

Five big games left

Raiders look impressive with a pair of wins

The Raiders look like they are on their way to another fine past season of play. As they enter their second last weekend of the schedule, with games this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the team looks impressive, like they are now coming into their own.

With back-to-back wins this past weekend over Port Elgin, 7-0, Friday and 4-2 over Barrie Saturday, the intermediate A team seems to be coming around to showing the consistent potential it has demonstrated only in short bursts all season.

"We're starting to play well in our own end," something they haven't been too adept at all season admits coach Steve Blundy. "We're giving Peter (goaltender McDuffe) a chance to watch the puck," rather than all the bodies. In Barrie Saturday

night "they (the Flyers) had it in our end for 30 or 40 seconds and we were never in trouble. We played our system well and eventually got control of it."

With just two goals in two games the defensive game of the Raiders is showing good signs at the right time, as the team prepares to enter the playoffs. "We should finish third," says Blundy. That's where they are now. But, with five more games remaining and only a few points separating them from league leaders Collingwood and Dundas, the Georgetown team could theoretically finish in first.

"You've got to make three or four goals count for wins in the playoffs," says the coach. "As I've said before, the Raiders can score goals,

there's no doubt about that."

Friday night they did just that as they blasted the Suncoats in a late starting game because of the poor weather which delayed Port Elgin. The fact that they played the whole 60 minutes without once being short-handed, because of penalties, was a significant contributing factor unlike the 18 minutes they sat out in Barrie the next night which could have cost them the game. Blundy says the refereeing in Barrie left plenty to be desired. The Raiders were assessed four unsportsmanlike penalties.

The line of John Kessel, Ray Tonelli and Joe Ens came up big on the weekend with six goals and seven assists. Kessel had four goals, two in each game, and

an assist Friday. Tonelli scored his goal Friday night to start the weekend scoring spree adding an assist in both games. Ens started with a pair of assists Friday and had a goal Saturday night.

Goals aren't always all that counts to Raider coach Blundy. He says "if a guy stops one that's as good as a goal." He says it's the plus minus factor that really counts. "We have guys on this team who aren't big scorers but they contribute as much and are as important as those who do."

Gary Ford had a pair of goals Friday with singles going to John Cook and Steve Lyons. Gary Landry had the other single in Barrie Saturday night.

The Raiders prepared for back-to-back games with

Orillia there Friday and here Saturday and Sunday's date in Owen Sound, with an exhibition scrimmage with the Tottenham Polar Bears Monday night.

"It's just to give them a little break from me harping at them on the ice," said Blundy of the scrimmage.

The players looked loose and cheerful as they easily made their way through the three periods of stop time. It gave them a chance to perfect some of their plays in actual game conditions against the pick-up tournaments-only team.

Every team can use the extra practice as they head into the home stretch this coming week. The Raiders have had trouble with Orillia in the past, taking three games into overtime. Owen

Sound should be an easy two points for Georgetown as they have defeated them on all three previous meetings.

The team's final games next weekend will be in Collingwood Friday and home to Dundas Saturday. These two games could decide how the Raiders finish in the regular season schedule as all three clubs are close in the standings.

The playoff structure pits the first and fourth teams in a best four out of seven series. Second and fifth and third and sixth playoff in a best of five round after which the winners among these four teams play another best of five to meet the winner of the first and fourth in a best of seven.

Saturday's home date with Orillia goes at 8.30.

Play-off time again

It's playoff time again, even though there still is no snow, and all or most of the Georgetown minor hockey support group teams are in, or are about to begin post season play.

Tomorrow at 8 p.m., at Memorial Arena, the major atoms will be out to even up their best three out of five tri-county series with Stratford. In the first game Saturday in Stratford the host team skated to a 4-3 decision over Georgetown. If the atoms can win tomorrow, the third game will be played at Memorial this Saturday at 5:40.

Also tomorrow, the minor atoms begin their playoffs with Oakville, at Memorial, then go there Saturday morning.

Thursday the minor bantams are at home to Guelph at 7.15 at Alcott followed at 8.45 when the major midgets take on Brampton.

The novices continue their series with Brampton at Memorial Sunday. Last Thursday they took Brampton in the opener at home 3-0 then won the second game in Brampton Saturday 3-2.

This Thursday the minor bantams get underway against Dundas at 9 p.m. at Alcott.

Friday, Dundas minor midgets are in town at Alcott to take on their local counterpart at 8 p.m. followed by the juveniles who start out against Guelph, at 9:45 p.m.

The major bantams played their second game of the playoffs against Brampton last night at Alcott. They had won their first game 4-3. Sunday they are at home for the third game.

Sunday the minor bantams play Guelph at 4 o'clock, the major bantams take on Guelph at 5.30 and the minor midgets host Dundas at 8 p.m. All games are at Alcott.

