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Bad week limits upward climb

Raiders still in hunt for second



OPENING FACEOFF-Prior to Friday's Geminis-Derbies game there was an exhibition game played between former Geminis' players. The original team of '75-'76 took on a team made up of other Geminis' players up to last year. Here Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy drop the opening faceoff to Chris Milne (original Geminis, right) and Brad McMeekin (75-84 team, left).

PETROLIA-There's some good and bad news concerning the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders this week. First the bad news. The team took only one of a four possible points in the week. Tuesday Larry Power's goal won Tuesday's game for the Raiders with two seconds left to play lifted Georgetown to a 5-5 deadlock with Dundas Real McCoys in Dundas. Friday the Raiders dropped a 7-6

decision to Petrolia McDonald's Squires in Petrolia. In both games the Raiders held leads going into the final period as Tuesday the Raiders were ahead of Dundas 3-2 after two periods and Friday Georgetown had Petrolia 6-3 with 20 minutes to play. Now the good news. Even with the bad week, the Raiders find themselves but six points out of second spot and

just one point out of fourth spot. Georgetown has 31 points while Petrolia has 32 and Dundas 37. Also, the Raiders has a couple games in hand to both clubs. To date the Raiders' record stands at 15 wins against 13 losses and one tie. The Raiders have nine games remaining in their regular season.

Raiders' coach-general manager Gil Eyre said his club could have won both games. Once the game Tuesday went into overtime the Raiders dominated, outshooting the home team 14-3. Friday Eyre said the Raiders could have left Petrolia with the win had goaltender Mauro DiIollo played better.

"We should have won Friday," Eyre said. "We played well enough to win. If Mauro plays well in goal we win. That was the bottom line."

Doug Fry had two goals Friday night while Larry Power, Russ Elliott, Tom Gibson and Ron Healsip had the others. In Dundas Gibson had two goals while Power, Paul Gallagher and Graham Craig had the others.

The Raiders had a new face present in their lineup Friday night in Petrolia. Former Dundas Real McCoy Steve Hunter played and according to Eyre Hunter did well. Hunter was signed late last week.

The Raiders played again in Dundas Tuesday night. The Georgetown team returns home Friday when Collingwood Shipbuilders come to town for the fourth annual Price Beaters Night contest.

NOTES-Raiders' goalie Dave Tataryn wasn't in uniform for Friday's game. He was playing with the National Hockey League Oldtimers..... Defenceman Joe Panicia has about three games left to serve in his 10-game suspension. He's on an affiliate card and is serving the suspension with Elora Rocks

New goalie in camp

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders could have a pair of all-star goalies in their lineup before too long.

Former Cambridge Hornet goalie Terry Thompson was out Monday night for a skate at the Raiders' practice. Although he didn't sign Raiders officials are confident Thompson will be a team member before too long.

"With him being available you've got to go after the best you can get," Eyre said. "He didn't look too bad (in practice) I thought."

Thompson was released from Cambridge recently after the team signed former pro goalie Mike Blake. Thompson wouldn't say Monday if he would be signing with the Raiders soon.

"I'm holding judgement," he said. "I want to come out, go for a skate, find out more about the organization then take it from there. I've got some serious thinking to do."

Thompson said in December he told the Hornets his work schedule would result in his missing some games. He also told the team he wouldn't be able to handle the entire goaltending chores like he did last year when Doug Chessel went to the International league. Even when Cambridge signed Blake, Thompson said he was ready to live with three goalies. His work schedule has improved he said.

Raiders' goalie Dave Tataryn said signing Thompson would be a good move.

"If Terry and Mauro can stay as a package deal then you've got a strong organization for the future," he said. "This would be one of the biggest pluses this organization has got."

Tataryn also said explaining the situation to DiIollo and making him feel wanted would be crucial.

"Mauro has been too sincere and has gone through too much turmoil and should be their first person told of the situation," he said. "It's important he feel wanted."

The Raiders signed Mike Gerrie, a centre from St. Lawrence University Monday night.

