

Rookie's travels with the Georgetown Raiders

The Halton Hills Herald's Bill Humphreys is also the backup netminder for the Georgetown Raiders and the youngest player to travel with the team.

Humphreys was the last cut of the Toronto Marlboros this year. After being cut by the Marlies he joined Aurora of the tier two Junior "A" loop.

Midway through the season Humphreys was let go by Aurora as their netminder from last year returned.

The Georgetown Raiders, in need of a backup for Peter McDuffe, asked Humphreys to join them.

This past week Humphreys and the Raiders travelled to compete in the Eastern Canadian Championships in Timmins.

Here are his reflections from the trip.

By BILL HUMPHREYS

TUESDAY, APRIL 17 - At close to 7:30 pm we boarded a bus to leave good, old Georgetown for the old mining community of Timmins to do battle with five other teams in the Eastern Canadian Championships.

Nobody on our squad knew what to expect from the other teams, but we felt that it would take quite a crew to take us. The excitement of meeting the unknown was easily readable on every players' face as he found a comfortable spot on the bus.

It was not very often during the year that the players and executives travelled together. It was apparent on the bus that the executive members were having at least, as much if not more, fun than the players.

TALKED HOCKEY

The entertainment on the bus consisted mostly of playing poker and, of course, talking hockey. The poker playing was weird since the same players kept winning while the same ones losing. But nobody was about to quit in the hope of their luck changing... or not changing.

The bus ride to Timmins was just too much to handle in one night. We stopped in North Bay, where we spent the night.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

We were awakened at what

seemed an ungodly hour by Don Fendley, the official Raider wakeup man. A lot of the players razz Don, but it is all in fun since without him they would have probably slept through the games and been left to cook their own meals.

The Raider executive set up the trip so well that the players were treated like kings. We didn't have to do anything, except play good hockey we hoped.

After eating we were back on the road to Timmins. We only made one quick stop between North Bay and Timmins, for a quick snack.

LONG TRIP

During the long trip, more than at any other time since joining the team I really felt like I was a Raider.

The guys were great to me. Early in the trip I was given the nickname Gilligan, because of the hat I wear.

We finally arrived in Timmins and checked in at the Senator Motel, which was to become our home away from home.

Once at the motel the executive put two people to a room. No doubt the dynamic duo was — Ron Fogal and Collin Gordon, who are both a couple of wild and crazy guys.

Fogal is the Steve Martin of the team. You'd never know it by the way he plays the game, but he thrives on putting smiles on teammates' faces.

A lot of the players on the team have distinct personalities. John Boyce is the inspirational leader, Ray Tonelli the team leader by example and then there are the college kids, Archie Chase, Scott McKenzie, Brad Pirie and Doug Heslip, who Fogal calls "the young bucks."

STAND-UP GOALIE

Then there is Peter McDuffe, the man I have backed up for a third of the season. He is a cool, stand-up goaltender. I feel very fortunate in working with a former National Hockey League netminder. Just watching him play so many games, I feel I have learned a great deal.



Bill Humphreys

My roommate for the trip is to be trainer Steve King, an easy going guy.

After settling down in our rooms the players got together for dinner. We had a thick, juicy steak in the "B" room of the motel. Apparently Dave Kentner made most of the arrangements for the trip. My compliments to him for making everything so great.

After eating dinner, it was finally time to play our first game.

We were pitted against the Timmins North Stars.

They took the lead in the early going and we never did manage to wrestle it back. We did however fight our way to a 6-6 draw.

It was a frustrating game since every Raider thought

we had the better team. We just weren't playing the play-off hockey that had given us the league title.

VERY VOCAL

Timmins was also playing in front of a very vocal hometown crowd and they played like their lives depended on a victory.

After the game we got back to the motel around midnight. We ordered some food and then a lot of us went to sleep. Quite a few others decided it was not sleeping time yet.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 - No practise today so we were free to do what we wanted. Steve and I checked out a sports store, which by the way, didn't compare to North Halton Sports.

After our day of doing whatever, we all got back to the motel to have a swim or whirlpool.

It was then time for another delicious meal, and then

off to the rink for our second game. It was a game we had to have to control our own destiny.

It turned out to be a lot like the Timmins game. We fell behind and fought back only to fall behind again.

We were losing 7-6 when coach Inglis decided to pull Peter for a sixth attacker. They scored again and it was all over. We had lost and now we were really behind the eight ball.

Surprisingly, the players were not all that mad when we got back to the motel. Some were a little angry with themselves though.

ONE CHANCE

The loss left us with only one chance to qualify for weekend play. PEI had to beat Timmins by more than two goals for us to have a chance.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 - It was our day off and because of that some of the players had a little trouble crawling out of bed after the previous night's adventures.

Around noon, I think, everyone was finally up. The day was spent either playing poker, watching TV or shopping.

Only a few of us ventured out to the arena that night to see PEI play Timmins. Oth-

ers watched the Toronto-Montreal game on TV.

The PEI-Timmins game played havoc with our emotions. We all thought we were in like Flint when PEI took a 4-0 lead. But as was the case when we played the Charlottetown squad, they faded in the late going. Timmins came back to earn a 6-6 tie and our season was over.

The coach was so confident PEI was going to win that midway through the game he went back to the motel to tell our players to get lots of sleep because they'd be playing the next night. It was not to be.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 - It was travelling day as we came all the way home, all too early.

The trip is one I will never forget. The team was great to me, from the players to the executive. McDuffe helped me out a great deal. Just watching him was like reading 10 texts on goaltending.

Coach Gerry Inglis was great to me. Although I only played one period for him all season, in Timmins he made me feel like one of his regulars. He is a great hockey man.

Next season, wherever I end up, I'll remember my half year with the Raiders and all that I learned. Hopefully I will be able to put it to good use.

Girl's Softball
 Any girls interested in playing midget softball & representing Georgetown in the Halton Rural Softball League please contact:
Brian James 877-2930
 or
Don Fendley 877-1797
 Open to girls born after 1962.
 First practice to be held Saturday
April 28 10:00 a.m.
 at Georgetown Fair Grounds
Diamond 'C'



AT PEEL-HALTONS

Photo by Bill Humphreys

Louise Morwick and Jennie Smith held last week at the Rebels gym. The Ladies double team was eliminated.

GEORGETOWN MINOR HOCKEY SUPPORT GROUP
COACHES REQUIRED
 1979/80 Season
 Written request for position of Head Coach or Assistant Coach and level of team desired to be submitted to:
PRESIDENT; G.M.H.S.G.,
P.O. Box 83,
GEORGETOWN
 Deadline for applications: **MAY 15, 1979**