

Sports beat



By Tony Panacci

Raider leftwinger recovering at home

Steve Blundy, the Georgetown Raiders' steady leftwinger, is out of hospital and back in his home in Oakville after spending approximately one week in a St. Catharines hospital.

In the Georgetown Raiders' 6-3 loss to the Thorold Athletics on November 3, Blundy suffered a ruptured spleen.

The 33-year-old veteran remembers how the injury occurred all too vividly.

"Peter Mara was coming around in front of the net and I was lining him up for a hit," Blundy said. "I was going to hit him low with a hip check. He saw me at the last second and jumped to avoid me. He hit me in the upper thigh with his knee."



Steve Blundy

At first Blundy said he thought he had just got the wind knocked out of him as he has had hundreds of times before in his career.

He went to the bench, but he could not shake it off. The injury happened with just six minutes left in the game. Blundy told trainer Reg Benoit that he could not shake it off. The trainer told him to take the rest of the night off.

Blundy headed for the dressingroom, but instead of getting better he got worse.

"By the time the game finished and the guys came into the dressingroom I felt like I was going to pass out," he said.

General manager Jack Handy called an ambulance and Blundy was taken to hospital.

"I guess in some ways I was lucky," Blundy said. "I could have tried to drive home and had troubles later on."

As it turned out, doctors removed his spleen very soon after he entered the hospital.

Blundy said he is going to take his recuperation period one step at a time.

"I'm going into work for a couple of hours every day," he said. "Right now I'm just concentrating on walking."

Blundy works at Sheridan College where he takes care of the equipment and facilities for the athletic department.

He is also on the coaching staffs of both the men's and women's hockey teams.

"Since my injury I have had people covering for me," Blundy said. "I'm lucky in that I have the type of job where I can get people to cover for me."

Blundy said the doctors have told him he will be able to start jogging next week. They also told him that he will not be able to involve himself in heavy physical activity for approximately six weeks.

"I'm looking at six weeks as the earliest time to start scrimmaging," he said.

"I have been told that once I fully recover there will be no restrictions on my physical activities."

Blundy has something to shoot for. When he heard that the Raiders were hosting the Austrian National team on January 5 he immediately set that date as a target to shoot for.

"I would definitely like to play against the Austrians," Blundy said.

The forward spent one year playing in the first division in Austria. "There will be some players on that team that I played with or against," he said.

Blundy said he has never had a very serious injury before. He said he suffered a knee injury a few seasons back, but it was not nearly as serious as his present injury.

"I guess I could have driven home and started hemorrhaging later in the night," he said. "Had that happened I could easily have died."

Steve Blundy is one of the oldest players on the Raider roster, but he has kept himself in excellent physical condition. Many are betting that he will be on Ray Evans' left side when the Austrians invade Alcott Arena.

"I'm really interested to see how well I come out of this," Blundy said matter of factly.

Dave Chapman with Preston

What ever became of Dave Chapman? You remember him. A couple of seasons back he led the O.H.A. Central Junior "B" league in scoring while playing centre for the Acton Sabres.

Last year Chapman played his last season with the Sabres and said he was hoping to continue in hockey in this area.

Chapman tried out and made the Senior "A" Preston Jesters and at present is one of the team's best players. He is also playing centre there.

Dave's father, Bruce Chapman, says his son has never looked better than he does with the Jesters.

"They play an excellent brand of hockey in that league," Chapman the elder said. "I've never seen Dave look as good as he does this year. He is skating a lot faster than he did last year."

Bruce Chapman was the coach of the Sabres until this season began.

He said that the good start the Sabres got off to can be attributed to the young players from last year maturing and the few new guys brought in.

"The folding of the Orangeville Junior "C" team really helped the Sabres," the former coach said. "They were able to take over that area."

Among the players Acton picked up from the Orangeville area are Glenn Murray and goaltender Rob Bremner.

The most improved player from last year's team is without a doubt Jeff Shields. He is among the league's top scorers.

"Jeff always had the potential," Chapman said. "He just had to settle down."

During his years with the Sabres Chapman suffered through a couple of very losing years. He went with young players and was a teacher as well as a coach.

This year the Georgetown Gems are having a very losing year.