MIDGET PLAY OFF SCHEDULE

4:45	March 2	Cable T.V. - Standard Products
6:00		Scotia Bank - Masson Motors
7:15		Mac's Mtnview Plaza - Trio Discount
	March 5	Rental Art - Montego Construction
9:30 p.m.		

NOVICE PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

First Round (Half Ice)			
Series A - 1st - 5th			
Series B - 2nd - 6th			
Series C - 3rd - 7th			
Series D - 4th - 8th			
4:30 - 5:30	5:30 - 6:30	6:30 - 7:30	
Friday, Feb. 29	Series A	Tykes	Series C
	Series B	Tykes	Series D
Friday, March 7	Tykes	Series C	Series A
	Tykes	Series D	Series B

TYKE PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

First Round Robin			
Friday, Feb. 29	1-2	3-4	5:30 - 6:30 New Arena
Friday, Mar. 7	1-3	2-4	4:30 - 5:30 New Arena
Monday, Mar. 10	1-4	4:30 - 5:15	Old Arena
	2-3	5:15 - 6:00	Old Arena

JUVENILE PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE

March 2		
8:30 p.m.		1st Place - 4th Place
9:45 p.m.		3rd Place - 6th Place
March 4		
9:15 p.m.		2nd Place - 5th Place

Gemini closing out season?

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from having to win four games in a row to take the series. As it is they do.

OVERTIME

Friday night the Gems forced the Cougars into overtime scoring with just 33 seconds left in regulation time to tie the game at five. Ben Allen with two, Bobby Dean, Mike McMenemy and Gary Thompson scored the goals for the Gems.

Burlington scored just two minutes into the overtime, to get the eventual game winner.

"There was 14 seconds left in the overtime," said coach Tom Daley "and they (officials) took five seconds away (because of a clock foul up) and we had the puck in front of their net when the buzzer went." There's no telling says the coach. The Gems could have tied it up and even perhaps won in another overtime period, which would have been sudden death.

Sunday was just a good "team effort" by everyone said the coach following the game. Everyone did as they were supposed to.

After falling behind one goal in the first and two early in the second, the Gems scored three times in the second on goals by Mark Euteneier, Greg Thompson and Dave McGilloway to take a brief lead before Burlington tied the game at three with just minutes left in the middle frame.

PLAY OR PAY

Coach Daley says all he told his players between the second and third periods was that they should "play for 20 minutes now or not again." Nothing profound, just the simple facts.

The Gems must have taken it to heart because they came out flying to score two quick goals in the first two minutes of the period to take a strong psychological lead. These goals not only got them up for the final 18 minutes of the game but, kept the more than 200 fans on hand cheering and boosting the team on to victory. McGilloway got the first of the goals with the final period only a minute old. Just 55 seconds later juvenile Bruce McCandless, a brother to the team captain Bob, potted a beauty. McGilloway notched his third and fourth of the night to seal the game while the Cougars could only answer with one.

It was a big victory for the team who has had to fight hard all year for its wins. It may just be enough for the team to do the impossible and take the series. This Georgetown team is young and has plenty of heart and guts, a necessary item when facing a superior team.

The Gems are reminiscent of the American hockey team which this past weekend won the Gold Medal at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York. The Burlington Cougars, who finished second in the league five places ahead of the Gems, could be upset. Today we shall know.

New industrial hockey play-offs

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Akers-Clark had won their final game over United Rental 7-1 Sunday at Alcott. Hurley scored their third goal. Team-mate Roy Bush had four other goals and Grant Boxnar and Finn Arnold had the other two. Crawford Bell had the only United Rental goal.

In the other final games of the regular schedule, the Royal Pizza Kings came up with only their second win of the season, over Philp Publishing, 7-4. Dick Bryant, Jamie Hansen and Dan Engleby each had a pair for the Kings with the single going to Darren Kuchmash.

Craig Flemming with two and Shane Lefebvre and Jim Hillhouse scored for Philp Publishing.

Norval tuned up for the playoffs with a 7-2 win over the Glen Warriors. Brian Beaumont led the winners with a hat trick. Singles went to Bob Landry, Doug Anderson, Larry Peterson and Charlie Knoepfl.

Scoring for the Glen Warriors were Merel Hache and

Pete Fendley.

Norval, who now have an unblemished record with 20 wins and no losses or ties, because of Monday's pronouncement, will be the team to beat in the playoffs. However, any of the three other teams involved could upset them. It happened last year. Norval won the league and lost in the playoffs to Philp Publishing in the final round.

Akers-Clark will have the first opportunity to knock off the league winners but face a tough battle. They did tie Norval 4-4 in the only game Norval didn't win on goals but, they were trounced 6-0 in a January meeting.

As for the Glen Warriors-Philp Publishing series, this could be a toss-up with both teams just a point apart in the final standings. Earlier this month the two teams played to a 3-3 tie.

The Norval game will be first Sunday morning at 9.15 followed at 10.45 by the Philp Publishing game.



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