Derbies put damper on Geminis' party

Saturday the Georgetown Geminis were celebrating their 10th anniversary in the Central Ontario Junior "B" League. An ideal present on the night would have been a win over league leading Streetsville.

However, the Derbies played the role of party spoiler as Streetsville defeated the Geminis 13-7 at the Alcott Arena. However, they had to score seven goals in the final period in order to emerge with the win.



GEORGE OSBORNE
 ROD MCCLURE

The two teams went into the final period tied 6-6, and with four minutes left to play the Derbies led 8-6. However, Georgetown netminder Mike McNiven was injured when he took a hard shot on his shoulder and left the game. Geminis' coach Jules Russiani had to insert James Poirier into the game, and Streetsville scored five times in the last four minutes to get the win.

Russiani said Poirier was put into a difficult situation, and defended the young goaltender.

"You can't blame him," Russiani said. "Young Poirier hasn't had much playing time."

Earlier in the week the Geminis hosted Mimico Tuesday night. Without five regulars who were out due to injuries or suspension, Russiani said he just didn't have the numbers. Subsequently Mimico skated off with a 7-4 win.

The story was pretty much the same Thursday in Barrie. Brian Demone was back in the lineup after serving a two-game suspension, but was slapped with a spearing call that could net him another five game suspension. Also, Chris Caponi had to leave the game early as a result of a groin pull. The Colts scored six times in two periods and recorded an 8-5 win, although the Geminis outscored the Colts 3-2 in the final frame.

The week's action gives the Geminis a record of 12-25-8 with just three games left in the regular schedule. Tuesday Georgetown hosted Mimico, then plays host Saturday to Vaughn. Tuesday Georgetown finishes its season on the road.

Brad Demone had two goals for the Geminis against Mimico while Brian Stone and Craig Shaw had singles. In Barrie Greg Robertson had two goals while Brian Demone, Todd Cull and Brad Demone had singles. Wayne Morrow made a triumphant return Saturday, notching three goals and an assist. Rick Floto, Don Zubyk, Darrin Shaw and Terry Elwood had singles.

After the regular season ends, the top four clubs will pick their first round opponents for the playoffs. Russiani figures Streetsville will take Georgetown, and if so expects a good series.

"If Streetsville does pick us we know what we'll have to do," Russiani said. "They've got three or four kids you've got to worry about because they can blow you out of a game."

Russiani said his club is gearing up for the playoffs, and said having most of his regulars back will be important. George Osborne (sore ribs) played Tuesday and Rod McClure (ankle), Ray DeSouza (thumb) and Demone will be back in time for or shortly after the playoffs start.

"I thought we had good momentum in latter December and January," Russiani said. "If we can keep our spirit into the playoffs we'll be alright."



HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES-Geminis' player Craig Shaw (6) beats Mimico goalie Del Gosse (29) here in the third period of Tuesday's game. Mimico won 7-4, in a game played at the Alcott Arena. The Geminis also played Barrie and Streetsville this week and have three games before the playoffs start. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

GBA decides against fielding team

Eagles won't fly this year

The Georgetown Baseball Association (GBA) has decided against fielding a Junior Eagles team this season due to a lack of qualified personnel applying for the squad's vacant coaching position.

GBA president Rich Lorito said Monday the executive was hoping to have four committed individuals get involved in the coaching and running of the team. But when only one person indicated an interest, the decision was made at an executive meeting Sunday to not field a team in the Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) loop this year.

"You need one good coach who knows his baseball and three highly qualified individuals to run it," he said. "The person who was interested said he had three others interested, but they were staggered commitments."

Yet Lorito didn't close the door completely on the club playing this year.

"We'll wait for Saturday's registration day," he said. "But we've

made the decision that there'll be no Eagles this year unless something comes out of the blue."

Should there not be an Eagles club this year, that doesn't mean the GBA will forget about the club entirely. Lorito said the executive has decided to call all the Georgetown rep teams by the Eagles' name. Also, new uniforms will be used by the teams with green and white colors with a touch of gold.

"We like the name Eagles and are proud of what they've done," Lorito said. "We'll try to interpret the concept of stepping up."

