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Raiders winning--just

Gemini coach Tom Daley was known as a fighter in his playing days with the Raiders, which only ended last season. Other teams knew he was a strong competitor with a winning attitude that meant win at any cost. This character and attitude he has carried over to his new position behind the bench.

The players are on his team to win hockey games, something the Gems didn't have or do last year. While Daley and the Raiders were finishing tops in their league, the Gems were already finishing last in the league before Christmas.

So, when Daley took over, the management and players knew what to expect. Daley finished fifth in the league scoring his final campaign. He was respected in the league when he was on the ice because opponents knew he would give 100 per cent to get the puck and ensure his team won.

Now he is doing the same thing with the younger players. He is trying to instill in them the same qualities he set for himself. Hard working and there to play hockey. If the players don't want to play Daley says he will go with only 10 hard working ones who do.

His job as coach is to motivate the players and get them going and wanting to win. To Daley it is not so much talent as it is hard work and determination that will pay off come the playoffs, he hopes to make.

The rookie coach says that he has to get them fighting mad. That has been reflected in his examples of late. Twice now he has been ejected from games. Once he walked off the bench between periods. He says he is trying to motivate his team. Get them up for the game and it should last all year. He has that fighting spirit that sometimes creates awkward situations for him. He is vocal and sometimes it costs him and his team suspensions and game misconducts.

On another bench is new coach Steve Blundy who says he has to remain a constant on the bench. He says he can't be a cheerleader and a coach at the same time. He says leave the cheering to the fans. Blundy is a professional and so is his team. That is not to say that Daley's approach is unprofessional. Quite the contrary. Daley may have heard the colourful Don Cherry speak here in recent years. Now, there is a professional who has taken his outgoing approach to hockey and transformed it into one of the greatest assets his hockey teams have. We'll have to ask Peter Sturgeon about that when he comes back to Toronto from playing for Cherry in Colorado.

Blundy says coaches can't be like ex-Argo coach Leo Cahill who always ranted and raved or else you're liable to end up like Billy Martin without a job.

Coaching is a science. Joe Penteseo will attest to that. He runs the local end of the coaching clinics operated here each autumn. Coaching a team takes more than knowing what an off side pass is or how to set up a box play when short handed. It means handling people. Individuals who are human first and players second.

Take Phil Esposito for example. A superstar of the National Hockey League and a veteran of numerous seasons of play. A professional. Yet when it came to representing his country in a hockey series he showed that human quality. All players try their best most times. When they get on the ice they usually slip into another world. Esposito responded to arm chair coaches all over Canada in the '72 Canada-Russia series by lashing out emotionally after one particular losing game in Vancouver. He told the whole world that the Canadian team were only human and doing the best they could, under the circumstances. He implied that the Russians were mechanical robots who were programmed to play hockey and that's all. That theory was proven wrong several years later when people got to know the Soviets. They became almost warm huggable cuddly bears.

The point is that men and women love to play sport for the sport of the game, whether they are pros or amateurs. As the saying goes, it is not whether you win or lose but how you play the game. To put too much pressure on the players could be defeating the purpose of winning if that is the sole aim.

Winning teams over the years have combined discipline with an easy going manner in the dressing room. Sometimes that is not always true. As was shown by Billy Martin, Reggie Jackson and the New York Yankees, when clubhouse controversy sometimes prevails wins do take place. But not always. Internal struggles can ruin a team.

The Dundas Merchants who played here Sunday against the Raiders are besieged with management troubles that have resulted in the team literally flailing its way through the early goings of the season. The team behind the bench can't control their players it would seem. The result, they are at the bottom of the league and other teams in the league are ganging up on them to have them disciplined by the Ontario Hockey Association.

This is all settling an example for the young players in the game of hockey who come out to play hockey because on ice it is supposed to be more fun than on the street and safer too. That is debatable in view of the growing number of youngsters who are learning that fighting and stick swinging are a part of the game incorporated in the rules and are ways of winning. Intimidation is the word.

Some young players opt out of the competitive leagues to play house league or real recreational hockey. Maybe everyone should go back to shinny.

The Raiders continue to have problems winning. Sunday night they squeaked out another win. This time it was against the Dundas Merchants. It took overtime before they were able to head back home from Dundas with only their second set of points for the season.

However, coach Steve Blundy remains optimistic. "Including the game we won against Barrie (but lost the points in a protest for using illegal players) we are three for three." A .500 average. Good for any sport.

The trouble is, since their first game they won 10-3 against Barrie but lost in the protest, the team has been having problems winning. They haven't come along the way they should. Granted the league is different this year from last when the Raiders won it but, for a championship team that has been together two months now and are well into the short season, they should be doing considerably better. How long does it take players to get to know each other?

