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PLAYING THE FIELD

GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

Gem bad-boy wants to win

It's become evident by this time that there is something drastically wrong in Georgetown Gemini camp.

Granted, the Gems have had more than a fair share of injury problems this year. But the team is well-stocked with talented, experienced hockey players, guided by a proven coach, and still mired in a dogfight for sixth place in the Central Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League standings.

So why are the Gems faltering, when local shiny fans expected the Green 'n Gold to take a real run at those Derbys this year? Five minutes with Chris Peavoy, a four-year veteran with the club, and the answers seem a lot more clear.

"Last year we had so much drive, but this year nobody is motivated," Peavoy said matter-of-factly after a disappointing 3-2 loss in Burlington Friday night. "There is so much disruption on the team."

"We've got four or five guys who are just happy to wear the colors out there. They have no desire, no killer instinct. Those guys are just out there for the ride."

To be fair, Peavoy has managed to fashion quite the reputation in four years as a complainer, sometimes to the point of being a disruptive force on the team. Last season he was often rumored to be at odds with coach Jules Russiani.

The big blonde also has a knack for taking costly penalties, and he sometimes lends new meaning to the term violence.

But this year, Peavoy's last as a junior-aged hockey player, has been different. He has been the most effective on a staff of physical, experienced and efficient rearguards. He has been keeping quiet, giving 100 per cent, and incredibly, he's even creeping near the top 10 in league scoring. Hard to believe, I know. But true.



CHRIS PEAVOY

"Our best line is the best in the league, and our second line is good enough, but we have nothing after that. The pressure has to be on management to find two more hockey players to replace Herb Kewley and Lance Doucette."

The explanation is simple, really. Peavoy wants to go out a winner. He finally had a taste of winning last season, when the Gems made their splendid surge to the league finals.

And though the Gems have won just 11 of their 26 games to date, Peavoy feels the club can still turn things around. The solution, he says, can be reached in a few straightforward steps.

First, the management must come up with two new forwards, to give the club more balanced scoring attack.

"Our best line is the best in this league, and our second line is good enough, but we have nothing after that," Peavoy said. "The pressure has to be on the management to find two more hockey players up front, to replace Herb Kewley and Lance Doucette."

"They traded Lance, but we didn't get anybody back. You can't give up your best hockey player for nothing."

The players, Peavoy says, have to dig down inside and find some motivation and discipline. They have been killing themselves with stupid penalties, and a less-than-all-out performance to date.

"Some of our guys whine when they're out on the ice," Peavoy said. "We must have had 10 bench penalties in the past five games. It's pretty hard to shut some of the guys up, too, because some of the guys are our best hockey players."

That might seem to point a finger at coach Russiani, but Peavoy still believes Russiani is the man to lead the team out of the wilderness. The big defencemen does say, though, that Russiani has changed from last year.

"Jules may be trying just a little too hard, now," Peavoy said. "He's not as calm as he used to be. He's frustrated. So are a lot of the guys."

And so are the fans.

Atoms at tourney

By GARY LANE
Herald correspondent

Georgetown's McNally Firefighter atoms are currently competing in the Hespeler Minor Olympics Tournament. The team has played three games thus far and have two more next week.

On Monday night, the club got off to a disappointing start by dropping a 4-3 game to Newmarket. It was one of those games that we should have won but it was not to be. Newmarket never trailed in the close checking contest and held first and second period leads of 1-0 and 3-1.

Scoring for Georgetown were Jason Smith, Sean Guistini and Trevor Elnesky. Drawing the assists were Steve Brown, John Cruise, Adam Hills, Guistini and Smith with two.

The boys returned for games with Kitchener and Niagara-On-The-

Lake on Thursday and came back big winners. Shutout goaltending by Terry Metler and Dusty Lane plus the return of Duane Lewis sparked victories of 2-0 over Kitchener and 11-0 over Niagara.

Metler faced six shots in blanking Kitchener while Lane only handled two scoring attempts in his start. Goals were scored on third period shots by Guistini and Brad Amato versus Kitchener. Adam Hagen Elnesky and Brown earned the helpers.

In the 11-0 win every player earned a point except Cruise who has returned to patrol on the blueline. Smith had the hat-trick to go with an assist while Guistini and Hills were both at two goals and two assists. Brown, Elnesky and Hagen earned a goal and had a pair of assists. Amato also scored with Lewis and Trent Cull notching an assist

Raiders win with miracle rally

The first time the Georgetown Raiders reached into their bag of tricks, they came up with a miracle finish. But when they went back a second time, the cupboard was bare.

The Raiders split a pair of Senior 'A' hockey games over the holiday weekend, nipping Collingwood 6-5, but losing 4-1 to the red-hot Flamboro Real McCoys.

