



Why are these Raiders down?

What's happened to the Raiders?

What looked like it was going to be another good season for the defending champion Raiders has suddenly turned sour in their first week of regular season play. Over the weekend they lost what could have amounted to six points for them. Friday they lost four points to Barrie. Two on the ice, in a 6-4 loss in Barrie, and two off the ice in a protest of the previous Friday's game against Barrie. Saturday night they lost two more points by losing to Collingwood 5-1.

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"So many things are going wrong," said coach Steve Blundy following the team's loss to the Collingwood Shipbuilders Saturday night. "Poor, awful and other adjective", can only best describe how the team is playing. We have too many good hockey players to be playing like that."

CHARACTERISTIC START

However, the team is off to a characteristic start. Last season they lost their first few outings and still finished first in the league, something they have never done before. Still, the current situation doesn't seem to have caused any visible concern to the Raider coach. In fact quite the reverse is so. He continues to be optimistic. "If things are falling apart (as this reporter queried) then I better get out of here," Blundy said, shuffling the remark off in wonderment that such a question could possibly come to mind. "Touch doesn't come overnight. We have to shake it (the losses) off."

Friday, they meet Owen Sound Greys at Alcott, a team who weren't all that strong last year but who are about 15 per cent better this

year with some new talent, says general manager Arnold Shaw.

It will mean at least three more games before the Raiders can get back to where they should be now. If so, they will also have to meet and beat Dundas and Port Elgin before they can regain the lost six points.

LOSE PROTEST

Two points they lost, off the ice, to Barrie are the result of a 10-3 Georgetown win the proceeding Friday here, over Barrie. The Flyers filed a protest the following Sunday claiming that the Raiders hadn't been given permission by the OHA to play John Cook and Rick Kessel, who just happen to have gotten four points in the game. Friday night the OHA agreed and awarded the win and the two points to Barrie.

In the other half of the battle with Barrie, the Raiders lost another two points because they couldn't beat the Flyers in their home rink. Just as everyone had predicted, a week before, this game would be different in Barrie.

The only things that resembled the game here in Georgetown were that Barrie too, was opening its home date schedule and as happened here, the homeside won. There were no protests from either side. It was a simple case that Barrie beat them at their own game, hockey. They showed more of what a former senior hockey team should look like than the week before when they looked like a former senior team forced to drop class of calibre into the intermediate ranks.

They outscored them, and that is the name of the game. The Raiders are learning that it is not how you play the game but how you get the two points.

Flyer coach Paul Regan, who just happens to be a centreman on the team, got his club fired up for the game and led the attack with the

first two goals of the game. The first was an unassisted goal in the first period which

beat Raider goalie Greg Hooper at the 15.38 mark. He got his second just 5.04 into



Policeman Bob Elinesky is back

the next frame. The Flyers didn't stop there. They put it to the Raiders again at 11.32 on a goal by Captain Bob Baird. Bruce Ellison found the Barrie net for the Raiders with a shot that beat goalie Grant Cole at the 17.01 mark. Steve Lyon and Peter Mara assisted. Gerry Raycraft netted another for Barrie at 18.27.

The infamous John Cook and Rick Kessel teamed up to get the Raiders started in the third period with Cook getting a shot into the net on a pass from Kessel, who got it from Steve Lyon. Flyer Raycraft got his second at 14.08 of the final stanza before teammate Ed Walker got the sixth for Barrie at 15.46. Colin Gordon replied for Georgetown at 17.59 with assists going to Rick Kessel and Gary Ford. Gordon got his second for the Raiders at the 19.26 mark of the game with the help of Peter Mara and John Boyce.

Not an auspicious start between the two clubs but, one that is assured to bring some exciting hockey to both arenas when they meet.

GOALTENDERS BATTLE

Saturday night it was a goaltenders battle between Raider Peter McDuffe and Shipbuilder Ron Patterson. Both men stood their ground and refused to give in to the shooters. Unfortunately for McDuffe there was some give in his team. The Raiders were short some bodies and the added workload on the rest of the team showed and proved to be just too much for an early season team, who has already shown their opponent some of what they have.

The Raiders got off to a pretty good start in the first period and seemed to have the advantage although there was no scoring in the period. In the second they fell behind, three goals. Captain Bill Calvert of the Shipbuilders notched the first goal of the game at 2.24 of the

middle third of the game. Another Collingwood goal came 39 seconds later when Les Burgess beat a sprawling and flamboyant McDuffe. The third period was much the same as the second only the Shipbuilders were in better control and the Raiders looked like they realized it and they played accordingly.

Just 2.29 into the final period Captain Calvert did it again. Then it was Wayne King who made it four nothing for his team at the 5.08 mark. John Cook ruined Patterson's shutout effort at 14.55 with the help of Bruce Ellison and Gary Ford. Ian McKenney rounded out the game's scoring with 1.56 left in the game as he took the puck in unassisted and scored.

I'M SORRY

"I'm sorry for the people who had to pay the \$3 or \$2.50 or whatever they paid to see this game," said Blundy after. "We had a bunch of spectators out there tonight." The coach did agree that his goaltender McDuffe made a difference in the game. "Peter (deserves credit) for bravery." Bob Ellnesky finally got into his first game for the Raiders, showing some necessary added muscle on the team.

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Flyers	1

The Raiders must get back on track fast. The league is different this year and every point is going to count. It's that last point at the end of the year that most teams wish they had gotten earlier on.

"The Raiders have heart," says Blundy. "As a player (last year) I never dwelled on games (after) but, now as a coach I stay awake. I'll think about it tomorrow."