



RAIDER, STEVE BLUNDY, splits the Val D'Or defence. The Raiders defeated the Val D'Or Voodoos, 4-2 on Monday evening, thereby wrapping up the Eastern Canada best-of-five semifinal series of the Hardy Cup, in four

games. This weekend, the Raiders journey to Campbellton New Brunswick for the Eastern Canada Final of the Hardy Cup. Should they emerge victorious, then they would be asked to host the Canadian Championship.

Raiders in East Final

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders won the right to go against Campbellton New Brunswick in the Hardy Cup Eastern Canadian final series, when they defeated the Val D'Or Voodoos, 3-1 in the Eastern Canadian Hardy Cup semifinal series, played in Georgetown over the weekend.

The Raiders lost the series opener, 3-1 to Val D'Or on Friday night, but then rebounded to post three consecutive decisive wins, 9-1, 8-3 and 4-2 over the Voodoos, to claim the series.

Raider Coach, Junior Tibbitts, felt that Val D'Or "had a good hockey club" but that they didn't need to resort to animal tactics. In fact, Tibbitts claimed, the roughness of the game on Monday night, the best of the series.

Following his team's elimination, Voodoo Coach, Marcel Lamothe exclaimed, "Things are alright, I'm glad we're going home." Lamothe, like Tibbitts, felt that their designated goon, Sylvain Tremblay, had cost his club the win because of his temper tantrum late in the game, was but philosophical about the series defeat.

"They're not a bad hockey club," he noted, but we had a lot of problems with the ice here and if we had played them on our wider ice surface in Val D'Or, would have won in three straight."

Lamothe did overstate his team's case, but the inability to free-wheel on the Gordon Afcott ice surface and the Voodoos often erratic behaviour did lead to their downfall.

The biggest Val D'Or drawback, however, was the size of their squad. While they had an abundance of excellent skaters they just couldn't cope with the large Raider crew both offensively and defensively.

The Sunday afternoon, 8-3 Raider win, which gave the

hometown favorites a 2-1 series lead was almost a replay of the Saturday night one-sided, 9-1 Raider win. In Sunday's game, however, the Raiders struck early and except for a slight lapse about midway through the second period, controlled play throughout.

Danny Blair, Doug Tate and Bill Currie gave the Raiders a 3-0 first period lead, but by the 10:00 mark of the second stanza, Val D'Or got goals from Sylvain Tremblay and Mario Lafreniere to narrow the Raider lead to a single goal.

Owne Held, singlehandedly got the Raiders back on track, as he scored two goals, less than two minutes apart at the 15 minute mark to move the Raiders out in front, 5-2 and provide the eventual winning and insurance markers. Doug Tate, with his second of the game, at the 19:06 mark of the period, allowed the Raider to move in front, 6-2 after forty minutes of play.

Ray Evans and Bob Fotheringham sandwiched goals around Val D'Or's Yves Sigouin's marker to run the final count to 8-3 Raiders and set the stage for the Monday night encounter.

Monday night's game, that clinched the series for the Raiders, was by far the best contest of the four game series.

Val D'Or were flying from the opening faceoff and swarmed into the Raider end. Barely a minute and two seconds into the game, Rene Dufour connected for Val D'Or and throughout the period, the Voodoos carried the play.

Val D'Or held a 2-1 first period lead, as Christian Harvey got the second Voodoo goal, while Danny Blair, off passes from, Ray Evans and John Boyce, connected for the Raiders.

Their opening period efforts to put the game away seemed to have taken a lot out of the

Voodoos as the second period got under way and while the Val D'Or team were catching their breath, the Raiders started to exert pressure.

The Raider second goal, that tied the game at 2-2, came about as a result of sheer tenacity on the part of Gary Hill. Hill screamed in behind the Val D'Or net in an effort to tie up the puck and worked it into the corner. From here, his digging paid off as he saw an opening and fed a pass to Doug Tate, standing all alone in front of the Val D'Or net. Tate whipped in the tying marker.

Both teams picked up the pace at this point and there was little to choose between them. At the 19:19 mark, however, Ray Evans, who always seems to shine in pressure situations, sent the Raider supporters into a frenzy when he scored what proved to be the winning goal.

A more unlikely scoring situation just couldn't be imagined. Evans just coasted into the Val D'Or end and with an almost casual-like effort, drew his stick back for the shot. The resultant shot, from just inside the face-off circle was such a vicious drive that it blistered past the Val D'Or goater before he even had a chance to react.

