

# Sports Week

THE HERALD, Wednesday, December 12, 1979 - Page 31

## Raiders' early Christmas

"That's the Christmas turkey three weeks early." So said a happy Raider coach Steve Blundy following his team's 6-3 win over the league leading Collingwood Shipbuilders Friday night. The win was the team's best performance of the first half of the season before the largest hometown crowd of the year at Gordon Alcott.

It was a big win for the Raiders for sure. Not only did they knock off the first place club but, more importantly it improved their record to seven wins and eight losses. That leaves them within reach of the .500 average mark before Christmas. To date that mark has eluded them. With this win that mark is a reality in the first half of the season which saw the team get off a slow start. With a .500 average the Raiders can go into the second half of the season, after Christmas, with not only a better record but with more confidence.

"I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth," said Blundy but, "we're still not playing together as a team.

We've got to develop a little character...affinity." The coach intends to get that. He had the game video taped to show the players "in black and white" how they played. "It's a great teaching aid."

What the players will see is their strong offensive attack which netted them 27 shots on Shipbuilder goaltender Ron Patterson who had earlier in the season stymied

### Raiders 6 Shipbuilders 3

them with a 5-1 win. Ten of those shots came in the first period with four beating Patterson. Two goals each by Bruce Ellison and Colin Gordon capped off a strong first period for the Raiders.

The second period the home side were outscored three to one to tighten the game. Ellison got his third of the night with just four seconds remaining in that third of the game. John Cook had the sixth Raider goal.

The Raiders had strong performances from everyone. From goaltender Peter McDuffe through their defensive corps' performance like that of Steve Lyons and Gary Landry who also played well when moved up to left wing to add more muscle and forechecking. The line of Ray Tonelli, Gary Ford and Chris Milne were always a threat. Joe Ens also showed well.

Up and down all season, the Raiders are starting to show some consistency. They are playing better with each game. Different positive factors are emerging with every shift.

Friday, they are in Orillia, where their previous visit there resulted in a 7-6 overtime win for them, followed the next night here by a 4-3 overtime loss to the same team. The following Friday at Alcott they meet the strong Dundas Merchants team. The team being touted of late as the league's best despite early rough play by them.

"The time to do the preparation (for the playoffs) is now," says Blundy.



Jeff Talbot

## Hockey career over

By MARK CLAIRMONT  
Herald sports editor

Jeff Talbot is the first casualty in the "balancing trade war" which is taking place in the Georgetown minor hockey house leagues. The 12-year-old's hockey career is, for this year anyway, finished. Will he be the only victim, his parents and others wonder?

Jeff was a second year forward on the Barragers Cleaners pee wee house league hockey team until two weeks ago. Last year the team did not fare all that well. In fact they lost most of their games. This year the team has a new coach, Doug Lowe, a 20-year-old with several years' local coaching experience behind him. He is aided by his father, Al, who handles the managerial duties. A few of Jeff's fellow teammates from last year joined him on this year's squad. The rest of the team is comprised of first year players, picked in a draft. To date, the team is undefeated in its first nine games of the 20 game schedule.

Two weeks ago, after Jeff had played eight games for Barragers and scored five goals, pee wee league commission Pat Dowdall decided that the Barragers team was too strong compared to the rest of the teams in the league. In order to best balance the league and provide more rounded competition, he decided that Jeff would be switched from that team to the last place Joe's Gulf team. That team had yet to win a game. It was well within his jurisdiction to do so. The Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Association constitution said it was okay. It was a seldom-used provision of the constitution, but one quite legal.

Jeff had no choice but to switch. Just when he thought he was going to be on a winner, after being on a losing team last year, he got traded for another player almost half way through the 20 game season. Jeff didn't want to leave his team. He had built up rapport of comradery with his teammates and coach, not to speak of leaving a winning team.

Young Jeff missed his first opportunity to play with his new team because of an illness. When he did report this past Saturday he played and scored a goal in his new team's 5-2 loss at the hands of G.R. Muckart.

Despite scoring the goal, Jeff was still disheartened at not being able to play with his original team, who won Saturday 10-3 over Murray's Motors. Jeff only wanted to play hockey with Barragers.