"My advice to the Gems would be to go with the young players and wait for them to mature," Chapman said. "They've just got to wait it out."

Merchants nip Raiders 5-4 at Alcott

Sixth straight loss

The Georgetown Raiders are in last place in the Intermediate "A" standings after being nipped 5-4 by the Dundas Merchants at Alcott Arena Friday night.

The Raiders have only two wins to show after eight outings. A Fort Erie win over Thorold last week dropped the Raiders to last place.

Throughout the first seven games of the season the big problem with the Raiders was that they did not have enough players in uniform.

Against the Merchants there were 17 Raiders dressed. That is there were that many dressed when the game started.

Another player, Chris Milne, was only used for a couple of shifts. Therefore the Raiders only went with 14 players most of the way.

MACDONALD IN UNIFORM The fifteenth player was backup goaltender Mario MacDonald, who was in uniform for the first time this season.

Also in uniform for the first time this season was forward Pat Maloney, who played a solid game.

Don Fogal was dressed for his first home game and although he took four minors, coach Gerry Inglis was pleased with his work.

"All the penalties Fogal took were good ones," Inglis said. "I thought he played really well."

The work of the remaining members of the defense corps certainly did not please the coach.

"I thought our defense played very poorly," Inglis said. "They did not support our goaltender."

Peter McDuffe was again in the Raider net and he showed flashes of brilliance throughout the game. He had little chance on the five Merchant goals.

At the other end of the rink Rick Katchanoski made a few sparkling saves for the Merchants. The Merchant goaltending with Sam Hestivo was without a doubt the team's weak spot last year.

Katchanoski, who played with the Mississauga Senior "A" team before it folded last year, would seem to be the solution to that problem.

Making up the Raider defense contingent were Fogal, Ron Twiss, Bob Elinesky, Colton and Gary Barden. As previously mentioned Colton did not see any action so Inglis went with four defencemen.

Maloney got off to a rollicking start when he scored on his first shift of the season. Elinesky stole the puck at the Merchant blue line and set Maloney in free on Katchanoski.

Maloney made no mistakes as he went in, deked the goaltender and put the puck underneath him.

CLOSE CHANCES A little later in that period Ray Tonelli and Juri Kudrasovs came very close to putting the Raiders ahead by two goals.

Midway through the period



Dundas Merchant goaltender Rick Katchanoski was beat by Colin Gordon on this shot during his team's 5-4 win over the Raiders at Alcott Arena Friday. Katchanoski displayed a great glove hand and his presence gives the Merchants the excellent goalkeeping they lacked last year.

Maloney showed that he could take some vicious hits. He was slammed to the ice by Ron Heaslip and Joe McKenna and both times the little forward jumped right up while his adversaries made their way to the penalty box.

The Merchants scored the tying goal at the 11:46 mark of the period. Heaslip stole the puck at his own blue line and took it all the way down the ice. Both Raider defencemen, Boyce and Elinesky, chased Heaslip into the corner. When he was even with the net, he dropped the puck to Al Woods, who was following the play.

Woods casually shot the puck into the empty net. McDuffe had to go out to meet Heaslip.

With just 37 seconds left in the period the Merchants went ahead when Dave Brazel scored with his team short-handed. McDuffe had little chance on the play set up by Wayne Smith.

In the last minute of that first period Tonelli pounded out a victory in a scrap with Merchant tough guy Joe Pecunia.

The Merchants went ahead 3-1 when McKenna backhanded the puck past McDuffe. It was a weak backhand and its lack of velocity may have fooled the goaltender. It was scored with 4:09 gone in the second period.

THE HOMETIME GOAL The home side got back to within one goal when Ron

Twiss tallied on the powerplay from Tom Daley and Boyce. It came at the 9:38 mark with the Merchants Hugh Prentice off serving a interference penalty.

Twiss jammed the puck past Katchanoski after moving in from behind the net.

Later in the period McDuffe made the save of the night when Wayne Fogaree moved in on him and let a bomb go from the top of the iceoff circle. McDuffe showed a great glove as he swallowed the hard drive with it.

With 31 seconds left in the period the Raiders tied the score when Terry Porter tallied from Barden.

The Merchants jumped back ahead with a goal very early in the third period. The goal keeper was Barry Martenelli.