Evans was mobbed, naturally, and the Val D'Or goalie, in a fit of rage, broke his stick on the ice and hurled it over the end glass.

The Voodoos, by no means were out of the game at this point as they buzzed Raider netminder, Mario MacDonald continuously.

MacDonald, in fact, had to be treated by Raider Trainer, Reg Benoit, twice in the third period, once, when an errant shot knocked off his mask. The feisty MacDonald, however, recovered on both occasions and played magnificently.

The Voodoos hopes came crashing down, when their

inimitable master of the "Ball of the Boobies", Sylvain Tremblay, blew his cool. With just under nine minutes to play, Tremblay ran amok. He drew a highsticking penalty, then jumped Doug Tate, who wisely covered himself up and when the melee was settled, Tremblay had drawn a fighting major as well, as a game misconduct and as he departed the ice surface, so did the Voodoos hopes.

There were less than four minutes remaining in the game when the teams finally got on an even footing and Val D'Or were just unable to mount a concerted scoring effort.

With just 29 seconds left to play, Bob Daley scored into an empty net, off a pass from Ray Evans, after the Raiders had seconds earlier, missed the open net twice and this signalled the end for Val D'Or.

It's hard to single out individuals when a team plays so well, but the three players recruited from the Fort Erie Mavericks, Danny Blair, Gary Hill and Owen Held played a big part in the Raider win. Mario MacDonald again rose to the occasion, when the need was there and Bill Currie, Doug Tate, Ray Evans and John Boyce all played big roles in the triumph.

The Raiders are now off to Campbellton New Brunswick, in search of the Eastern Canadian title of the Hardy Cup and should they win, hopefully, the Canadian Championship series will be played in Georgetown.

MONDAY'S LINEUP
Mario MacDonald, Bill Currie, Neil Cotton, Gary Hill, Doug Tate, Tom Gilbert, John Boyce, Steve Blundy, Pat Maloney, Ray Evans, Owen Held, Chris Milne, Brad Butterworth, Art Webster, Tom Daley, John Longstreet, Danny Blair, Bob Fotheringham and Gregg Hooper.

Sports Comment



Raiders deserve town support

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

It's been a long and eventful season for the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders Intermediate "A" hockey club but the trek is not over and in fact, the pot at the end of the Rainbow in this instance, the Hardy Cup may turn out to be just beyond their collective reach.

The Raiders are a tradition in Georgetown, one that dates back fifty years and they have brought athletic honor as well as recognition to Georgetown. The Raider hockey club has captured eight OHS titles, six in the Intermediate "A" category, and the 1976-77 season has to rank as uppermost in the long annals of success for the team.

The Raiders journey to Campbellton New Brunswick this weekend, for the Eastern Canada Final of the Hardy Cup and a chance to host the Canadian Intermediate "A" Championship series for the coveted Hardy Cup. Should the Raiders win the best-of-five series against Campbellton then the CAHA would invite the club to make Georgetown the scene of the Canadian Championship. Unfortunately, this is where we find the proverbial fly in the ointment.

As hosts for the Canadian Championship, the Raiders would have to guarantee the CAHA a minimum of \$3500 per game, or if the best-of-five series goes the distance, a minimum of \$17,500. The CAHA is not pouncing on the Raiders, as any team that hosts a Canadian Championship must offer a similar guarantee.

The problem is, at this point in time, the Georgetown Club, in all reality, just cannot guarantee the CAHA this amount of money. If the Raiders do win in Campbellton and are asked to hold the Canadian Championship series, they will have but two options. They can either move the site of the series to a facility that could accommodate the number of spectators needed to meet the CAHA money requirements, or, as a last resort, default the Hardy Cup to the Western Canada representative.

Dave Branch, OHA Secretary, states that the Championship series must be played in Eastern Canada and specifically within OHA boundaries but the whole affair would be pointless if it was played outside Georgetown.

The Raider's fans have suffered with their team through misfortune and have joined with them in celebrating victories. To deny them at this point, a chance to see the Raiders compete for a Canadian Championship would not only be unfair, but totally pointless. It is the fan who is the backbone of any sports organization, with their money as well as their support and to deny them a chance to taste the wine of victory or share in the dregs of defeat on the national stage would be a gross injustice.

The Raiders have approached the town with a request for aid in meeting the CAHA financial requirements and the town has yet to make the decision. If they procrastinate too long, by their own inaction, they will have turned their backs on the people of Georgetown.

