

# Geminis lead 'packed' Dixie squad in quarters

The Georgetown Geminis and the Dixie Ventures squared off in the opening two games of their Central Jr. "B" playoff series last Saturday and Monday in Georgetown and as the scene shifts to the Dixie arena for games three and four, the "Green and White" crew hold a comfortable two game lead. The Geminis edged past Dixie 6-5 in Saturday's opening playoff game, then posted a comfortable 6-3 win on Monday.

Throughout most of the regular season, Dixie and Milton were staging a veritable "loser takes all" battle for the honour of claiming the league cellar. The Dixie scenario was drastically changed however when the bolstered their roster with seven players, who, although signed to Junior "B" cards, played almost a full season with the Junior "A" Dixie Beelives.

The league is still buzzing over this sleight of hand but it appears that the OHA's hands are tied and that things will be allowed to stand. The team additions have now made Dixie a serious title contender and whereas prior to the changes the Geminis

organization might have viewed the opening playoff round as a not really serious challenge, now, it could turn out to be the most severe test on route to the league championship.

In Saturday's win, the Geminis displayed the same hot and cold tendencies that have plagued them and frustrated their fans over the past several weeks. The first period ended with the teams tied, 2-2, but it was Geminis lapses that allowed Dixie to knot the contest rather than the visitors' playing ability.

The Geminis led, 2-0, by the 7:57 mark on goals by Charlie Knoepfl and Bob Farthingham, then their game fell apart and Dixie took over for the next period and a half.

Dixie led 3-2 after two periods and the Geminis were floundering. Then they went through another of their chameleon like changes and looked like a different club in the third period. Dixie opened the third period scoring and then took some foolish penalties and the Geminis powerplay looked awesome. Within the space of 39 seconds, from the 5:06 mark to the 5:45 mark the Geminis scored three

short-handed goals and took a 5-4 lead. At the 17:44 mark this lead was increased to 6-4 and although Dixie did count one more marker, at the 19:57 mark, the game had been decided by the halfway point in the third. Rick Becker, Larry Peterson, Bill Allison and Charlie Knoepfl, with his second of the game, were the third period markers for the Geminis. Dixie goal scorers included, Myles Forget, Alex Kalinkos, Jim Baker and John Lowe.

Dixie is a rough club and knowing they were down one game seemed to change their tactics somewhat as Monday night's contest got under way. The attempted intimidation didn't faze the Geminis but to a degree it did disrupt their game and Dixie led 1-0 after 20 minutes.

The lead could have been more substantial, but time and time again, Geminis goaltender, Rick Tomkinson rose to the occasion. He continued his wizardry throughout the contest and the shots on goals totals adequately tell the story. The Dixie netminder faced 34 shots and allowed six goals, while Tomkinson faced 43 shots and allowed but three counters. Truly an outstanding performance.

The Geminis owned the second frame and on goals by Larry Peterson, Doug Pemberton and Chris Milne held a 3-1 lead after 40 minutes. Dixie knew full well that a second loss would seriously hamper their playoff hopes and came out flying in the third frame. The Geminis were flustered to a certain extent, but for the most part kept their cool and stuck to their game. Again, however, most of the credit must go to netminder Tomkinson.

The Geminis outscored Dixie 3-2 in the third to pick up their 6-3 win but Tomkinson really saved the day. In the third period alone, he faced 21 shots, frustrating Dixie on all but two

and the visitors must have gone home shaking their heads, with visions of a goal but two feet wide and two feet high.

Larry Peterson counted his second goal of the night in the third stanza and the other final period Georgetown markers were Kevin Reeks and Craig Fleming. Dixie scorers included, Alex Kalinkos, Bryan Ross and Guy Morrison.

The next game of the series will be played Wednesday night (tonight) in Dixie as will the fourth game on Friday night. Should a fifth game be necessary, it will be played Saturday night at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Should the Geminis wrap up their series by Friday, there will be no Saturday night game as they must await the winners of the other two series.

All three winners will meet in a home and home round robin tournament to decide the league championship. Brampton leads their series with Oakville, one game to none, while Streetsville has taken a one game to nothing lead over Burlington.

This latter report is something of a shocker as Burlington walked away with the regular season league crown, Streetsville knocked off the Mohawks 6-3, in Burlington in what was described as a "very physical game."

## Gems blew another!

For some unfathomable reason, the Georgetown Geminis of the Central Ontario Junior "B" league came out flat in what was for them, a most crucial game last Wednesday night against Burlington.

At that point in time, the Geminis were in second place, one point ahead of Oakville. Oakville had two games remaining while the tilt against Burlington would make the end of the regular schedule for the Geminis. A local win would have meant that the Oakville crew would have to win both their contests to finish in second place in the league standings.

