

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Minor bantam Raiders capture OMHA crown

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

The last-ever game played by a team under the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association banner will go down in local sporting annals as a victory that clinched a provincial championship.

Georgetown's Pepsi Raiders captured the Ontario Minor Hockey Association minor bantam AA title in the fifth-and-deciding game at the Invista Centre in the Kingston area Saturday with a convincing 5-0 triumph over the host Canadians.

And while the Raiders didn't take the easy route to glory—dropping games three and four at home after winning twice in Kingston to begin the best-of-5 matchup—the squad was determined to send the GMHA off on a winning note.

"That was our battle cry throughout the final series, that we were the last team to ever represent the GMHA in history," said head coach Gil Nieuwendyk.

"We didn't put any pressure on the kids about it. They were ready and the boys played game five like they had no pressure on them at all. They just went out and had fun."

Georgetown carried a 2-0 lead into the third period Saturday and held off the pressing Canadians before getting the insurance marker.

Josh Kerr, Jonny Vezina,

Nick Deakin-Poot, Tyler Skilling and Jimmy Panijan scored for the Raiders in game five, with Cam MacLeod earning the shutout.

The Pepsi Raiders seemed ready to celebrate Thursday at home in game three in front of about 600 spectators at the Alcott Arena, holding a 1-0 lead until about three minutes to play in regulation before the Canadians tied the score and then won in overtime.

Kingston Area then took game four here on Good Friday to set up a return to eastern Ontario for the rubber match.

"Thursday's loss was heartbreaking because we led most of the game and we had such a great crowd out to watch," added Nieuwendyk.

"To have to go back to Kingston for game five wasn't what we were expecting and caught us totally off guard. But in the end, it came out in our favour."

Panijan's tally in game five also marked the last goal scored by a player in a Raiders' uniform as the GMHA is set to amalgamate with the Acton Minor Hockey Association for the 2013-14 season.

Nieuwendyk, earning his first OMHA championship in his 12th season of coaching in the GMHA, noted that the core of this year's minor bantam side has been together since the novice age group. Four players earned OMHA titles with the Halton AAA Hurricanes as at-



The Georgetown Pepsi minor bantam AA Raiders won the OMHA championship Saturday in Kingston with a 5-0 victory over the host Canadians. Team members (front, from left) are: Goalie Cam Greenfield, Nick Boshart, assistant coach Tyler Highfield, goalie Cam MacLeod, Steven Ienciu, Blake Ghesquiere, Michael Pierog. Second row: Head coach

Gil Nieuwendyk, Billy Taylor, Jonny Vezina, Tyler Schouten, Tyler Skilling, Scott Wiffen. Back row: Trainer Orville Briscoe, Josh Kerr, Nick Deakin-Poot, Manager Tom Jarv, Nolan Jarv, Kevin Ellsworth, Marshall Harkins, Jimmy Panijan, Graham Ormond, and assistant coach Steve Highfield.

*Photo by Diane Wiffen*

## Wilson leads River Hawks to Frozen Four

Former Georgetown Jr. A Raiders' captain Scott Wilson netted the winning goal this past Saturday that helped send the University of UMass-Lowell River Hawks through to the NCAA's Frozen Four hockey tournament next week in Pittsburgh.

The 6-foot, 173-pound sophomore forward from Oakville, who played two seasons in Georgetown, opened the scoring and later added an assist in Saturday's NCAA Tournament Northeast Regional Championship game held in Manchester, N.H. as the River Hawks blanked the host Uni-



**SCOTT WILSON**

versity of New Hampshire Wildcats 2-0.

A Pittsburgh Penguins' seventh-round draft pick in 2011, Wilson was also named to the Northeast Regional all-tournament team, picking up an assist in UMass-Lowell's 6-1 thrashing of Wisconsin Friday in the semis.

The 28-10-2 River Hawks will take on the surprising Yale Bulldogs, 19-12-3, in the NCAA Frozen Four semifinal on Thursday, April 11 at the Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh. Wilson had 15 goals and 19 assists in 34 games during the regular season.

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