

Sports Week

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Raiders erase 5-goal deficit

The Georgetown Raiders erased a five-goal deficit Friday night in Dundas with Pat Maloney's goal in overtime giving them an important 6-5 victory over the Merchants.

The Merchants had scored three goals in the first period and two more early in the second to build up the 5-0 lead, but the Raiders, led by determined and dogged Juri Kudrasovs, never said die.

Raider coach Gerry Inglis used Kudrasovs and his linemates Ray Tonelli and Colin Gordon for a majority of the final 40 minutes of the game.

NOTSURPRISED

Inglis did not seem too surprised that his club came back to take the victory.

"We just had to warm up in that first period," said Inglis when it was all over.

The Raiders did not have a pre-game warm up and as a

result they were not sharp in the first frame.

The player most noticeably affected by the lack of a warm up was goaltender Peter McDuffe, who was not too sharp in that first period.

Inglis has always maintained that to beat the Merchants, the key is to tie up their defensemen early in the play.

"If their defensemen can beat your first forechecker they're alright," the Raider coach said. "If you can stop that first defenseman from moving up then they're in trouble."

The Merchants jumped ahead with two quick goals early in the first period.

Jim Vanni scored the first one from Dave Brazel and Joe McKenna at 5:38 and less than two minutes later Cal Herd, the former National Hockey Leaguer, tallied from Wayne Stringer.

Late in the first period Bob Clayton scored from Barry Martenelli and Joe Pecaric and it was 3-0 for the home-side.

RESTIVO HOT

Early in the second period the Raiders began to carry the play to the Merchants, but Sam Restivo had a hot hand and continually stopped the Georgetown snipers.

Herd scored for the Merchants only at 1:33 of the second period and Jim Vanni's goal at 6:03 appeared to sew up the two points for Dundas.

Between the two goals Gordon and the Merchants Ken Mann squared off and slugger it out. Mann, a junior player in Dundas, won a unanimous decision.

Shortly afterwards Raider rookie Steve Novis had a good go with Merchants

tough guy Pecaric. Novis held his own in the fight. The two scraps appeared to get the Raiders into high gear as they took complete command of the match after them.

The Kudrasovs line owned the puck every time on the ice, but Restivo was still red-hot and he kept frustrating the Raider shooters.

Kudrasovs, on the power play, put Georgetown on the board at 7:50 of the period with Peter Sturgeon and Tom Daley earning the assists.

Late in the period Kudrasovs scored his second of the night from Tonelli and Ron Twiss. It was a very important goal as it came after Restivo had made several good stops.

Restivo's heroics could have completely frustrated a hockey team, but the Raiders

kept punching away and Kudrasovs proved with his second goal that the netminder could be beat. The marker also gave the Raiders the momentum heading into the final 20 minutes.

Ray Evans scored before the two-minute mark of that period and the once large Merchant lead had been cut to two. Novis and John Boyce earned the assists on the goal.

SITTLER-LIKE

Midway through the period Kudrasovs completed his hat trick on a beautiful play very reminiscent of the Darryl Sittler goal that gave Team Canada the Canada Cup championship in 1976.

The Raider centreman broke in, faked a shot, then moved around a sprawling Restivo and fired it into the empty net.

After that goal the Mer-

chants came back to life and had a couple of very good scoring chances. McDuffe made his best saves of the night against McKenna and Hugh Prentice to enable the Raiders to stay within one goal.

Tonelli scored the tying goal with only 3:35 showing on the clock on a rebound with Kudrasovs earning an assist.

Both teams had a couple of good chances each to win it in regulation time, but neither was able to tally.

After a brief rest the teams started the 10-minute overtime session.

It did not take Maloney long to score in the overtime as his marker came at the 1:27 mark.

WEAK SHOT

The littler winger moved up the left wing and shot from the top of the faceoff circle. He did not get good wood on the puck and it slid at Restivo. The goaltender was obviously expecting a harder shot and the soft one handoffed him and he let it get by him. It was an unfortunate way for the goaltender, who was excellent throughout to end the evening.

In the final two periods the Raiders played their best hockey of the season as they showed great determination in coming back to get into the game.