The Raiders are in the sticky situation because of a number of unforeseen circumstances. The Timmins Northstars defaulted their Hardy Cup series to the Georgetown Club and the Raiders lost an estimated \$2,000 in revenue. Similarly, in the series with Val D'Or the expected large turnout just didn't happen - possibly because of professional hockey competition on television and the balmy weather on the weekend - and so the Raiders again, were denied what should have been ample revenue.

The Eastern Finals is the farthest that any Raider club has journeyed down the Hardy Cup road. In fact, the farthest that any OHA affiliated team has travelled. Perhaps for this reason alone, the Raiders deserve the town's support.

The next point that must be raised, is: How many communities get the opportunity to host a Canadian Championship and reap the resultant harvest of publicity?

The whole question of town financial support for the Intermediate "A" club could become a moot one should the Raiders lose to Campbellton. However, there is no doubt in this reporter's mind that the Raider players would be in a much better frame of mind if they were assured, before they left for New Brunswick on Friday, that the community of Georgetown was behind them, all the way.

In a championship series, in any sport, people always talk of one team having an edge over another. If the Raiders were given assurances before journeying East that they would be hosting the Canadian Hardy Cup Championship series, this just might be the edge they need to emerge as Eastern Canadian Champions.

It is now up to the town to decide. Do the Raiders go into the Eastern Finals knowing they will be welcomed back with open arms, or do they venture out on their quest with the matter still undecided.

Raiders split opening games

The opening two games in the Eastern Canadian best-of-five Hardy Cup semifinal series between the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders and the Val D'Or Voodoos, provided a study in contrasts. The Voodoos won the opening game, last Friday night, 3-1, but the Raiders bounced back on Saturday night to post a lopsided 9-1 win and ties the series, 1-1.

The Raider reversal of form from Friday, continued through the series and the hometown favorites went on to win the next two games of the series to take the best-five affair in four games.

Both Raider Coach, Junior Tibbitts and Val D'Or Coach Marcel Lamothe were displeased with their charges efforts in the Friday tilt. Tibbitts felt that his team came up flat and blamed it on the fact that the Raiders had not really been tested under true game conditions, in over two weeks. Tibbitts discounted the one-sided win over the Timmins Northstars the previous weekend, as little more than a practice.

Val D'Or Coach, Lamothe, claimed that his team was merely looking for flaws in the Raider game plan and had to adjust to a smaller ice surface

and for these reasons, the Voodoos didn't play up to par. The game itself was a listless affair that had little in it to excite the estimated 550 fans in attendance. Sloppy play highlighted the opening period and after 20 minutes, the teams were engaged in a scoreless draw.

The Raiders drew first blood when Gary Hill, a standout throughout the series converted passes from Doug Tate and Tommy Gilbert at the 2:27 mark of the second.

From this point, however, the teams reverted back to their aimless style of play, but at the 15:14 mark, Val D'Or knotted the game at 1-1, when Michel Letourneau scored his first of a pair. Val D'Or scored what proved to be the winner, early in the third frame, when Denis Bergeron blinked the red light. Letourneau, scored the insurance marker, into an empty net, with just 17 seconds left in the game.

The opening loss must have snapped the Raiders out of their slumber as they were a different club, in every sense of the word, when they took to the ice for the Saturday night game.

On Saturday, the Raiders were a hungry crew, but didn't really swing into high gear until the third period. Steve

Blundy gave the Raiders a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes of play, but the eruption was not far off.

Pat Maloney made it 2-0 Raiders, at the 3:27 mark of the second and the Raiders were able to enjoy a 3-0 two period lead, when Steve Blundy scored his second of the game at the 14:22 mark of the second.

The Raider explosion occurred in the third period as Blundy and Maloney hit far markers again, to give the Raiders a 5-0 lead, before Val D'Or hit the scoresheet. Raymond Loberge made the count 5-1, when he scored for Val D'Or at the 8:27 mark, but for the Voodoos, it was all downhill from here.

Doug Tate ran the count to 6-1 at the 9:18 mark and less than a minute later, Steve Blundy, with his fourth goal of the game, extended the Raider lead to 7-1.

Neil Cotton and Danny Blair rounded out the Raider scoring and the 9-1 Georgetown win, was a humiliation for the Val D'Or players.

The Raiders had effectively shaken off their opening game malaise and the Voodoos were given fair warning that their days were numbered.

Halton league to have six teams

From all indications, it appears that Georgetown will not have an entry in the Halton Men's Fastball League this summer. League President, Bob Stevenson, reports that the word he gets from team management is that there will not be a Georgetown entry and Georgetown team manager, Gord Rea, while hedging on his bets somewhat, basically admits the same thing.

