson (15th) and Ben Wanless (17th), were second at GHAC to make the OFSAA championships, set for Laurentian University on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Meghan Sippel was runner-up in the midget girls' event to qualify for OFSAA, with teammate Katie Sell also booking a trip to Sudbury after placing eighth.

CtK's midget boys also earned OFSAA spots, headed up by Tanner Ellis (4th), Andrew Whelan (9th), Benjamin Ray (14th) and Frank Srebernjak (32nd).

Willis riding high

At the beginning of this year's racing season, local resident Craig Willis set his sights on becoming the Toyo Tires Formula 1600 B Class champion, and several checkered flags later, the 18-year-old achieved his goal.

Willis, a Georgetown District High School graduate, competed in the Ontario region for the open-wheel series that has produced almost all of Canada's most decorated road-racing stars.

This series is divided into two distinct classes, the 'A' class for the newest and most refined chassis available and the 'B' class for cars manufactured before 1994. Willis drove the Aero2 chassis designed and built by his dad Keith and uncle Ian in 1990.

This renowned Formula 1600 is very familiar in the racing world as it has won many championships in its heyday from 1990-2003. Ten years later, the co-creator of this racing machine would dust it off for his son to take to track. The powerhouse proved to be the perfect tool for Willis to learn and hone his craft. As his driving talent grew, so did the track records broken at almost every event he attended.

The first-year electrical engineering student at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology managed to take home nine first-place finishes out of the 14 races and still holds track records at two tracks.

"My first full season was an incredible learning curve, developing my skills, learning the different tracks, figuring out how far I could push the car," said Willis.

"It was awesome. The Aero2 is such an incredible car. My dad and uncle designed and built this car 23 years ago and it is still a force to be reckoned with. It has such an incredible history and now another championship to add to its legacy. I am really proud."

Born the same day as the Monaco Grand Prix, Indy 500 and Coca-Cola 600 spectacles, racing is in Willis's genes. His grandfather, George McCullough, mother Elaine and aunt Mary Law also have raced Formula cars and are all still involved in the sport to some extent today along with his dad and uncle.



Georgetown's Craig Willis (right) won the Toyo Tires Formula 1600 B Class and Jack Mitchell Jr. earned the series' A Class title for 2013. Submitted photo

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