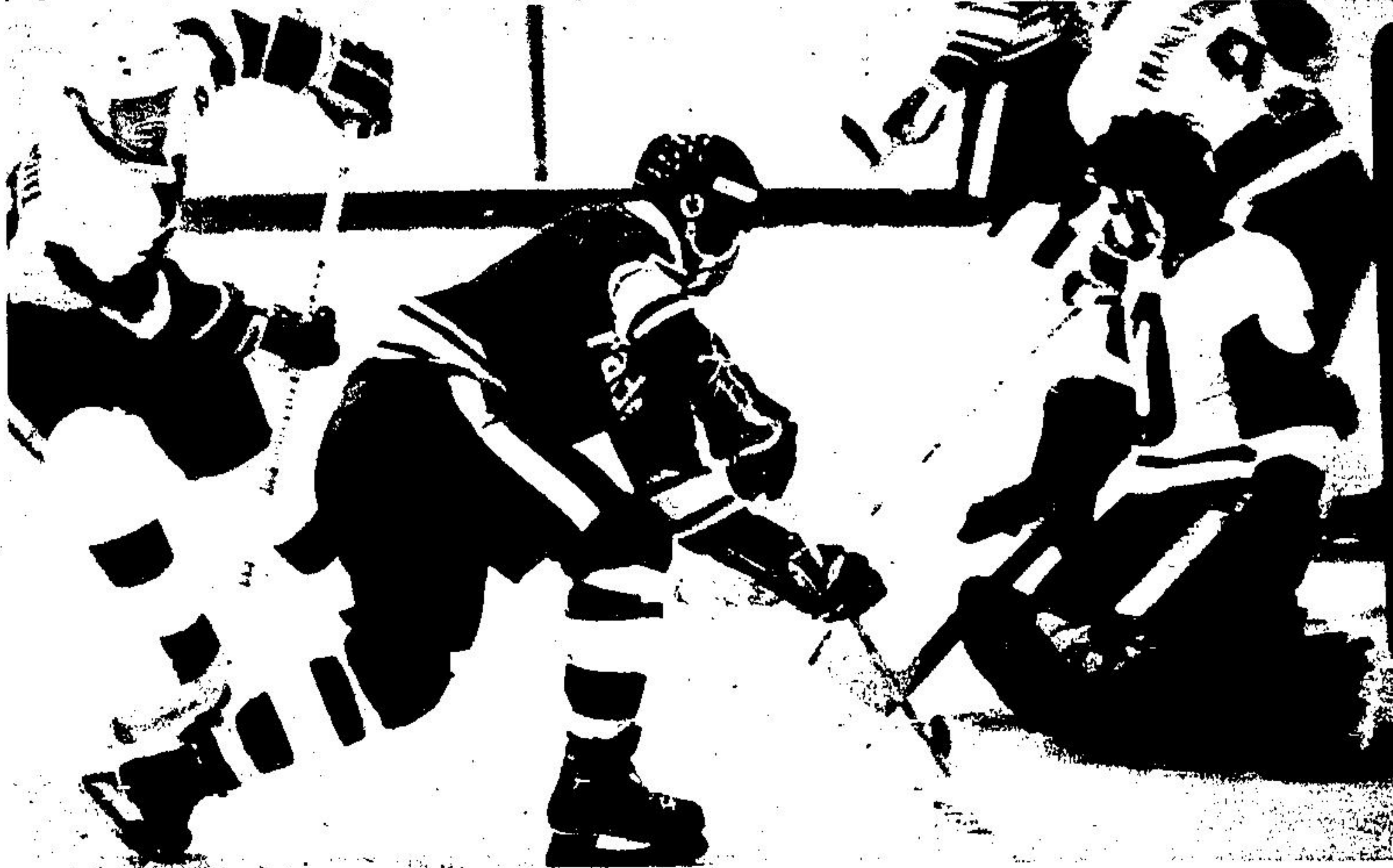
Maloney was named the Raiders' star of the game, but without a doubt it was Kudrasovs' hard work throughout regulation time that made it possible for Maloney to notch the winning goal. Without Kudrasovs the Raiders would have never gotten back into the thick of the battle.

Aside from the two fights, it was a very cleanly played game with referee Charlie Lennox calling only six minors against the Merchants and three minors against the Raiders.

One of the minors was an automatic to Chris Milne after he received a misconduct for breaking his stick over the net. Hedid it at the end of the game and it was obviously as a result of the frustration as Inglis benched the rookie forward throughout the contest.

This Friday night the Merchants will pay a return visit to Alcott Arena. If the Raiders can come up with a victory here, it would make it very difficult for the Merchants to take first place.

The Raiders have eight games left on their schedule. They face Port Colborne two more times and also have a date against the Orangeville Cougars.



The Dundas Merchants' Sam Restivo was stopping good Georgetown Raider chances, such as the one above by Chris Milne, for the final forty minutes Friday night. However the Raiders came on to force overtime after trailing 5-0

and Pat Maloney beat Restivo with a weak shot to give the Raiders the important victory.

Photo by Tony Panacci

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