Another pressing issue for the executive is the finding of coaches for the rep teams. So far only one person has formally applied for a team.

Lorito is hoping that situation will be rectified this weekend at the GBA's rep registration session. Interested individuals are asked to come to Holy Cross School Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to either register youngsters interested in playing ball or talking about applying for a coach-manager position.

Lorito said it's imperative the Association know how many rep teams it will field this year. Lorito said COBA wants to know what centres will be competing in its Association this year and the deadline is around the third week of this month. Cost for registration will be \$40 per player or \$80 per family. If a youngster makes the tryouts and will be a regular member of any rep team, there will be an extra \$75 fee added.

House League registration will be held Feb. 22 also at Holy Cross from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, there will be sessions held at the Recreation Department's Open House at Georgetown District High School during open house hours. The final registration will be March 22 also at Holy Cross and there will be a \$10 late fee charged. The session will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NOTES-The GBA will again be running its annual pee wee rep tournament June 20-22 at the Fairgrounds. Jack Lee is the tourney director.

Playing The Field

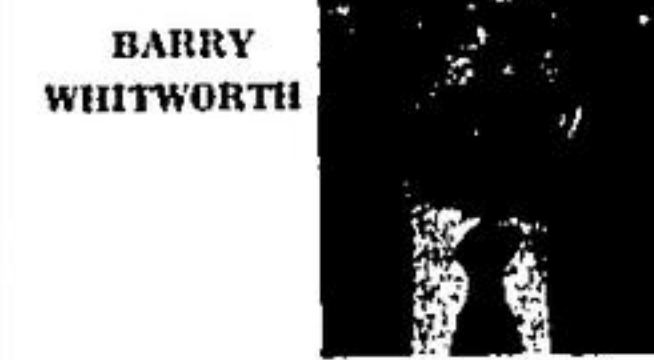
By Dan Ralph
 Herald Sports Editor

Contest is more than just a game

When Collingwood Shipbuilders come to town Friday, their contest with Georgetown Chrysler Raiders will be more than just another game. To the winner go the bragging rights for the upcoming summer.

Friday's contest is the fifth annual Price Beaters Night. On this night Raiders' sponsor and vice-president of hockey operations Barry Whitworth assumes coaching duties against longtime friend and rival Darryl Sly (who coaches the Shipbuilders). Whitworth began coaching in the game four years ago, and to date has a 4-0 record.

Losing the game isn't enough for Sly. You see, he is in the car dealing business like Whitworth. Whitworth spends a lot of time with Sly in the summer months, both on business and at Whitworth's cottage in the Collingwood area. Every now and then Whitworth sort of brings back memories of the Price Beater Night victories.



However, should the Raiders ever lose to the Shipbuilders on such a night, the fans present will get free tickets to any remaining regular season Raider game. Whitworth then pays for the tickets himself.

When talking to Sly about the game, it becomes evident this is more than an average game.

"We always like to beat him. I don't think we've ever won a game. Well, this is going to be his first loss," Sly said.

"He's always crowing about winning. If we lose (this year) I'll burn his house (cottage) down," Sly added.

Whitworth, on the other hand, won't say anything about the upcoming game.

"I don't want to give him the edge," Whitworth said. "Most of his players know me and he'd go in there and incite those guys into a riot. I'll get him when he goes on the ice or something."

Not only is the game important to Whitworth's coaching record, but two points now is valuable to the Raiders' hockey team.

"It is an important game for us," Whitworth said. "We want to take a run at second place and we're eight points out."

Whitworth too made a statement that shows the contest to be more than just a game.

"We've been friends for a long time, and do you think he wants a friend to beat him?" Whitworth said.

Both men are happy with the play of their clubs recently. Sly's troops defeated Cambridge 6-1 Jan. 24, and the coach said it could easily have been 10-1. Whitworth commented the Raiders this year are as close a group that he's seen in a long while.

But Sly has some advice for his coaching rival Friday.

"Tell the Bear to be ready," Sly said. "Tell him to (be ready to) hibernate."

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