

# Raiders to be Flyers' farm club?

The importance of Sunday's exhibition game between the Georgetown Intermediate "A" Raiders and the Barrie Senior "A" Flyers may not have been the action on the ice, but rather the behind-the-scenes talks that have been, and will continue to take place between the executives of the two clubs.

Out of it all, both clubs are hoping, will come some sort of friendly working arrangement which could see the Raiders acting as a high level farm club for the Flyers.

The outline of the deal, that may take effect next year, was explained to the Herald by Raiders' coach Junior Tibbetts

following the exhibition match which, incidentally, Barrie won 3-1.

Tibbetts felt that a working arrangement between a Senior and an Intermediate team would be to the benefit of both.

The Raiders would benefit by having a shot at signing some of the 150 to 200 players who annually try out for the Flyers, the first place squad in the Ontario Hockey Association's Senior loop.

"For every player that they (Barrie) sign they have to turn down six or seven who are just as good," commented Tibbetts. "We could possibly sign them on our seven import cards."

Barrie's benefit would be to have a farm club of sorts from which they could draw players when needed. "They need that kind of support," Tibbetts said. "They found that out last year when they lost so many

players just before heading down east."

Talks between the two teams are continuing. Although Barrie first mentioned the idea, the Raiders are now taking the initiative in profiting a good relationship between the two groups.

Sunday's exhibition match was the first visible sign and there's a likelihood that there may be a second later in the season.

Following the game, in fact, both teams got together for a short session in the Raider's dressing room.

The game itself was a bit of a letdown for some Raiders' fans although the action was anything but slow. Fast skating and extremely good passing marked the game but fans who were out to see some of the slam, bang techniques that OHA Senior hockey has a record of, had to leave

disappointed.

As Tibbetts mildly put it, "The Flyers weren't playing playoff hockey."

Barrie was missing five of their top players, including their three top scorers. Player-coach, Fern St. Onge, could only ice one of his three lines and even one of his key defencemen was out.

Nevertheless the Flyers put on quite a display of puck

handling and wide open skating, which the Raiders, to their full credit, matched stride for stride. In fact it was one of the Raiders' better displays of their skating abilities.

The game will prove, however, costly, to the Raiders as they lost the services of defenceman Graig Simpson for the rest of the season. In one of the few hard checks

made during the game Simpson suffered a dislocated shoulder.

Although the immediate diagnosis was official it was definite: Simpson will likely be out for the rest of the season.

Barrie scored one goal in the first and two in the second. All three were products of sharp passes around the Raiders' goalmouth. Georgetown goalie

Keith Pallett had his hands full but kept the Flyers in check on some hard shots.

The Raiders' lone goal came at the 7:07 mark of the second when John Boyce and Hay Peacock set up Doug Tate (who began this season in the Senior loop with the Whitby Seniors).

Just how easy the teams were taking it when it came to handing out any rough stuff shows best in the penalty column. Although lightly called by referee Doug Robb, there were only three penalties called with the Raiders getting tagged with one and the Flyers two.

# Cotton at centre has turned the Raiders on

The biggest problem Junior Tibbetts, coach of the Georgetown Intermediate "A" Raiders, is having these days is coming up with a logical explanation for the sudden turn of events that have quickly seen the Raiders turn from a troubled team to a super squad.

With two more victories this past week the Raiders have stretched their unbeaten streak to four games and, in doing so, have finally put an end to that pesky Dundas quirk that has kept the Raiders off the win sheet any time they

have met the unimpressive Dundas Merchants thus far this season.

Last Friday night the Raiders nipped the Dundas crew 4-3 in an exciting overtime battle in Dundas. Two nights before the Raiders had little trouble in putting down the Thorold Athletics 5-3 in Thorold.

According to Tibbetts one of the prime reasons for the Raider's late season surge was the recent decision to centre Nell Cotton on a line with Pat Maloney on left wing and Art Webster on right.

That combination has quickly become the Raiders' most lethal line with Cotton displaying moves that would make you think he was born to the position.

In their battle with Dundas that line counted for three of the Raiders' four goals with Cotton counting two on plays set up by Maloney and the other coming from Maloney's stick on a pass from Cotton.

"Cotton handles the puck extremely well, plus he can get in front of the net and hold his own there. That's something we had been missing before we

moved him to centre," noted Tibbetts.

The winning overtime goal saw Maloney flip a hard shot off the skate of John Boyce and into the net, beating Merchants' goalie Gerry Aussem, who again came up with a hot game against the Raiders.

Boyce is another player Tibbetts has plenty of words of praise for. "He's without a doubt our most improved player this year," said Tibbetts. "He's improved by 70 percent and that means a lot. He consistently wins along the boards and if you can win

there you can win the game."

That sounds an awful like a quote from the training book of the Philadelphia Flyers?

"We're trying to introduce a lot of the Philadelphia tactics into our game now. Not the rough stuff but things like taking the man out instead of swinging at the puck. We're trying to force the other guy to do something with the puck."

The techniques are catching on. Defenceman Bill Currie has shown a great improvement these past few games to the point where he is definitely in the running for the league's

Best Defenceman honors. Tom Polonic is also coming along. The only thing keeping Tibbetts from running to his trophy shelf and clearing some space for the Intermediate "A" trophy is the work of what should be his first line, consisting of Doug Tate, Tom Gilbert and Paul Burger.

That line, he states, has still to get really into the mood of things. The potential, though, he adds, is definitely there and

once they begin to click, watch out.

Mind you, they weren't doing too badly against Thorold. Tate hit for two of the Raiders' five goals while singles were added by Cotton, Tom Polonic and Art Webster. Mike Mahoney assisted twice as did Pat Maloney.

