

First year of junior hockey learning experience



PLAYING THE FIELD

DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

KITCHENER—Steve Marcolini and his Kitchener Rangers mates certainly have the most unenviable of tasks. The Rangers face the dismal prospect of attempting to knock off a team that set Ontario Hockey League (OHL) records for most wins and points during the regular season in their playoff round.

So far Kitchener has not found the winning formula against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, who recorded 54 wins and 109 points during the 66-game schedule. The Soo leads the eight-point

series 6-0 after a convincing 11-1 win Sunday here. The fourth game was played last night, and even if the Rangers were to win, going back to the Soo arena (where the Greyhounds have won all 35 games played there this season) is not terribly reassuring.

"Winning would be nice for the fans, and for us, but realistically going back up there with the record they've got we'd be pretty well delaying the inevitable," the Georgetown native said Sunday.

This has been Marcolini's first year of junior hockey, and although he took a regular shift in 59 of Kitchener's games this year the 17-year-old defenceman has been on the bench much of the playoffs.

"This is not my draft year, and the coach is going with players in their draft year," he said. "It's discouraging because I know I can do the job as well as the guys out there."

"You hate sitting anytime. When you see your buddies get hit it's hard because you can't do anything about it. You think things might be different if you were out there. Maybe next year

will be my year."

But Marcolini is not complaining about the year he had with the Rangers this season. He realized a pre-season goal by scoring five goals, the last one came in Kitchener's final game of the regular season against Guelph to go with his nine assists.

"Scoring isn't that important with my style of play. I'm a stay-home type of defenceman who sits back and lets the forwards do their job and put the puck in the net."

Actually Marcolini was surprised he became a Ranger. When taken in last June's draft, the Rangers had not been in contact with him. North Bay Centennials had expressed an interest, as did Guelph Platers.

North Bay was prepared to take the six-foot, 180-pound former Gemini in the third round, but Kitchener traded their third round pick to North Bay, and selected Marcolini in the fourth round.

Marcolini worked out with weights, ran, cycled and dedicated last summer to hard work for the Rangers' camp. It all paid off as when the

season began Marcolini was a regular defenceman.

"I was really nervous for camp. Actually I was sick the whole week before, which was a case of nerves. I was pretty intimidated by all the vets, but looking back I shouldn't have been because they tie up their skates just like everyone else."

Playing hockey in Kitchener meant Marcolini would be away from home for the first time. But he said he has not had a tough time adjusting.

"I'm not really homesick. You get into a different house and it isn't your mom and dad running it. There are different rules, curfews but it isn't bad because you are with the guys a lot and get to know everybody."

"Adjusting to Kitchener has been the big change for me. When I walked down the street in Georgetown I pretty well knew everyone. You walk around here and everyone is a stranger."

"But the people are great. They are hockey crazy. We had 5,800 people out to our final regular season game with Guelph."



STEVE MARCOLINI

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Game One here tomorrow night

DRG juveniles qualify for OMHA final

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
Howard Murphy kept telling James Poirier to be ready to play goal at a moment's notice. Those words turned to reality Friday night.

Georgetown's DRG Stationery juveniles defeated Riverside 3-2 here to capture the best-of-five Ontario Minor Hockey Association semi final in three games.

Poirier, a backup to regular goaltender Mike McNiven, was pressed into service by coach Murphy in the

second period with Georgetown down 2-1, when McNiven received a game misconduct. Despite not having played in either two of the previous games, Murphy was confident his other goalie could do the job.

"I kept telling him to be ready when needed," Murphy said. "I knew the kid could do it."

Friday's game was a rough one, which was no surprise to Murphy and his troops. With the Riverside team facing elimination Murphy said he expected them to be up for the game.

Georgetown was a little flat in the early going, but that was in part because of the four-hour trip the DRG team had to make in order to make it to Riverside, which is located in the Windsor area.

Also, Friday's game did not begin until 10 p.m.