Dundas jumped ahead by two again when Prentice scored at the 7:36 mark of the frame.

The Raiders made the finish exciting when Colin Gordon scored with 39 seconds left in the game. Gordon broke in with Kudrasovs and tipped a perfect pass by Katchanoski.

General manager Jack Handy said after the game that he thought his team played well enough to win.

"They (the Merchants) approached the game as if it were the playoffs," Handy said. "I don't think they'll get

any better as the season progresses".

BLUNDY MISSED The Raiders missed the services of Steve Blundy, who is recovering after his spleen was removed.

Ray Evans and Tom Daley, Blundy's linemates, seemed to miss their winger as they were ineffective most of the evening.

Inglis only used Milne on a couple of shifts. He said afterwards that he did so because he was going with three set forward lines. However, Twiss was used mostly at defense which meant the Raiders had only nine forwards dressed, including Milne. To get away from using Milne throughout the evening Inglis had to double-tempt a couple of his other forwards.

After six consecutive losses it is obvious that there are changes needed on the team.

"Are those changes going to be in the strategy or the personnel?" he was asked.

"It's a little too late to change the strategy," the coach answered. That statement would seem to indicate that there will be some new faces in the Raider line up before too long.

Last night the team travelled to Port Colborne and this Friday they play a return match in Dundas.

Senior girls cagers beat Acton in playoffs

Centre Claire Galbraith exploded in the fourth quarter to give the GDHS senior basketball Rebels a 27-22 victory over Acton in the East Halton semi final.

Galbraith, who has been the team's leading scorer throughout the year, was fairly dominant in the first three quarters, but she came on at the right time for the Rebels.

The first half was very slow moving with both teams making many mistakes. The Rebels led at the half 11-6 as both clubs seemed nervous.

Acton's best quarter was definitely the third as they took command of the game and appeared headed for victory.

Karen Chapman and Lynn Margettes led Acton back. Chapman made several key steals and Margettes was hot from the outside.

However, just as Acton got close the Rebels began to get the ball inside to Galbraith.

Rebels guards Nancy Phillips, Sherri Crossman and Heather Clark and forwards Carole Peacock and Meredith McLaren all made getting the ball inside to their pivot their objective.

Acton tried to counter the move by using a collapsing defense. Galbraith had as many as three players covering her.

To get the coverage off of Galbraith the Rebels used a stall defense in the final quarter, forcing Acton to go and get the ball. Once the Acton defense moved out the ball went inside to Galbraith who made no mistakes.

Acton came back late in the fourth quarter to make the score 23-22 for Georgetown. This was with approximately one and a half minutes remaining to be played.

McLaren was then fouled and she sank both pressure shots to give the Rebels a three-point bulge.

McLaren had six points for the Rebels with four of them coming from the foul line.

Phillips did not have one of her better games, but she was still good enough to score five points. Sherri Crossman had the other two points.

Margettes also put on quite a performance in that final quarter. She finished as Acton's high scorer with 10 points.

Chapman, who quarterbacked the offense and who also made several steals, finished with six points. Shirley Ancker had four and Merle McNabb had the other two.

and finally finished second in East Halton to Blakelock.

For the Rebels it means that the season continues. They will make a bid to win the East Halton title when they play today. Their opponent in all likelihood will be Blakelock.

With the team coming off the strong win over Acton they could give Blakelock a good battle before it is over.

ACTON'S BEST QUARTER Acton's best quarter was definitely the third as they took command of the game and appeared headed for victory.

Karen Chapman and Lynn Margettes led Acton back. Chapman made several key steals and Margettes was hot from the outside.

However, just as Acton got close the Rebels began to get the ball inside to Galbraith.

Rebels guards Nancy Phillips, Sherri Crossman and Heather Clark and forwards Carole Peacock and Meredith McLaren all made getting the ball inside to their pivot their objective.

Acton tried to counter the move by using a collapsing defense. Galbraith had as many as three players covering her.

To get the coverage off of Galbraith the Rebels used a stall defense in the final quarter, forcing Acton to go and get the ball. Once the Acton defense moved out the ball went inside to Galbraith who made no mistakes.

Acton came back late in the fourth quarter to make the score 23-22 for Georgetown. This was with approximately one and a half minutes remaining to be played.