The Raiders thrilled the home fans Friday night with four third-period goals, overcoming a 5-2 deficit enroute to their narrow victory over the Collingwood Shipbuilders.

Tim Ampleford opened the scoring for the home side midway through the opening frame, from John Saunders and Ron Twiss. Dave Hill found the range 10 minutes later, from Saunders and John Gibb, as the clubs split four first-period goals.

Gary Landry sparked the Raider rally with a goal six minutes into the third session, after the Raiders had fallen behind 5-2. Saunders drew his third assist of the night on the play.

Less than a minute later, Paul Gallagher

notched his 27th of the season to narrow the gap to a single goal. Hill, with his second of the evening, brought the home side even with 7:54 to play. Juri Kudrasovs, and Saunders, with assist number four, helped out on the play.

Ampleford saved the best for last, though, connecting for his second goal with just 10 seconds left in regulation time to give the Raiders the win.

There was no whirlwind third period rally Monday night, however, when the Real McCoys came knocking.

The Raiders fired 47 shots at Flamboro goaltender Mark Locken, but winger Tim Turner was the lone shooter to find the mesh. The newest Raider, winger Ray Tonelli, drew an assist on the play.

The issue was really decided in the opening 20 minutes, when the visitors pumped three goals behind Lockhurst with just 10 shots. Turner's marker narrowed the gap to 3-1 late in the second frame, but Flamboro's Bryan Grigsby connected less than two minutes after that to close the Raider

account. The Raiders have now won 13 of 21 league

starts, with a single tie. However, they have been a mediocre hockey

club in December, splitting eight outings. They are exactly under .500 at

home, winning two of five games. The next home action

is Friday night at Gordon Alcott Arena, when the Barrle come in



Raider winger Ron Twiss looks for the loose puck between his skates, while linemate Paul Gallagher sweeps into the play. The Flamboro Real McCoys defended this well all night, as they dumped the Raiders 4-1. (Herald photo by Gerry Timbers)

Lots to do over the holidays

Town offering free swimming and skating

By PAM DOUGLAS
Herald Special

There are a lot of free and inexpensive things to do in the Hills during the holidays now that school is out.

The Recreation and Parks Department is offering free swimming at the Acton Indoor Pool and the Georgetown Indoor Pool. They are also sponsoring free

skating at the Acton Arena, the Gordon Alcott Arena, and the Georgetown Memorial Arena. Contact the Department at 877-5185 for the dates and times.

If the kids want to try out the new toboggan they got for Christmas they can go to Cedarvale Park (snow permitting). The hill sloping down to Main Street

has been fenced off because its location posed a danger to tobogganers, but the Recreation and Parks Department has made another hill in the park that is safer and well lit at night.

No one has to go far for skiing during the holidays unless it doesn't snow. Terra Cotta Conser-

vation Area rents skis for \$7 a day or \$5 for half a day. You can also trek through the beautiful landscape on snowshoes which are available for \$3 a day. If you have your own all you'll pay is the \$4 admission fee.

An ice-skating surface is also available. The Conservation Area is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except Christ-

mas.

The folks at Glen Eden hope all of their hills will be open for holiday skiing. They will be closed Christmas Day, but open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. On all other days their hours will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Adults can enjoy a full

day of skiing for \$15 and children 10 years old and under pay \$10. Ski rental is \$11.50 for the day.

If you're not the outdoor type, grab your bowling shoes and head for the nearest bowling alley.

One game at the Georgetown Bowl will only cost \$1.25. If you don't have your own

bowling shoes the alley will provide them for 60 cents or 35 cents for children 10 years old and under.

The alley closes at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, but it's open Dec. 25 for you after Christmas bowlers. Public bowling throughout the holidays begins at 12 or 1 p.m. depending on league schedules.

Cougars rip Gemini for costly 3-2 win as Kennedy, Bathgate tossed out of game

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

The Georgetown Gemini dropped a costly 3-2 Central Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League decision to the Burlington Cougars Friday night, and they have no one to blame but themselves.

The Gems are currently fighting tooth-and-nail with the Cougars and the Milton Steamers for fourth place overall in the 10-team loop, and the right to host the opening round of the playoffs.

The Cougars have been struggling lately, and the Gems came out flying Friday night. The locus finally broke out on top at 10:54 of the first period when Peter Haller drifted into the

slot, and fired a shot past Cougar goaltender John Petrachek. Haller was set up with a nice pass-out from the corner by defender Chris Peavoy.

The Gems had many chances to increase their lead, but failed to do so. They were hurt by the fact that their best sniper, center Rly Kennedy, sat out 12 minutes

of the opening session for arguing with referee Bob Good.