Georgetown will now face Richmond Hill in the best-of-seven final. Thursday the locals host Richmond Hill in the series opener at 8:30 p.m. at the Alcott Arena. Game Two is slated

for Saturday there with Game Three returning here Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

The Georgetown squad won't be heading into this series without a little bit of insight into their opponents.

Murphy was on hand Sunday to see the Richmond Hill team qualify for the final.

"They are not as rough as Riverside, and not as big. But they are a good-skating team and play positional hockey."

"I think if we play hockey we can beat them. However, we are going to have to play hockey."

Scott Farley was the hero Friday, scoring the winner in the third period. The puck came to the point, where defenceman Ray DeSouza faked the shot and passed the puck to Farley, standing at the faceoff circle.

When he received the puck, Farley backhanded in the winning tally. Mark

Webster and Craig Robertson had the other Georgetown goals.

Murphy is also not unhappy about having left Riverside for good this season.

"I'm glad we're playing Richmond Hill because it was a tough trip there Friday night," he said. "We didn't get home until 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning."

"I think this series (the final) will be a good one. If we get the top-notch goaltending we've been getting, I feel this will be a key to the final series."

McNiven will be able to suit up for the championship series, as his game misconduct was only for Friday's game and does not include any game suspensions. Murphy also added his club is healthy.

A coin toss will decide who has the home advantage after the fourth game.



Georgetown District High School gymnast Karen Herrmann is in mid-air on her dismount from the beam. Karen was second in this event, as well as in the overall title, to teammate Gail Cook. The two were taking part in Thursday's Halton gymnastics meet held at the Georgetown gym, in the Club "B" class. See story on page C3 (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Roxy hockey team earns final berth

Steve Melykuz's goal flying from the opening faceoff, as they kept Bolton huddled in their own zone with strong forechecking in the first 10 minutes of the game.

Their persistence paid off when Keith Montgomery scored at the 15-minute mark when he poked in a Steve Boyle shot.

From that point on the game was a see-saw affair as the play moved from end to end. Goal-tender Andrew Ashburn was forced to come up with some difficult saves before the period ended, including a breakaway save.

Seven minutes into the third period Todd Fuller gave the locals a 2-0 lead as he knocked in a Mike Wilkinson rebound after Melykuz had dug the puck out of the corner. The two-goal cushion was short-lived as less than a minute later

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Bolton narrowed the gap to 2-1 as the locals were guilty of sloppy play in their own end.

Bolton continued to put the pressure on as they sought the equalizing tally. With a minute-and-a-half remaining to play, Bolton tied the score in the power play with their goaltender on the bench. With momentum in their favor, Bolton took the ensuing face-off and had the locals bottled up in their own zone for the next minute. Finally after a goal-mouth scramble Fuller was able to clear the puck to Boyle who passed it to Melykuz at centre behind the Bolton defence.

Melykuz went in all alone and beat the goalie with a low shot on his short side. Steve Boyle, who had two assists and played a strong game was voted the Georgetown MVP for the game.

Knockout punch lacking in Bruins volleyball play

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
An inability to put teams away when they had the chance hurt the Sheridan College Indies volleyball team at the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association championships last week.

The championships were held in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Sheridan lost its opening game 3-1 to Halifax's Mount St. Vincent University, but two of the Bruins' losses were by 16-14 games. In those games, Sheridan led 9-2 and 14-5.

The same problem existed in the Bruins' playoff match with Red Deer, Alberta. Trailing 2-1, Sheridan led 13-9 in the fourth game, but lost once again 16-14.

"I don't think we played as well as we did in winning the provincial championships," said Sheridan coach Grant Clatworthy. "The desire and drive to finish a team off was not there."

Clatworthy, a department head at Georgetown District High School, said maybe the awe of being involved in



GRANT CLATWORTHY

a national championship for the first time might have affected his team.

"It was a big high winning the provincial championship," he said.

"My original goal this year was to improve on last year's third place finish. I guess going to the national championships was a bonus."

The tournament was won by Sherbrooke College of Quebec, with the Red Deer team taking second. The Halifax school was third while Sheridan finished fifth overall.