McLaren was then fouled and she sank both pressure shots to give the Rebels a three-point bulge.

McLaren had six points for the Rebels with four of them coming from the foul line.

Phillips did not have one of her better games, but she was still good enough to score five points. Sherri Crossman had the other two points.

Chapman, who quarterbacked the offense and who also made several steals, finished with six points. Shirley Ancker had four and Merle McNabb had the other two.

The loss ended what has been an excellent season for Acton. The team was undefeated for most of the campaign

Austrian team here January 31

The Austrian National team will play an exhibition game against the Georgetown Raiders on January 5, 1979.

McCauley referee on the spot for five NHL altercations

Recently the Colorado Rockies' talented forward Will Paiment received a 15 game suspension and a \$500 fine from National Hockey League vice-president Brian O'Neil for striking the Detroit Red Wing's Dennis Polonich with his stick.

Only a few people really saw the incident because it happened away from the play. Unfortunately for Paiment, one of the people who saw it clearly was Georgetown resident John McCauley, who was the game's referee.

"I'd say there were only a few people in the whole building who saw it clearly," McCauley said. "The puck was going for an icing call and the two players were still in the Detroit zone."

Had McCauley been with the majority and not seen the play, Paiment would never have received the heavy penalty.

"I had not seen the play I would not have been able to give Paiment the heavy penalty," McCauley said. "What the referee gave him was a 10-minute match penalty for deliberately injuring an opponent. Such penalties automatically go to the league office along with the referee's report, for further action."

VICTIOUS SWING McCauley's report to O'Neil stated that Paiment took a vicious two handed swing, baseball-style at Polonich's face.

Polonich had shot the puck up and down the ice saw Paiment coming he raised his stick. After he raised his

stick Paiment took the two-handed swing at him. McCauley also gave Polonich a five-minute penalty for high sticking.

Why did McCauley stay behind the action and put himself in the position to see the infraction? "I guess after so many years in the business you sense when something is going to happen," McCauley is a veteran NHL official and president of their association.

The Greystone Cres. resident says that in many ways it was good that only a few people saw the incident clearly.

"I don't think any of the Detroit players really saw it and maybe only one or two fans did," McCauley said. "If players or fans had seen it, a more ugly incident may have developed."

Does McCauley agree with the stiff penalty Paiment had to pay for his action. "I think Brian had to give him the heavy penalty," he said. "If the NHL condoned those types of actions we'd be out of business."

McCauley did not give a recommendation in his report as to how many games he thought Paiment should have received. He simply makes the report, speaks at the hearing and then O'Neil makes the final decision.

KICKING INCIDENT McCauley was also the referee on the spot in the kicking incident between the Boston Bruins' Terry O'Reilly and the Philadelphia Flyers' Paul Holmgren.

For his part in that altercation Holmgren received a \$500 fine and also a three-game suspension.

McCauley has been the referee during four kicking incidents so far this year. The other three all occurred during a game between the Bruins and St. Louis Blues.

The last time, before this year, that McCauley had to call a penalty on a player for kicking an opponent was 10 years ago in the Western Hockey League.

"I don't know why all of a sudden players have started kicking one another," McCauley said. "There is no explanation for it."

One team that has impressed McCauley is the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"They play it like the Philadelphia teams that won the Stanley Cups, but they have more talent," he said.

BURROWS IMPRESSES A Leaf player who impresses McCauley very much is another Halton Hills resident. The referee says Dave Burrows, who the Leafs acquired from Pittsburgh Penguins before the present season began, is an excellent defenceman.

"I would say Burrows is among the top three or four defencemen in the league," McCauley said.

Two teams that have been red-hot so far this year are the Atlanta Flames and New York Rangers.

McCauley said the start the Flames have had does not surprise him. He has referred in only one of their games.

"They're young and they are just starting to mature," he said.

This may be the year the Montreal Canadiens will seriously be challenged for the Stanley Cup. According to John McCauley, one of the men closest to the action, there are plenty of excellent teams in the National Hockey League, which are capable of doing it.

McCauley also sees the NHL, which is still without a television contract in the United States, as getting stronger and more popular. He just hopes excessive violence does not stunt that growth.