OWE FANS
"We owe it to the fans," to play better says Blundy. "If we don't play well the fans will stay away."

"We've run into some hot goaltending," says the coach. "Cole, Patterson and Sneddon are all ex-pros...and we don't have the same team as last year. We only have six left. I said last year I'd love to take over this team. That's why I was enthused about taking it over. To date I'm satisfied. I didn't expect to win like last year."

And, they certainly aren't. Friday night in Collingwood they went down to defeat for the second time in two weeks to the Shipbuilders, 7-3.

Once again they ran into some good goaltending says Blundy. "At least as good as ours (Peter McDuffe is rated by many as the class of the league between the pipes). Peter's not getting enough work." It's not that the team's defense is so good, but, it's "just the schedule. You can't practice (only) Monday then go out and play well Friday."

Quite the contrary, to good defense, is the case. "We really need to improve when we don't have control. We're okay when we do. We have to play better defense."

Indeed they do. In the first period of the game against Collingwood they won the battle of goals two to one. Steve Bronizewski, who has been playing and scoring quite well of late, got the first goal of the game at 4:42, assisted by John Cook and Bruce Ellison. Peter Mara put the Raiders in front by two on his goal at 9:25. Colin Gordon and Juri Kudrasovs got the assists. Myles McCauley cut the Raiders' lead in half, beating McDuffe at 11:52.

The Shipbuilders took the second period four goals to one by Raider Gary Ford. Ray Tonelli added the assist. Collingwood added two more in the third to round out a two game scoring spree over Georgetown, 12 goals to 2. Obviously showing that the team needs work on defense.

"This is by no means the team we are going to have," says Blundy. "We're always trying to improve. In intermediate hockey you can't tell. You never know from game to game who's going to show up."

Sunday night there were only 14 Raiders dressed said Blundy.

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY
That constitutes a problem when it comes to winning. Perhaps that's why it took them 3:13 into overtime to win. If they have a full team it makes it easier to win. As professionals you might think the team would be a little more responsible. Junior Gemini's coach Tom Daley, a Raider himself last year, has suspended one of his best players for missing a game without a good reason. Blundy says he might con-

der doing that himself.

Sunday, Dundas got the first goal on a penalty shot. Tim Ampieford beat McDuffe at the 13:04 mark while Chris Milne was off for tripping him. Colin Gordon replied for the Raiders, unassisted, at the 15:45 mark. The Raiders continued their attack with Captain Ray Tonelli scoring from Mara and Kudrasovs at 17:18. Thirty-nine seconds later Mike Wilson made it 3-1 aided by John Kessel and Bronizewski.

The Merchants got singles in the second and third from Mark Dumesnil and Ken Manjn forcing the overtime. Tonelli got the winner from Gary Ford and Steve Lyons.

The win sets the Raiders up for their game this Friday at home against the Port Elgin Sunocos.



Mike Wilson threads Shipbuilders

Heritage group active

Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council is still a very active group in town. Besides sponsoring two successful annual banquets in 1978 and 1979, plans are well under way for next year's event February 12.

MINI HALL OF FAME

The council was formed two years ago to delve into the hockey history of Georgetown, so that a lot of memorabilia, including pictures and write-ups of past hockey would not be lost. A "mini hall of fame" is gradually taking shape in the Booster Club room at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Although many pieces have been collected to date, the Council is asking local residents to co-operate in this endeavour, to search their attics for anything that might enlighten future generations on the prominence Georgetown hockey has played in our town. If you come up with a picture get in touch with the council members.

The Council also plans each year to honor an individual or group who have contributed much to hockey over the years. In 1978 Jack Harrison, a former trainer of the Raiders was so honored,

and in 1979 Roy Norton got the same recognition for his efforts with the younger players. Portraits of both men hang in the arena with the compliments of the Georgetown Herald newspaper which sponsors this yearly presentation.

The Council is asking you for nominations for the 1980 award and an advertisement in this paper may be filled out and mailed to the secretary.

GUEST SPEAKER

This year again, the Council hopes to have some celebrities for the annual dinner. Names being

tossed around at the moment are Harold Ballard, Punch Imlach, Bobby Orr, Darryl Sittler, among others.

Committees were set up at a recent meeting to stage this gala banquet in early February, and when tickets go on sale there should be a scramble for seats.

Council members include among others, Dave Kentner, Brian Day, Jim Acres, John Clark, Trev Moores, Finn Poulstrup, Ken McMillan, Roy Ward, Ted King, Joe Hall, Garfield McGilvray, Bob Hooper, Ian Ward, Ken Adams and Bryan James.