Taking part in a women's volleyball championship tourna-

ment was a first for a Sheridan team, and Clatworthy, in his first year as coach, said he knows his team could compete with the other teams.

"The important thing is we found we can compete on a national level up to second," he said. "If we could land a couple of top players we could go for the whole thing."

Clatworthy conceded top spot to Quebec, who for seven of the last eight years has won the national title. The educational system in Quebec allows their athletes the benefit of playing with one another for long periods of time.

In Quebec, the children attend elementary and high school together. At Grade 11, the students are then put into community colleges.

The disadvantage facing the other community colleges is that an alarmingly high number of the good volleyball players head off to the United States to play, whereas in Quebec, the top athletes are kept in the province's school system.

New Junior "C" executive has a lot of work ahead

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
The new executive for the Acton Junior "C" hockey team has a lot of work to do, and a short time to do it in.

The executive and a board of directors for the hockey club were chosen at a meeting Thursday night at the Acton Legion. The team's top priority now will be making sure its application for entry into the Midwestern Ontario Junior "C" Zone 8 league be into the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) office before April 15.

But the executive will also be looking into whether or not it should change the team's name, and how money can be raised for the upcoming season.

For the five years the team was a member of the Central Ontario Junior "B" League, Acton was known as the Sabres. But bringing back the name Tanners has gained a lot of support from those people attending the meetings for the Junior "C" club.

However, should the name Sabres be changed, the new club would lose its incorporation and about \$900 that is in the bank in the Sabres name. Also, the Sabres' books would have to be sent to the Ontario government should the name be changed and the franchise disbanded.

The incorporation was obtained five years ago when Frank Allsop became the Junior "B" team president. The move was to prevent the new executive from being personally responsible for payment of any debts the team should run

into. When Allsop became president, Acton had a debt of \$10,000.

But that debt was paid off three years after he took over the club.

If the team name were changed, the new club would have to apply for application to the provincial government, which would cost about \$600.

Under the incorporation, the Acton team name is the Acton Junior Sabres Hockey Club, which makes no reference to Junior "B" or "C". But if that name is changed, then the incorporation becomes void and a new application is needed.

The team executive will consist of president Ed Campbell, vice-president Bruce Cargill, secretary Stu Robertson, treasurer John Rogers and general manager Elmer Dunn. Campbell said he and Cargill will consult with a lawyer to get more information on the incorporation issue.

Campbell also pointed two volunteers to contact former and potential team sponsors to get their feelings on a possible name change. Campbell will have two other board members looking into methods of raising funds for the team. All of the findings will be discussed at an April 11 meeting at the Legion Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

Former Sabres president Allsop was not named on the board, nor was he mentioned as a potential executive member. He said after the meeting he will help the club wherever he can.

"I've been involved in Acton hockey, minor right up to Junior "B" since

1972," he said. "I had an off-year this year and kind of enjoyed it."

Allsop told the meeting all of the Sabres' equipment will be given to the Junior "C" club. The sweaters won't though because they have "Junior B" on them. They will instead be given to former players and sponsors.

The Sabres folded twice last summer, the first time after a failure to generate local interest at a pair of open meetings. The executive wanted new personnel to run the team at the time.

The Acton Minor Hockey Association then took over shortly after it folded. However, the association had to cease its running of the team after a rock concert failed to generate the necessary funds for two teams planning to go to Norway in the winter.

The association couldn't devote the time it felt it should to the Sabres. So Mississauga resident and general manager Dave Innes and Cargill took over the club, and appeared to be on the way to bringing Junior "B" hockey to Acton, but about a week and a half prior to the start of the season the team folded its second and final time. A lack of local players was the reason.

Last month a meeting was called to decide just where the team would go. The options were Intermediate "C" or "B" and Junior "C". The overwhelming support came to the Junior "C" bid, and at that time a meeting was scheduled for Mar. 21 for the official handing over of the team to the Junior "C" supporters.

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