

Raiders wanted!

The Raiders, though they may not like it, can now be compared to the troubled Toronto Maple Leafs. Both are suffering from player problems that have recently resulted in inconsistent play which has caused them the loss of valuable points, they need to make the playoffs. There is a distinct possibility neither team could make it into the next round of play, the way they are going.

Friday night, the Raiders didn't look good compared to second place Dundas Merchants, who easily handled them 9-4. Sunday, with only 10 players in Owen Sound, the Raiders somehow managed a 4-4 tie.

Maple Leaf President Harold Ballard has ordered his general manager Punch Imlach to make wholesale trades this week in Florida at the winter general manager meetings.

BLUNDY BACK?

Coach Steve Blundy, who runs the Raider ice show, can't do that, although he may now want to. He still has two empty player cards to fill out before next week. One of them may have his name on it. "If the date (Feb. 10) comes along and we don't have what we want, I might," sign the 21st card.

That still leaves the 20th card open. That could be filled by a graduating Guelph

university player or any number of available puck handlers around this time of the year.

Although the market is not flooded with talent ready to step onto the Intermediate A ice anytime and still do the job, the Raiders will still be looking for that one in a million chance.

What has the coach, a Raider player last year, thinking about making a comeback, is the play and attitude of the players of late. Certain players have been exemplary in their on and off the ice dedication to the team, while others have not been holding up their end of their deal, which amounts to dollars.

The coach says some of the players are taking games, those on the road and the ones against the weaker clubs, too lightly. He says they are not working hard enough. They aren't coming out to practices or staying in shape off the ice. And then on the bench during games they're complaining about not getting enough ice time.

Part of the reason for their dismal showing the past few games stems from what the coach has been complaining about all year, lack of more adequate practice ice time. This means more than one hour a week and it's got to be in prime time. "As I've said

before, if you're going to have a team you have to do it right. And that means not having a practice at 10:30 at night." He maintains that the team has working men on it who can't make it to late practices and still get up the next day for work. This problem is reflected in the lack of players turning out for away games.

700 PEOPLE

The coach's comments were evident in the team's performance Friday night at Alcott, before nearly 700 people. The Merchants showed that although there aren't too many points separating the top teams in the league, there is plenty of hockey spread among those points.

The Merchants were breaking out of their own end, skating at full tilt unimpeded by Raider forecheckers and having little more than token resistance from the three rearguards who were left to mind the 60 feet between their blueline and the net. Goaltender Peter McDuffe, who has had many good games in the Alcott nets had trouble from the start of the game.

In the first three minutes of the opening period Georgetown was behind two goals. Juri Kudrasovs and Bruce Ellison got them back later that same 20 minutes, on the only good chances the Raid-



The Raiders were a stride behind second place Dundas Merchants all Friday night, as Juri Kudrasovs is here. The Merchants won 9-4.

ers had in a period totally dominated by Dundas.

The opening few minutes of the middle period was the same as the first, only this time the Merchants came out with four opening goals in the first four minutes. Ray Tonelli replied with one only to have Dundas come up with two more, to take a 7-3 lead after 40 minutes of the game. Tonelli and his linemates Gary Ford and Bruce Ellison did regain ground for the Raiders as they tried at different times to stymie the opposition's attack.

The third period evened out a little but, the free wheeling style of the Mer-

chants left the Raiders standing still in many instances. Steve Lyons managed to get the lone Georgetown marker in the third, through the defenseman's rushing style, which caused more goals than his one.

The Merchants played the final two periods of the game without Tim Appleford, the league leading scorer. Before leaving the game at the end of the first period, after a pile-up in front of the Raider net, he beat McDuffe, for the opening goal of the game.

Sunday Colin Gordon, Joe Ens and Tonelli with two goals were the life savers of the day. The game was a

make-up from an earlier postponed date with Owen Sound.

LOOKING

What Blundy and his staff of advisors and scouts will be looking for this week is a strong defensive defenseman and a good two-way forward. "There's no question, the Raiders can score," says Blundy. What they need is better defense and better work from their front lines.

With Barrie and Orillia sitting just below Georgetown in the scoring race for the fourth and final playoff spot, the Raiders will have to make each game from here on in, good.

Gems look bad

The Gems make what could be their final home ice performance of the year Sunday against the Barrie Colts. Game time is 7:30.

Although the Gems are confident that this won't be the case, their optimism is not shared by all who saw their game with the last place Acton Sabres Sunday night at Alcott. The Gems won 6-4 but, that score was not indicative of the play. Acton should have had a tie or a win, and almost did.

The Sabres, who have had another bad year similar to the one they and the Gems both suffered last year, have three wins and four ties in 38 games. The team is a collection of young unguided hockey players who are in a league over their heads. They play like a junior C team.

SHUFFLE OFF

That, is how the Gems

tried to shuffle off a near loss to the last place team. "We played to their style," said assistant coach Chris Milne. The Gems were all over the Sabres for most of the game but did not look like they deserved 23 more total points than their opponents. The Gems made all the right opening moves, beating the weak offensive and defensive units but could not put the puck past a big Rob Bremmer in the Acton net, despite innumerable easy opportunities.

The Gems looked like they were playing the game as a necessary but unwanted part of their unwinding schedule. They did not look like a potential playoff contender fighting for every two points they can get to advance into the next round of play.

Whether they choose to believe it or not, the Gems

could be watching from the sidelines once again when the playoffs roll around in two weeks time. Both Barrie Colts and Oakville Blades are fast breathing down the Gems backs.

POWER PLAY GOALS

The Gems wracked up 48 minutes in penalties which accounted for three power play goals against them. Acton accumulated 18 minutes in the sin bin and ended up with only one power play goal.

A few Gems did play well. Acton residents Dave McGilloy and Scott Malcolm did their usual yeoman jobs, as did Greg Thompson, Ben Allen, Bill Taylor and Tony Giannini.

Scoring for Georgetown were Thompson with three, Allen with two and Bobby Dean. Acton goal getters were Glen Murphy with two and Barry Trood and Bob Allsop. Acton was outshot 56-35.

Last night in Streetsville the Gems had Marly Power, Steve Crossman and Andy Broadbent back in their lineup against the Derbys. The score was not available at press time.



Scott Malcolm, an Acton resident, had no sympathy for his home town Sunday night as the Gems defeated the Sabres in a close game, 6-4.

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