

Attendance up

GM seeks locals at Raider tryouts

By MICHAEL HOLLETT
Herald editor

Attendance was up at both practises staged by Georgetown's Intermediate A Raiders' hockey team last week, with 25 players turning out but team co-General Manager Jack Handy says he'd like to see a few more local players make a run for the team.

"There are some local guys playing Industrial hockey in Georgetown that I know could probably make our team," said Handy. He hopes

some of these local players will attend the team's next open practises, Thursday night at 10 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

But while the Raiders' GM is searching for local players to bolster the team's 79-80 roster, it seems likely that ex-pros will play a big role both with the Raiders this season and throughout the revamped Intermediate loop.

Handy said that with the demise of the mid-Ontario Senior loop the Intermediate

league is the closest top-quality league in the Toronto and area hockey hotbed.

EX-PROS RETURN
Handy predicts that because of the overall tighten-



to the NHL.

Peter Sturgeon has been offered a tryout with the Colorado Rockies while Ron Twiss has been given an invitation to attend the New York Rangers training camp.

"I know it's never happened to the Raiders before and I'm pretty sure no team in Intermediate hockey has ever been faced with the possibility of losing two players to the NHL.

"It's a credit to the league," said Handy.

Nevertheless, the loss of two players the calibre of Sturgeon and Twiss would leave a big hole in the Raiders roster.

"Certainly, we're still looking for players for all positions," said Handy.

The Raiders' goaltending iron-man of last year, Peter McDuffe has yet to attend a practise but Handy predicts he'll be with the team shortly.

GOOD TURNOUT
Meanwhile, there has been a good turnout of goaltending prospects, including Bill Masters and Greg Hooper skated with the team last week.

Handy predicts there will be plenty of new faces with the Raiders this year as the

team seeks to continue to improve. He wouldn't be surprised to see at least 50 per cent of this year's Raiders made up of players new to the team.

Raiders have three more practises before they open up their exhibition schedule with an away game against Stratford's Senior A team.

The first exhibition game at home for the team will be Friday, September 24 against Preston's Senior A squad.

Raiders get shot at NHL

Two players who were on the roster of the Georgetown Raiders last year will be vying

NHL's McCauley improves

Georgetown's John McCauley, an NHL referee, got his first good medical news in months as doctors noted "slightly improvement" in his left eye damaged after a freak accident in New York City where McCauley was officiating a Challenge Cup hockey game. McCauley has had two operations on the eye which was damaged after an irate fan punched McCauley in the eye after hearing the referee discuss the game in a New York City restaurant.

McCauley said he now must make weekly visits to the hospital where the progress of his eye is monitored. It was during last week's visit doctors saw the first improvement in the eye in six months.

"The condition of my eye had remained constant for six months", said the highly regarded NHL official.

McCauley suspects it will take at least one more operation before his eye is healed and it appears extremely unlikely he will be ready to begin officiating when the current season opens.

McCauley will continue his weekly checkups at the hospital for the time being.

ing for spots in the National Hockey League.

Peter Sturgeon, who joined the Raiders part way through last season, will be attending the training camp of the Colorado Rockies. Ron Twiss, who spent all of last season with the Raiders, has been invited to try out for the New York Rangers.

Sturgeon was a third round draft choice of the Boston Bruins in 1975. He spent three seasons playing professional hockey in the Western Hockey League and the International league.

Last year as a Raider Sturgeon saw time at forward as well as defense. He will undoubtedly be vying for a spot at forward with the Rockies.

Twiss joined the Raiders after completing his junior career with the Milton Flyers in the OHA Central Junior "B" league. Twiss also spent part of a season with the Windsor Spitfires in the Junior "A" league.

Apparently the Rangers scouted Twiss at a game in Fort Erie last year. It was one of Twiss' better outings of the season as he scored the hat trick.

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ing up in professional hockey that has taken place because of the folding of a number of WHA teams, a significant number of ex-pros will turn to the Ontario Intermediate hockey league to keep their hand in competitive hockey.

One ex-pro who caught Handy's eye at recent Raider practises is Steve Lyons. Lyons rooms with Raider star Juri Kudrasovs as the two toiled with Toledo in the International Hockey League. Last year, Lyons played with Whitby in the Senior league.

"That guy can play any position," said Handy.

However, Lyons has not signed with the Raiders who have yet to sign any players. Handy predicts a number of signings are just around the corner.

Another ex-pro the Raiders would love to see at a practise is Kent Runke who recently took a job with the phys. ed. department at nearby Sheridan College.

GOOD ENOUGH
"He's still good enough to play in the NHL," Handy said.

And speaking of the pros, Handy's getting more than a few headaches with the possibility that two of the team's stars of last year may be lost

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