Intermediate

From his new posting in Barrie, longtime Herald sports editor Tony Panacci sends along this preview of the upcoming season in the greatly changed Georgian Bay Intermediate A Hockey League.

By TONY PANACCI Herald special

Trying to predict final standings in the OHA Georgian Bay Intermediate "A" Hockey League for the coming season would be a sage's nightmare.

The league has strong franchises back from last year in Georgetown, Dundas, Collingwood, Port Elgin and Owen Sound and has added a couple of sturdy old Senior "A" holdovers in Barrie and Orillia.

Few of the seven teams have remained stagnant over the summer. They are all making changes with the most obvious being in Dundas where the Merchants have cleaned house.

Here is a rundown on each of the teams with the opening of the season just around the corner,

Orillia Terriers

This will be the first year in the Intermediate league for Orillia Terriers, who played along with the Barrie Flyers in the now defunct Senior A league. They are hoping to improve on their finish; they were in the cellar last sea-

According to coach Wayne Rutledge, who is in his first year coaching after playing goal with Orillia last season, the team has a strong nucleus of returning players. Orillia has signed centre Jim Sherrit, who centred the Howe brothers for Houston in the World Hockey Association, Billy Gray, a forward, has signed and Johnnie Winder, a defenceman, is also returning. Clyde Harris is back in goal for Oriffia and Jack Smith of Barrie will play for Orillia.

Jeff Allen, a defenceman, is in Rutledge's estimation, a pretty fair hockey player and is a new player for Orillia. Warren Howe also looks very good so far. As well, Orillia has four of five local players trying out for the club including some from Huntsville, where Rutledge lives.

"I hope there is more local Interest in the league this year, and that the teams have a few local players on their clubs," said Rutledge. "Port L. zin, Collingwood and Georgetown should all be strong teams."

Rutledge says Orillia needs wingers and Vitas Urbas, Johnny Raboud and Bob Sheet will be counted on in that area.

Port Elgin Sunocos

Port Elgin who won the North division title last season when they defeated Collingwood in six games, should be a strong contender again this season, despite the fact that they have lost two early exhibition games by rather lopsided scores - Collingwood beat them 6-1 and Owen Sound won 6-2.

There is a nucleus of 10 players returning from last year and manager Terry D'Arcy feels that Port Elgin will be as strong as last scason. D'Arcy says they are hoping to shore up their defence, a weak point last

Port Elgin will go with the same three forward lines as last season. Dean Simmons, Bob McKinnon and Glen Morningstar are one line;

Jack Howell, Jim McKinnon and Murray Cobban form another and Bill Breton, Claude Foy and Doug Woods make up the third line. Elgin has signed goalle John Bach who is from the Durham

Elgin will be missing the Enns brothers, Rick and Joe, and Ted Scarf, all good players with the club last season. While Rick is working in Thunder Bay, Scarf moved to Guelph and Joe is working in Toronto. But D'Arcy is hopeful that Scarf and Joe Enns will rejoin Port Elgin around Christmas.

Port Elgin has a new coach, John Teskey from Kincardine, who has several years of professional hockey behind him.

"I really don't know what the league will be like," said D'Arcy, "Barrie and Orillia are unknown entries. But I expect the competition to be



JURI KUDRASOVS



PETER McDUFFE



Collingwood

Shipbuilders

Collingwood Shipbuilders

had a cakewalk through the

North division last year, fin-

ishing in first spot over Port

Elgin. However, Collingwood

lost to Port Eigin in the North

division finals after sweeping

by Orangeville in the semi-

finals in four straight games,

But Collingwood should be

among the top contenders in

this year's race. All of their

strong players are returning,

such as Ron Patterson, Steve

Sly, Ian McKegney and form-

er NHLer, Wayne Carlton.

With Sly, McKegney and Ter-

ry Agnew on defence, the

opposition will have a hard

time reaching the Colling-

"We're in the middle of

training camp right now,"

said coach Darryl Sly, who

played with the team last

season but will limit his

playing activity this season

long way from where we

want to be, It's hard to say

what the league will be like

at this point, but it should be

very competitive and there

should be more local interest

with teams like Barrie and

Collingwood has played

one exhibition game so far,

against Port Elgin, which

Collingwood won 6-1, getting

even for the elimination last

year by Port Elgin in the

"I think we're in for a good

year because of the nature of

the teams involved," said

Northern division finals.

Orillia playing."

to a minimum. "We're still

wood goaltender.

DON FENDLEY



TERRY HARLOW



STEVE BRONIZOWSKI





STEVE BLUNDY

opponent for the Raiders. when the OHA Intermediate Both are past league win-'A' champs played Charlotteners in their own divisions, town in the Eastern Canaand both have gone on to play dian Hardy Cup playdowns in in Canadian championship Timmins. Friday night they playdowns, with Barrie gomust win against the Barrie ing all the way once, winning Flyers if they hope to start the Allan Cup. Blundy's

It's been over five months

since the Raiders had to win

a hockey game. That was

back in April of last season

their regular season schedule with a win. For coach Steve Blundy. who played in that last must-win game up north, ·Friday's season and home opener will be a real test for all the Raiders, "I think

The defending champions

would seem to have improv-

ed on the lineup they carried

last year. A couple of their

players, Peter Sturgeon and

Ron Twiss, are at National

Hockey League camps, Stur-

geon is with the Colorado

Rockies and Twiss is with the

New York Rangers, but even

coming season philosophically. "Obviously I have to be optimistic. I hope by Christmas we'll be 50-50. I'm not they're (Barrie) pulling a going to be a good coach sleeper," Blundy said. Barovernight. With new players

them, he says.

They have former NHL netminder Peter McDuffe back. McDuffe was the class of the league's goaltending corps last term.

if those two don't come back

the Raiders should be strong.

rie, a former Senior 'A' team

before the league folded this

year, will be a formidable

game plan Friday will be to

open up and take the game to

Blundy approaches the up-

They also have Juri Kudrasovs, the league's leading scorer, back and leader Ray I'll have to find out v players are like and from them. There number of unknown tors that will affect the Obviously we're devel the nucleus of a good It's up to me what we it. I think we've

contender.' The Raiders ende exhibition schedule nother win here or Preston Jesters by 3-1 in Preston. The r Friday they had to them here at home Raider marksmen we Tonelli, Chris Miln

Frank Gonzalez. Fifteen players an

Tonelli (older brother New York Islanders Tonelli) is also back v Raiders.

They have also adde Ford, one of the scoring leaders in the national Hockey Leag ry MacFayden, a Maple Leaf farmhai



Dave Steen and Gary Landry are ready for another seaso

Junior Raiders Clu

Young Raider fans, under the age of 12, can now belong to an official club. McDonald's, the hamburger people, in co-operation with the Raiders are now giving out memberships in the Junior Raiders. The free memberships are available at McDonald's, without purchase.

Once a member of the Junior Raiders, the youngster will be admitted to all of the intermediate hockey team's games half price. A savings of 50 cents off the regular \$1 admission. That's

good. McD Each Inter fries |