

**Sports
Beat**

**By Tony
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Austrian hockey, 'One big party'

"I just want to get this tour over with and get back to Austria."

Those words were spoken by Jeff Geiger, one of two Canadians playing on the Austrian National Hockey team. The other is Rick Cunningham.

Sporting a black eye and a gigantic bruise on his neck, both souvenirs from the seven-game tour the Austrians made in Ontario, Geiger had nothing but bad things to say about the tour's first six games. This reporter spoke to him at a news conference on the afternoon of the game.

"Some of these guys on the teams we've played so far have been real goons," he said. "All they want to do is punch out an Austrian so they can brag about it at the hotel after the game. The sooner this is over the better."



Jeff Geiger

FORMER GOON

Geiger knows what being a goon is all about. He is a former one, serving in that capacity for four years as a member of the OHA Junior "A" Ottawa 67s.

"Yeah I was a goon in Junior "A" hockey," he said. "But that's the role the coach (Brian Kilrea) wanted me to play," the 21 year old defenseman said.

After graduating from junior hockey Geiger was drafted by the Chicago Black Hawks. He spent parts of his first pro season as a member of Dallas (Central league) and

Flint (International). He could see that he would not make the ultimate step to the National Hockey League.

His father was born in Vienna and that opened the door for him to apply for his passport and to continue his hockey career in Austria, where the money is much better than toiling in the minors of North America.

"It's a completely different game over there," Geiger said. "There is no fighting and hardly any hitting, just a lot of passing and stickhandling."

The defenseman, who plays for Villach, in the first division, said who ever gets the most shots in Austria usually wins the hockey games. Shots on goal have been dismissed as a needless statistic in North American hockey.

"Over there you play 28 games in a year," Geiger said. "You play your two games a week and the rest of the time you party." Is there any comparison between the top-flight league in Austria and Junior "A" in Ontario.

"In junior hockey here everybody takes the game really seriously," he said. "Teams would do anything to win...over there no one really takes hockey as a life or death matter."

The type of hockey the Austrians play in their homeland hardly prepared them for a tour of Ontario.

RUNNING CRAZY

"Some of these guys we've been playing have been running at us like crazy," Geiger said. "By the way the Gananogue team played last night you'd think they were making a 100 G' apiece or something."

The Austrians went up against Gananogue in the sixth game of their tour. By the time they got there they were a tired bunch of hockey players. By the end of their tour they had played seven games in 10 days and Geiger said, "That is a bit much." Especially when you're used to playing twice a week and what Geiger said amounts to nothing more than fast-paced non-contact hockey.

The press conference, co-sponsored by the Georgetown Independent, Georgetown Chrysler and the Town of Halton Hills, was the only thing of its kind the Austrians experienced.

LIKE CONFERENCE

"This is really good," Geiger said in the midst of the conference. "It's good to have the guys experience something like this...so far we've been to the worst part of Ontario, places like Dundas, and Gananogue. I've never heard of those places and I'm from here."

Geiger said that he would never return to North America to play hockey. As long as he decides to make hockey his living he'll stay in Austria.

He makes approximately \$20,000 a year, most of which is tax free, gets a car and also has his apartment paid for by his team.

He said his team is one of the best in the league with the biggest crowds.

The game in Georgetown did not prove to be a wild affair in which the Raiders took runs at the Austrians or used cheap stuff. There was plenty of hitting and some rough stuff, but the Austrians more than held their own in both departments.

"This was the best game in the tour," said Austrian captain Heisean Herbert when it was all over.

Herbert said he was surprised the Raiders could skate so fast.

"They were really fast," he said. "I didn't think they could keep up with us, but they did."

The captain said that the players on the teams the Austrians had faced previous to the Raiders were not too talented, "but they really wanted to win badly. Canadians seem to give it 110 per cent all the time."

The Austrian captain said that his team played in three good games in the tour. "The best teams we played were Georgetown, Dundas and Orillia."

In each of those three games the Austrians lost by one goal. They lost 2-1 to Dundas, 6-5 to Orillia and of course 3-2 to the Raiders.

In the seven-game tour the Austrians lost five times and the other two games ended in ties.