Keith Pallett has been coming up with some of his strongest efforts in the net for the Raiders, looking most

impressive Sunday night in their exhibition tilt against the Senior "A" Flyers.

That game sidelined Craig Simpson with a dislocated shoulder and that's going to open quite a hole in the Georgetown defence.

The season is reaching a very crucial stage for the Raiders as they still have their sights set at winning the league crown. If the present first ranked Fort Erie Mavericks

and the close contenders and defending league champions the Port Colbourne Sailors, split their remaining games and the Raiders continue on their winning ways, Georgetown could come out of an up and down season with the league crown.

The Raiders have a bit of an advantage as they still have two home games against the Mavericks and one against the Sailors.

# Geminis want playoffs in old Mill Street arena

Winning hockey games is just a matter of putting together a lot of little things...like a letter "C" on someone's sweater, an old mask, and even an old arena.

Those were three of the key ingredients in the Georgetown Geminis' victory last Saturday night as they dropped the Oakville Blades 7-2 in an excellent

After suffering through the Milton game Tomkinson decided to don the old mask for the meeting with Oakville. Perhaps it was the change in head gear, perhaps it was just a better night, but whatever it was Tomkinson, especially in the early going of the game kept the Geminis in the action.

Coach Paul Robinson had

hockey, and the old arena is just what they need for that.

Another aspect that may have made a difference but which neither Tost nor Robinson would give much credit to was a tough meeting Robinson held with his team prior to the game Saturday.

After their poor performance in Milton and a couple of other

that department. If that old adage about an intimidating team being a winning team had to be proven the Gems certainly did it, much to the consternation of the Blades.

Scoring the Gems' goals were Becker and Larry Peterson with two, and Chris Milne, Kevin Reeks and Charlie Knoepfli with singles.

Reeks also assisted on three goals to earn the high point honor for the night. Doug Barnes set up two scoring plays while Bill Allison, Peterson and Knoepfli each assisted on one goal.

Shots on goal show Tomkinson stopping a total of 33 shots while Oakville's busy netminder Drew Trent made 40 saves.

Oakville didn't get on the scoreboard until the 6:38 mark of the third.

The Gems' three stars for the game were Becker, Peterson and Tomkinson.

In their 9-4 drubbing at the hands of a Jacklustre Milton squad it was not hard to see which one—and only one—of the Gems' lines was playing hockey: Reeks, Knoepfli and Barnes. Between those three all four goals and seven assists were earned with Barnes notching two goals and two assists, Reeks one goal and three assists and Knoepfli one goal and two assists.

The Gems have finally set up a date for a make-up game with the first place Burlington Mohawks. That game is slated for Wednesday, January 28 in the old arena.

Barb Curry certainly is playing for the right team in the Georgetown Ladies Basketball loop. Her team, the Hotshots, match her output in the past few games. Last week Curry hooped 18 points to lead the Hotshots to a 32-16 victory over the Knicks.

Alice Ogden accounted for six of the Hotshots' points while Brenda Atkinson and Marge Hillier led the Knicks with four points each.

Hotshots outshoot Knicks



ANOTHER SAVE. Oakville Blades' goalie was called upon many times to lock hard drives by the Georgetown Geminis during Saturday night's turnabout by the Gems.

Junior "B" game played at the old Georgetown Memorial Arena.

When the executive of the Geminis put their heads together after the game to come up with some ideas of why the Gems could look so super impressive one night and so rotten the night before—finishing at the bottom of a 9-4 scoreboard at the hands of the Milton Continentals—the changes they listed were all minor ones but, when combined, can add up to quite a bit.

Manager Bob Tost pointed the finger at the improvement in goaltending by netminder Rick Tomkinson. That, he felt, could be largely due to a change in the masks Tomkinson has been wearing.

After having \$70 invested in a custom-made moulded mask Tomkinson decided to discard the mask he had worn through his minor hockey career prior to joining the Gems. Through many games he has struggled with that mask and, although he claims that there's no problem, his performances, particularly on low shots to the pads, have given Gems' fans a few tense moments.

another minor change in mind. For Saturday night's game Rick Becker handed over the job of team captain to Doug Barnes. Without the "C" on his sweater Becker came up with perhaps his best game of the season against Oakville, scoring twice and helping to administer constant pressure on Oakville's goalie Drew Trent.

"It just relieved the pressure on Becker," commented Robinson, "and obviously that's all he needed."

According to Robinson, Gem fans should not be surprised to find themselves watching Junior "B" playoffs in the old Georgetown Memorial Arena instead of their home for the regular season, the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

"Most of our players were raised through minor hockey in that arena. They're more comfortable there," Robinson said in explaining why he's going to be pushing for playoff time in the memorial arena. "Besides the surface is smaller and we can play more of our own game there. The Gems' game is based on tough, close to the boards, brutal

similar lemons lately Robinson was not, to any the least, pleased.

"I really can't understand the attitude," Robinson said. "When I played for Georgetown I was proud to wear a Georgetown uniform. Some of these players haven't got that attitude at all."

He felt that he could get a consistently stronger effort from the Midgets and Juveniles the Gems are making frequent use of, than from some of the players who have signed with the Juniors.

"We're trying to build a hockey team that Georgetown can be proud of. If they don't measure up, we'll start playing the Midgets and Juveniles instead."

That not-too-subtly threat that anyone who doesn't produce this season may not get a second chance next year might have been another little jab that got the Geminis moving at a speed that they haven't hit since the early going of the season.

The Gems were hitting like they haven't hit since well before Christmas. Again Little Kent Kentner was the leader in

Ice-boating on lakes and rivers needs a very strong ice surface.

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