At the league's meeting, last week, there was no Georgetown team representative and the league took this to mean that interest in re-joining the league had waned.

Bob McGowan, the league's North Halton representative, informed Georgetown management the night before the meeting but circumstances did not allow a Georgetown team representative to be present.

Over the weekend, Stevenson was in touch with Mort Marshall, one of the Georgetown team's Coaches and Marshall indicated that there would not be a Georgetown entry. Part of the reason for the Georgetown refusal to re-join the league, was that the league, after a vote of team representatives, requested that Georgetown post a \$100 performance bond prior to regular season commencement, to be refunded at the end of the season.

Gord Rea, stated that this threw a monkey-wrench into the Georgetown plans but also added that there has been very little enthusiasm in players on the part of both team organizers and players and because of this, he felt that, "It doesn't look like we'll be going this year."

If this is the case, then the Halton County League will operate with six teams for 1977. Glen Williams, Hornby, Lawville, Burlington, Palermo and Malton will challenge for league supremacy this year.

The league's umpiring question has yet to be resolved, as only four teams, Burlington, Malton, Lawville and Hornby have committed officiating crews. The Burlington Umpires Association will handle games in Burlington, Lawville and Palermo, while the Toronto Umpires Association will handle games in Malton. Glen Williams and Hornby have yet to make arrangements for officials.

The league has adopted several new rules this year and one, the designated player rule

should add more life to the game. Under the designated player rule, on the lineup card,

a team will have the option of designating two players that can either hit or run and are not in the starting lineup of time. Under previous rules, once a player is removed from the game, he cannot return. Under the new rule, at any time, during the course of a game, a designated player can hit or run for another player, a maximum of two times. After the second occasion, the designated player must either remain in the game or officially be removed.

The Halton League has adopted, entirely, OASA rules and in particular, this year, pitching rules will be adhered to strictly.

HERALD sports

COLIN GIBSON, SPORTS EDITOR

Timmins Northstars out in the cold

It appears that the Timmins Northstars who defaulted their Hardy Cup Eastern Canadian quarter final series to the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders, have backed themselves into a corner.

The Timmins team defaulted the series on the ground that they weren't informed that it was to be a best-of-five affair until after they had journeyed south.

Dave Branch, OHA Secretary and Hugh McLean, President of the OHA, rejected this contention, pointing out that all league's concerned in National playdowns were given ample notice as to the length of the respective series.

The Timmins club returned to Northern Ontario threatening to bring the wrath of God down on the OHA and CAHA and promising to collect their forces and supporters to present a solid front to the offending organizations.

Hugh McLean, promised that he would make sure the CAHA took steps against the Timmins team to ensure that in future, OHA clubs would be protected. The Raiders lost an estimated \$2,000 in revenue as a result of the Timmins forfeiture.

Last week, the Northstars raised the rallying call, but apparently, it fell on deaf ears.

On Thursday, the club held a meeting and it was decided to forward letters to the OHA and the CAHA requesting that the Timmins version of the incident be heard before any decisions are made involving penalties.

The Northland Intermediate Hockey League held a meeting prior to the Northern Ontario Hockey Association's Annual Meeting to decide on whether to support the Timmins team's action in defaulting the series but there weren't enough team representatives on hand to form a quorum so the question was laid aside. Reports from the meeting, however, seem to indicate that the Timmins squad would have received very little support.

The NOHA held their Annual Meeting over the weekend and in what must be taken as an obvious sign of disapproval over the Timmins team's action, decided not to take any kind of a stand on the Timmins-Georgetown situation.

The Northstars, as the saying goes, have made their beds and now they are being told quite bluntly, sleep in it.

Gary Alton heads loop

Georgetown's Gary Alton has taken over as President of the Halton Ladies Softball League. Alton was approached by league representatives last week and agreed to take the position.

Bernie Dore, Manager of the Georgetown Armstrong Georgettes has announced that Kent Robinson will join the team as Coach.

The Georgettes have moved practices outdoors and scheduled Mondays and Wednesdays as practice nights. The practices are slated for 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds on Monday evenings and at Harrison School on Wednesday evenings. After May 2nd, practices will begin at 8:30 p.m., under the lights.

The Georgettes have already scheduled an exhibition game and it is slated for Hornby, game time 8:30 p.m., May 5th.



RAY EVANS one of the heroes in the Raiders 4-2 series clinching victory over the Val D'Or Voodoos on Monday night, puts a shift on a Val D'Or defender. Evans scored what

proved to be the winning goal, when his blistering driver found the mark late in the second period.

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