LOST FIRST GAME

The tour began with a 6-1 loss in Port Elgin. That loss was not surprising as the Port Elgin rink is very small, similar to Memorial Arena here, and the Austrians must have thought they were playing in a flooded closet.

The team's next stop was in Owen Sound where they played to a 2-2 draw. The next game in Dunnville ended in a 3-3 tie. Those were two games the Austrians should have won as they were against the two weakest teams they faced.

The next two games were in Dundas and Orillia. The sixth game was against Gananogue and the Austrians came out on the short end of a 5-3 score, but judging by what a few of the players had to say they must have been

happy to just escape with their lives.

It is interesting that the Gananogue game came the night before the Austrians faced the Raiders.

Understandably the Austrians must have thought the Raiders were going to run at them. Probably in self defense more than any other reason the Austrians came out hitting. The approach seemed to surprise the Raiders and the Austrians jumped out to a 2-0 lead.

After the first period the Austrians stopped hitting and the game turned into a fast skating duel.

Had the Austrians kept hitting for three periods, they may have just won the hockey game. There are two reasons why the Austrians probably stopped hitting. Firstly after seven games in 10 days they were certainly tired. Also once they realized that they were not up against a bunch of goons they decided to skate it with the Raiders.

"This is the most talented group of hockey players we have come up against in the tour," Herbert said. "They beat us, but I think we gave them a good match."

McDUFFE FACED RUSSIANS

Raider goaltender Peter McDuffe got his second taste of international hockey Friday night.

Last year as a member of the World Hockey Association Indianapolis Racers he faced the touring Russian all-star team.

"Playing goal against the Russians was similar to playing against the Austrians," McDuffe said. "You can expect both teams to hold onto the puck until they have a really good shot."

McDuffe got to see one of the masters of his trade in the net for the Russians last year. Treliak was the netminder at the other side of the rink.

The Raider netminder said he is beginning to enjoy this year. "I'm really relaxing with the guys now," he said. "I think we are going to have a good year."

McDuffe said that he expects the Raiders to battle it out with the Collingwood Shipbuilders for the league title.

SUFFERED LETDOWN

Last year the Raiders suffered a letdown after whipping the Yugoslavian national team.

The chances of that happening this year are minimal. They played Fort Erie last night and then play a return match at Alcott arena Friday. The Raiders should win those two games by just showing up.



CURRIE BACK

Bill Currie was back in the Georgetown Raider lineup for the game against the Austrian National team Friday night. No one knew that fact more than the Austrian forwards who tried to cross the Raider blue line such as the one above. The Austrians surprised the Raiders as they too came out hitting in the first period of the game the Raiders won 3-2.

(Herald photo)

The Raiders must chop

Continued from Page 21 circles, that Cotton, a stalwart on the Raider defense for many years, and coach Gerry Inglis could patch up their differences.

Cotton left the team when he felt he was unduly bench-

ed by Inglis during an early season match.

"If he doesn't want to play me in an early season game when there's nothing on the line, do you think he would use me later on when it counts?", Cotton said. "Eve-

ry team makes the playoffs so why bench players in games that don't really count."

The position the Raiders have taken in the Cotton case is that he walked out on them.

Lunn has not played any regular season games with the Raiders. There is a better than even chance that he will be gone by midnight.

McBratney was chosen the team's captain in the early season, but he left to return to Flint, Michigan after only a few games. The team has been in contact with him. Flint recently, to see if Flint will be back. It is probable that he too will not be under a card at midnight.

The team will most certainly cut one of their three goalkeepers. They have McDuffe, MacDonald and Masters. One of three Ms will be gone tonight and it won't be McDuffe. MacDonald has been busy with his work and not been to many practices or games. Unless he can be counted on for the late season and playoffs the excellent little netminder will get the chop.

Inglis has been very reluctant to use Masters, who has a bad shoulder. If MacDonald can make a commitment to the team Masters will have to give back his card.

A couple of other players mentioned will have also probably seen their last days as Raiders. Right now it's anybody's guess as to whom will be cut. Nobody on the Raider executive is talking until midnight in case any late changes have to be made.



RAIDER PRESENT

Bob Hooper, president of the Georgetown Raiders, presents gifts to Dr. Dieter Kalt, manager of the Austrian National Team just before the puck was dropped between the Raiders and the Austrians. In the background is Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

(Herald photo)