The Cougars took a 2-1 lead with a pair of second-period power play goals. Then, to make matters worse, Gem scoring leader Bill Bathgate was tossed out of the match for talking back to officials.

Kennedy found the range for the Gems at the 6:39 mark of the third period, from Peavoy and Blake Harrison, to knot the score at 2-2. However, pesky Cougar forward Frank Gladia-tor beat goaltender Wayne Cowley with a wrist shot just inside the goalpost for the winning marker seven minutes later.

Gemini general manager Bob Webster said

later that he was disappointed with the team over their performance of late.

"I feel we should beat Acton and Burlington any night at all," Webster said. "We just have to be better-disciplined hockey players. We haven't helped ourselves."

"We have to just forget about the garbage, and stay on the ice."

The game marked the return to the line-up of veteran Bob Dean, whose goal-scoring touch will be a definite asset. Injured forward Mark Hamilton still is not expected back with the club until mid-January.

Webster also expects to sign 19-year-old right winger Bob Morrow

'Memory Lane' collects old hockey cards

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

Would you trade a Bobby Orr for a Wayne Gretzky? Or how about Hank Aaron for Sandy Koufax? Would you swap Batman and Robin for a 1952 game program from the Montreal Forum?

Those are the decisions Georgetown's Gary Lane faces prior to each new round of wheeling and dealing. Lane, a 38-year-old firefighter, is a collector of sports memorabilia.

His specialty is hockey cards. He has in excess of 50 complete sets of NHL bubble gum cards, between 40,000-50,000 cards on file.

He also collects hockey post cards, wrestling cards from the 1950s, old programs and ticket stubs, press guides, and even a set of plastic records featuring hockey tips by members of the 1967 Stanley Cup winning Toronto Maple Leafs.

He picks up cards from teenagers who don't want to keep them anymore, and from organized card auctions. He has collected sets of cards offered on the back of cereal boxes, and filed photo features and press clippings from years

gone by in scrap books.

For Lane, his obsession to collect and store sports history began some 30 years ago, when he kept his program from a Leaf game he attended at Maple Leaf Gardens.

From that point, he began to amass clippings and photos for a scrap book. He still has the Toronto Telegram story on the night Gordie Howe scored goal number 545, in the fall of 1963, to break Maurice 'Rocket' Richard's goal-scoring mark.

He kept each of the 'Stars of the World's Fastest Game' color photos published by the Toronto Star in the early 1960s, a series that featured the likes of Lou Fontinato, Kenny Wharram and Bobby Rousseau.

He then began saving cards from Beehive honey, Dad's Cookies, and Post cereals. He managed to acquire old wrestling cards, featuring grapplers like Sky Lee, Whipper Billy Watson and Little Beaver. Then it was on to Pittsburgh Penguin 'Puck Bucks', a complete ticket stub from the inaugural Toronto Blue Jays game in 1977 (Sections 12, Row 32, Seat 1),

and even a stub from an old Toronto Maple Leaf International League baseball game (vs. Jacksonville, \$2 in the Green section).

"I'll buy anything and everything, including old Batman cards and Elvis Presley cards," Lane said while showing off his formidable collection. "I've got an old baseball book I'm going to try and trade off some day, from 1907, and it has a picture of Ty Cobb sliding into third base."

The idea, says Lane, is to keep the odd stuff for trade bait in a possible future deal. The key to investing is to know what you need, and to know the market. You have to do your home work.

"I prepare for a big sale," Lane explained. "I have to know what I'm after when I go to a show, because there's cards galore. You also have to know the value of a card when you decide to make a purchase."

That's the tough part, though, because what you're really deciding is what a particular item is worth to you. However, there are certain general rules as to the value of a card, such as its age and availability,

and its condition.

Rookie cards, Lane says, are always a good investment. And while Great Gretzky may be the best in the game of hockey today, his card doesn't touch a Bobby Orr or Phil Esposito, and it's not even in the same league as Lane's 1933 Eddie Shore, put out by the Indian Big League Gum company.

"That's the fun of collecting," Lane points out, adding that he spends hours organizing his personal assemblage. "But the more cards you get, the more sets you complete, the less fun it is."

Lane receives a monthly catalogue from 'Cartophilium' in Sherbrooke, Quebec, from which he can write in a bid on the latest rare old hockey cards the firm has acquired. He also attends several shows each year, often taking his 10-year-old son, Dusty, with him. Dusty, following in his father's footsteps, hordes baseball cards.

Lane usually takes about \$50 to a show to make his purchases, acknowledging that "it's only two or three times each year that you really turn up something special."



Collector Gary Lane and son, Dusty, show off their wares. (Herald photo)