The game was literally up for grabs until the midway point of the second period and in truth, neither team seemed particularly anxious to garner a win. Both teams displayed such ineptitude that no one in the arena would have been surprised had the players been advised to change into sweaters with unpublished numbers.

That the first period ended in a scoreless draw was not due, by any stretch of the imagination, to the excellence of play, rather, to mistakes on the part of both teams. The opening 20 minutes saw passes tossed out that could only have been reached by a veritable bucket brigade and to the assembled fans, it must have

seemed that the respective defensive stalwarts were engaged in an icy version of table tennis that left the neck muscles strained.

Play improved somewhat in the second period but whatever chance Georgetown had to pick up a win evaporated as Burlington shifted gears and took command. Charlie Knoepfl scored for the "Gems" at the 6:59 mark of the middle stanza but the local hopefuls did not count another marker until the 18:55 mark and by that time, Burlington had hit for six goals and the period ended with the visitors in front, 6-2.

Burlington outscored Georgetown, 2-1 in the final period for the decisive 8-3 win in what turned out to be a disappointing night for both the Geminis and their supporters.

It was learned later that Oakville had defeated Brampton in a game played that night in Brampton and therefore clinched second place, ahead of the Geminis.

Charlie Knoepfl performed well in the loss, picking up two goals and providing some aggressive forechecking, while Kevin Reeks, who played his usual hustling game, was the other Geminis marksman. For Burlington, Ron Royle had a pair, while singles went to Bob Goodish, Gary MacDonald, Mark Lipnicky, Dan Blum, Al Vitonis and Mike Martin.

### Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League

#### Final Standing

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Burlington	36	24	10	2	195	138	50
Oakville	36	19	12	5	189	160	43
Georgetown	36	18	14	3	187	168	41
Streetsville	36	15	19	4	177	177	33
Brampton	36	13	19	4	173	194	30
Dixie	36	12	20	4	165	189	28
Milton	36	12	21	3	167	237	27

#### Final Scoring

	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Ross Brownridge Br.	36	39	33	72	64
Mark Lipnicky, Bur.	36	34	36	70	45
Doug Barnes, Georg.	34	34	36	66	147
Larry Peterson, Gtn	36	35	28	63	26
Jim Elliott, Burl.	35	32	27	59	11

## Raiders aiming for first ever league crown

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders of the OHA Intermediate "A" loop appear determined not only to make a serious bid for regular season league laurels but also to let their fans in on the action as the season draws to a close. Three teams - Georgetown, Fort Erie and Port Colborne - all have a shot at first place and the league title could be decided on the last day of the schedule.

This past week the Raiders saw action twice and came away with two wins, so as the little fellow with the funny hat says, things could be "very interesting."

The "Red and White" crew played in Thorold last Wednesday night and although the Athletics are well down in the league's standings they are not a team to be toyed with. They proved this by moving in front, 2-0, after 20 minutes of play. Dave Pay and Bill Urquart scored for Thorold but high hopes turned into pipe dreams as Georgetown got their game together in the middle stanza.

Neil Cotton started the 3-2 Raider revival at the 3:24 mark of the second period and, before the buzzer sounded to signal the end of the sandwich frame, Ray Peacock and Tom Gilbert scored to give the Raiders the lead they were not to relinquish.

The Raiders continued to dominate as the game wore on and it was more than evident that it was in the Raider's favour.

Neil Cotton then took his turn at centre stage and ensured that no more acts would follow by scoring twice for the final 5-3 Raider margin of victory.

There were several sidelights that provided both interest and entertainment to the fans at Friday's game and deserve mention. Raider coach, Junior Tibbetts, who was adamant before the season got under way that he would serve only behind the bench, finally relented and donned the blades. His decision was made more by circumstance than desire as the team has several players out for various reasons and in truth, Tibbetts was very much needed.

Despite the long layoff, Tibbetts displayed the style and moves that endeared him to a host of Georgetown fans over the years. That he was not in top shape need not be enlarged upon for obvious reasons, but that he did get back into the fray emphasizes how much he has meant, and still means to Georgetown hockey.

The other crowd pleaser was the emergence of the line of Neil Cotton, Art Webster and Tom Polonic in the third period. Oakville initiated the "battle of the bodies" and Tibbetts retaliated with what would have to be considered the most boisterous and toughest line in the league. They provided more than just weight as it was Polonic and Cotton who sewed up the game for the Raiders.

With the season drawing to a close and first place at stake all the remaining Raider games take on added importance. On Tuesday Georgetown played in Port Colborne (at press time the score was not available), this Friday they host first place, Fort Erie, on Sunday they travel to Oakville and a week from this Friday, in what could be the biggest game of the year, they host Port Colborne.

