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Welcome to The

By FINN POULSTRUP
And TONY PANACCI

The defending World "C" division champions, The Austrians, will be at Gordon Alcott Arena this Friday to

do battle with the Georgetown Raiders.

The Austrians won the "C" championship in the 1978 tournament and this year will be elevated to the "B" division.

The Austrians have made great strides in the past few years. Tom Martin, who now coaches in Sweden's Premier Division, saw the Austrians play four years ago and he said at that time they would

have trouble beating an OHA Junior "B" team.

YOUNG TEAM

The team the Austrians will be bringing into Alcott Arena is very young. The oldest player is approximately 28 and the majority of the remaining skaters are between 18 and 22.

Each European team is allowed to carry two Canadians on the roster. The Austrians are carrying the limit with Rick Cunningham and Jeff Geiger both making the present jaunt.

All their players are classified as amateurs and all of them hold down full-time jobs. That is one thing they will have in common with the Raiders.

As is the case with most European teams the Austrians are in superb physical condition and are very strong skaters.

The Raiders Steve Blundy played in Austria for two years and he said they have very strong legs.

"Because they play so much soccer they have very strong legs," Blundy said. "However, I don't think they were too strong in the upper body."

That fact may be the reason the European teams are not grinders in the corners.

Last year the Yugoslavians were very reluctant to mix it up with the bigger Raiders, such as Art Webster and Tom Daley, in the corners or in front of the net.

In competition against the Yugoslavians, the Austrians have given them good matches but have usually have lost.

"They (The Yugoslavs) spent much more money before to shore up their hockey program than we did," said Dr. Dieter Kalt, the Austrian's manager. "The hockey program there is not receiving as much money now and I think we can beat them." The two teams will meet in the World "B" championships.

Meanwhile the hockey program in Austria is definitely on the way up. The minor hockey program in the country is now very thorough with teams ranging from the tyke to senior level.

However, money is still not being poured into the national team said Dr. Kalt



Coach Walter Znehalik talks to his players during a practise session.

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