

# Media types make their picks

Once again The Intelligencer's **TOM GAVEY** and **PAUL SVOBODA** and Quinte Broadcasting's **JACK MILLER** have gone out on a limb in attempting to forecast this OHL season.

Feel free to get a saw.  
Here goes:

## East Division- Svoboda

### 1. Ottawa

Comments: A healthy Alyn McCauley gives the 67's a chance to repeat as East pennant winners. Hard to believe this team won't have something to prove after quick playoff exit last season.

### 2. Kingston

Comments: Should be a hard-working bunch, tough in their own rink. Justin Davis, who shone with a 30-goal rookie season, should blossom.

### 3. Peterborough

Comments: Assistant coach Brian Drumm moves up to become head man so there should be no bumpy transfer of power. Plenty of toughness and first round pick Pat Kavanaugh (RW) could be a good one.

### 4. Oshawa

Comments: Underachievers the last two years, Generals should contend this season in always-competitive East despite loss of several key veterans.

### 5. Belleville

Comments: Yes, they'll be young. Yes, they'll be inexperienced. But team has size and aggressiveness and perhaps the division's best goal-keeping with Kory Cooper. Daniel Cleary will put up big numbers again and Belleville will need every one of them.

### 6. North Bay

Comments: Big rebuilding job continues in the Bay.

## East Division- Miller

### 1. Ottawa

Comments: They have the best goaltending in the OHL. A veteran defence, and lots of people who can score.



### 2. Oshawa

Comments: The only real question facing this team is, who will play goal? A knee injury to netminder Tyrone Garner could hold the Generals back. Otherwise, they have an excellent returning group, led by offensive powerhouse Marc Savard.

### 3. Peterborough

Comments: Scott Barney will emerge as a dominant OHL power forward. Solid cast of returning defencemen. However, knock them down a peg if goaltender Zac Bierk doesn't return as an overage.

### 4. Kingston

Comments: Will ice a veteran team, with good offensive capability. Better than average in goal.

### 5. Belleville

Comments: This team will be young. Perhaps too young. The addition of a veteran right winger would help. Kory Cooper and Dan Cleary will win a few games. If other veterans step up their game the Bulls should make the playoffs.

### 6. North Bay

Comments: Will have a veteran defensive corps, but offence could be a problem. Jim Midgley leads returning players with 19 goals.

## East Division- Gavey

### 1. Ottawa

Comments: GM Brian Kilrea and the 67's are still smarting from last year's four game playoff sweep at the hands of the Bulls. With monster production from the likes of Alyn McCauley, Troy Stonier and Joel Trottier the 67's will win another division crown.

### 2. Peterborough

Comments: There's a good chance goaltender Zac Bierk will return as an overage and this Cadillac of OHL organizations has plenty left from last year's OHL champions. Plus, they again have a superb crop of rookies coming in, an embarrassment of riches.

### 3. Oshawa

Comments: Barring injury Marc Savard will again lead the Gens offensively. Last year's disappointing season cost Stan Butler his coaching job and the change may help considering the controversy around him early in the year. Still lots of potential here.

### 4. Kingston

Comments: John Hultberg is a first rank netminder and this is a veteran team that will be giving coach Gary Agnew what may be his last season in the Limestone City if the Fronts don't go somewhere in the playoffs.

### 5. Belleville

Years of bad drafting will finally catch up with Belleville, but they'll keep their playoff streak alive thanks to goaltender Kory Cooper (and Dan Cleary). There's every reason to be patient with the likes of Justin Papineau, Mark Chaplin, Chris Stanley and Nick Tselios.

### 6. North Bay

The "Men at Work" sign is still out in the Bay.

## Central Division- Svoboda

### 1. Kitchener

Comments: Plenty of talented youngsters return including Boyd Devereaux and Ryan Peperall.

Rangers should be ready for a serious run at playoff success.

### 2. Guelph

Comments: No reason to believe Storm will be anything but contenders again this season. GM Mike Kelly continues to uncover solid talent.

### 3. Owen Sound

Comments: Addition of former Belleville blueliner Jamie Sokolsky should add punch to power play.

### 4. Barrie

Comments: I like them if they get Volchkov (Alexandre, Washington draft pick) back. If not, they'll slip behind Erie.

### 5. Erie

Comments: Not crazy about the nickname (Otters) but team should receive firm fan support in Pennsylvania town. First round pick Brett Gibson (C) has loads of potential.

### 6. Sudbury

Comments: Wolves not yet ready to howl again.

## Central Division- Miller

### 1. Kitchener

Comments: Rob DeCiantis will challenge for the OHL scoring title. Boyd Devereaux and Ryan Peperall provide outstanding leadership. David Belitski is one of the best young goaltenders in the league.

### 2. Guelph

Comments: The only question mark is in goal. However, outstanding defence makes it easier on whoever gets the job. Offence will be spread out.

### 3. Erie

Comments: A veteran team that was one of the best defensively a year ago in Niagara Falls. Will enjoy more offence from sophomores Jason Ward, Shane Nash and Colin Peperall.

### 4. Sudbury

Comments: Strong in goal. Offensively suspect.

### 5. Owen Sound

Comments: Will need quality overage players to grab a playoff spot.

(continued on page 13. See, Bulls destined...)



Wayne Richmond



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