Should the Raiders finish in first place added glory will be added to the accomplishment as no Intermediate Georgetown club has, as yet, achieved this goal.

and icing on the cake was added as Bill Currie and Tommy Gilbert counted with his second of the game to make the final score, 5-2 Georgetown.

Keith Pallett turned in an outstanding performance as he handled 42 shots to the Thorold goalie, Rick Upper's, 25. Oakville journeyed to Georgetown last Friday night to tangle with the local favourites and again, while they cannot be considered one of the league's top teams, two points at their expense cannot be garnered merely by taking to the ice.

The Raiders had it all their own way in the first period, outshooting Oakville, 14-4 and outscoring the visitors 2-0 but Oakville's turn was yet to come. The Raider domination of the first period was quickly laid to rest early in the second as Ray Chisholm scored for Oakville at the 1:14 mark to narrow the Georgetown lead to 2-1. Lorne Lesuk scored for Oakville less than eight minutes later to knot the contest and at this point it was anyone's game.

Oakville made the final bid for a decision when Don Milford scored at the 1:37 mark of the third but this was to prove their last trump as the Raiders began to round into form. Tom Polonic docked the game again, at the 5:10 mark, but the tide had turned

and it was more than evident that it was in the Raider's favour.

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## 'The Fabric' of the Raiders

by Teresa Vermeer  
At the Booster Club, following the Raiders' game against the Oakville Adanacs, Neil Cotton was in his glory! Not only had Neil played another excellent game of hockey, but he had netted the first hat trick of his hockey career!

For Neil, this hat trick was a personal highlight to add to his hockey memoirs, but for hockey fans who have seen Neil play, particularly here in Georgetown, there are many highlights for us to recall that are just as or more impressive than his hat trick!

At one time, Neil was nicknamed "The Fabric" by one of his team-mates. Actually on thinking about it, this nickname is well applied, because Neil makes up the fabric of the Raider hockey club. Into every game he weaves in spirit, skill and a tremendous amount of versatility. This versatility has really come to the foreground this season. Not only has Neil played practically every team position, but he has put his hockey knowledge to good use as assistant coach of the Raiders.

As one of the veterans on the Raider hockey club, Neil has experienced many victories and defeats. He is certainly one of the most important aspects in the building of a championship team from season to season. Neil plays a fine calibre of hockey all

through the hockey season, but he seems to reach his highest peak, and really sparkle during the playoff rounds! It seems the bigger and tougher the challenges, the greater the presence of Neil Cotton is felt.

One season which comes to mind right away is the 1973-74 season when the Raiders advanced in their playoffs to Lively and Ottawa; Neil was spectacular! Since then, Neil has usually been just as impressive.

Neil is going to be a big factor in this year's playoff rounds, there's no doubt about that!

I think that there's one element in Neil's success story that we should consider. You've heard the saying "Behind every successful man, there's a good woman?" Well, Neil is very fortunate to have the fantastic kind of backing and support that his wife, Wendy, is providing. She's a real joy to have at a Raider game; between blowing her bugle, leading the rest of us in cheers, giving the opposition some verbal attention, and giving Neil lots of encouragement (and sometimes, some !!!!!!!&&!!!!!!) she provides as much excitement in the stands, as Neil does out on the ice.

However, her most valuable asset is her enthusiasm and support of Neil's hockey career. With this type of personnel, the Raider hockey club is a winner already!!

## alleyways

### 4 Steps to Stardom winners



BANTAM GIRLS BOWLING TEAM shows its form. Teresa Mastach, Hope Hulme, and Sandy Marshall. From left to right are: Julie McCarry, Kelly McCarry, Missing is Karen Knott.



JUNIOR BOYS BOWLING TEAM. Front row from left to right are Ross Knipe, Grant Richardson and Wayne Richardson. Second row: Coach Bob Nicholson, Dave Smarda, Glenn Collier and Gord Kennedy.



4 STEPS TO STARDOM SENIOR GIRLS. Senior Girls winners of the 4 Steps to Stardom Tournament held during the month of January were; left to right, Stephanie Gorin, singles, Wendi Boukhill, Diane Marshall, Gloria Hamilton, Sylvia Heissler, Terrie Bratkin and Charlene McCormack, coach.



4 STEPS TO STARDOM SENIOR BOYS. Winners of the 4 Steps to Stardom Tournament held during the month of January were; left to right, George Barber, coach, Gary Keess, Bruce Clarke, Colin Hicks, Steve Archibald, Rick Gourlie and Gary Richardson, singles.



JUNIOR GIRLS BOWLING TEAM. Front row from left to right are Janet Hicks, Robin Richardson and Dawn Pentesco. Second row: Debbie Scarborough, Julie Burns, Lisa Burke and Coach Marg Bratkin.