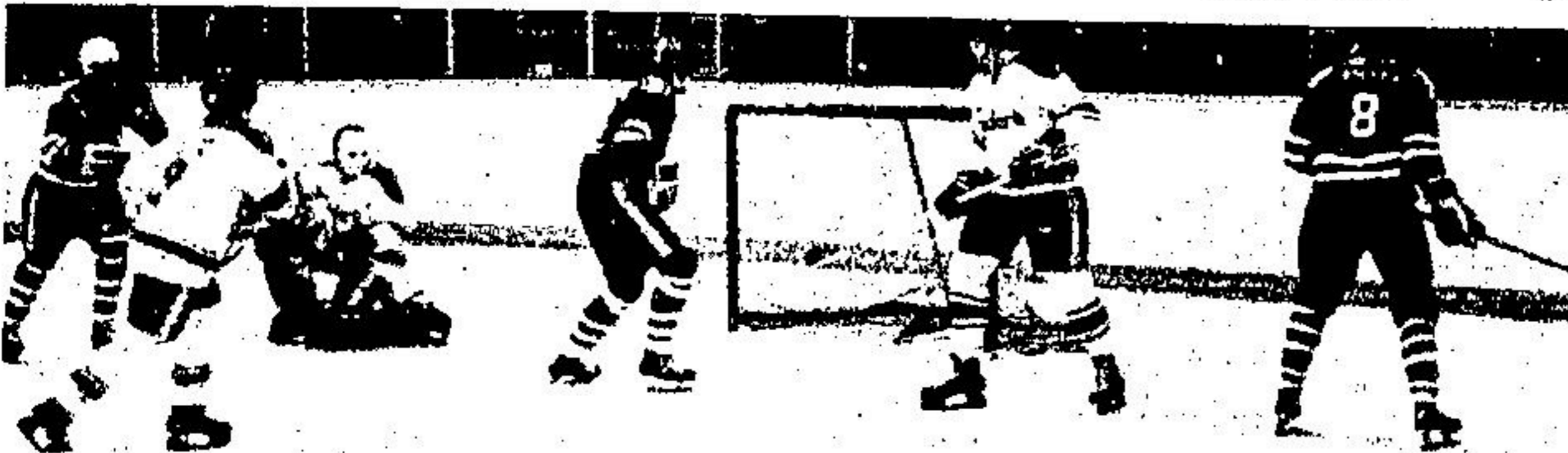
Jeff's mother agreed with his wishes and asked the commissioner if he could return to them and he told her no. With that she asked GDMHA President Wendy Stewart for her money back because she was withdrawing her son from the hockey program of which he would no longer be able to take advantage. Mrs. Stewart told her a cheque would be in the mail this week for part of her \$35 registration fee and that Jeff would not be able to keep his sweater as he did not complete the season.

Barrager coach Doug Lowe says he was sorry to lose Jeff in the first place, from his team and he was even more distressed to learn that Jeff will not be playing hockey in the league for the rest of the year.

President Stewart also says she is sorry to see Jeff out of hockey, but that the provision is in the constitution for the betterment of the game for the boys and girls who play it. It is there, she said, to balance out the competition and make sure that no team is a runaway winner all the time.

Others commenting on the subject to this newspaper and this reporter wonder whether the practice of balancing or trading is necessary in a game geared for enjoyment rather than a win or lose situation. Should children as young as eight-years-old be treated as professional sport players and be put on the trading block because of their skills or lack of them? Children are not commodities on the hockey market, some parents are saying. And, they are wondering if such a practice will mean further losses to the hockey world.

See page 32.



He shoots, he scores! Goaltender Peter McDuffe, defenseman Bob Ellnesky and forward Gary Landry were all caught out of position on this goal by the Collingwood

Shipbuilders forward left all alone in front of the open net Friday night. It was only one of three the Shipbuilders scored in their 6-3 losing effort to the Raiders.

## SPORTS WEEK HI-LITES

**Norval** remains on top of the industrial hockey league with a big win over Philip Publishing. Details on page 34.

**Swimming** results for the Halton Hills swim team, Halton Hills Synchro team and the high school team page 35.

**Blue Jays** moved in front of the Expos in the Golden Age bowling Friday. For further results, see page 35.