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Raiders taking one year leave

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders have decided to take a one year leave of absence from the Ontario Senior "A" Hockey League.

The decision was made at an executive meeting Apr. 28 when president Finn Poulstrup presented a resolution outlining the move. Poulstrup and the Raiders later notified the OHA by virtue of sending a letter over the weekend.

Poulstrup said Thursday there were two reasons for the decision. He said an inability to double the size of the present executive and poor fan support in the three years the Raiders have been in Senior hockey contributed.

"But the will of the executive was the key," Poulstrup said. "If we had 20 executive members we'd have gone and played a heck of a season. But if the will isn't there then we can't do it."

"I'm disappointed but I think the last home game of the year (Game Three of playoff with Dundas played here) was the body blow that rocked the Raider executive. It was late in the first period and the executive was finishing up the jobs it does during a hockey game. We heard a roar from the crowd and thought we (Georgetown) had scored."

"We went out to look and saw that Dundas had scored.

When we scored it was like we were playing in an away barn. When we get more people from Dundas coming out we've got to question what we're doing."

But Poulstrup doesn't fault the fans for not coming out. "We just didn't provide the entertainment they wanted," he said. "It's like if someone buys a hamburger and doesn't like it he won't go back for another. No, I don't fault the fans at all."

Poulstrup said a Senior "A" franchise operates on a budget in excess of \$100,000 annually. Of that, the club hopes to raise half the money it needs through fundraising while getting the other half through the gate. But the Raiders have had to generate about 80 per cent of its budget through fundraising measures while having the gate provide the other 20 per cent.

"It costs you \$1,000 a game to lose in this league and \$1,500 to win," Poulstrup said. "If we had 100 more people out to the games that would mean about \$500 extra each game. That's a lot of money."

"You need 400 to 500 people in the building all the time," Poulstrup continued. "Ideally your fundraising pays for your away games while your home gate pays for itself. If we had 400 to 500 people in the building we would be in terrific shape."

While the Raiders won't ice a team this season the present executive will continue to work on projects aimed at allowing the club to pay off current financial obligations

and eventually result in the team having \$20,000 for start-up costs. The Raiders will also send representatives to Senior league meetings throughout the winter.

The Raiders' carded players, though, will become free agents and can play with either one of the four remaining hockey teams in the Senior circuit.

"If we're going to get back into it why should we be at the disadvantage of not knowing what has gone on in the last 12 months," Poulstrup said.

But Poulstrup too said maybe the Raiders will look at competing at a lower division (like Intermediate "B") so as to give the team more of a local flavor. Throughout the past season many fans said the lack of local talent was a reason why they didn't come out to watch the Raiders play.

"Maybe the thing to do is get into a calibre of play where over-age Junior B players (in Georgetown) have a place to go up to," Poulstrup said. "What you would have in say seven years would be one heck of a hockey club and it would be all local. Maybe we'd have something the people would care about again."

"But if we're not getting the people at the gate to float (a Senior) club competitively then I think we don't have a mandate from the public to continue a team. We'll sit back for a year and see what happens."

"Maybe that will generate some interest," Poulstrup said.



Finn Poulstrup

"It's ironic that the league was concerned about us last year and changed their import rule," Poulstrup added. "We (Georgetown) were the ones they were so concerned about and now we can't afford to compete."

For more stories on Raiders' decision see page B5

I-C ball loop set for start

The Inter-County men's Fastball League is once again set to go for another season.

However, in 1986 there will be but five teams competing. Last year there were eight as during the off season Erin, Hillsburgh and Guelph said they wouldn't be back for league competition. That leaves Glen Williams, Acton, Hornby, Rockwood and Orangeville in this year's league, which officially opens next week.

With three area teams involved, here's a brief look at the Glen Williams, Acton and Hornby ball teams.

GLEN WILLIAMS

The defending league champs will have one major change this year. Bob Davidson has assumed coaching duties, replacing long-time manager Ted Wilkes, who officially retired in the off season. However, Davidson will have many of last year's veterans returning.

Anchoring the pitching corps will be Moe Curtis and Gary Halls. Mark Curtis has gone to Burlington of the Ontario Fastball League, but Davidson is looking at a pair of new faces currently and figures his pitching will be the least of his concerns.

Also returning for the Specters are veterans Glen Fendley, Andy Broadbent, Mickey Dewes, Brian Peavoy, and Dave Doucette.

If Davidson has a concern, he said it will be at shortstop.

"I think that may be a problem for

us which we will have to rectify," Davidson said.

As for other concerns, Davidson is pleased with other aspects of this year's Glen Williams Specters, who open in Orangeville May 15 and host Acton May 20.

"It will be tough to do what they did last year," he said. "He (Ted Wilkes) did a good job last year and it won't be easy. But if it was easy then it wouldn't be any fun."

ACTON

Last year was the A's first year in the Inter-County league, and they ended up in first place after defeating Glen Williams in a playoff when both teams finished tied at 20-8. In the playoffs the A's swept Fergus, but were swept in the finals by the Specters.

In the off season coach Steve Marshall has added five players while losing but two from last year's team. The additions leave Marshall cautiously optimistic.

"I think we improved ourselves," he said. "But if we were able to improve ourselves then the other teams in the league were able to do so too."

New faces in the lineup include short stop Rick Greenly (played with Acton when won Ontario Jr. "C" crown), Paul MacDonald and Gerry Quarrie (pitcher and first base respectively played with Guelph team that went to Canadian Trials, finals last year). Greg Volson (catcher with Guelph Ingrams of OFL last year) and Mark Hurdle (pitched Guelph Ingrams two years ago and Streetsville Merchants last year).

If the additions weren't enough, Marshall learned that pitcher Jim Schnurr has added about 40 pounds to his 6'2" frame this year. Last year Schnurr played at 130 pounds, but at 18 has gotten bigger. However, Schnurr is playing with an Intermediate and Junior team in Kitchener, so he'll pitch for the A's about mid-season. Acton opens against Rockwood in Acton Monday and is in Hornby Tuesday.

"We're still a young team," Marshall said. "I think we have the tools to be a good ball club, but we still have to mature."

HORNBY

Hornby ReMax will start the season without a coach, but the team hopes to get one once action starts.

Hornby will have returning pitchers Don Martin and Al Few back, with first-year player Tim Larmer making his debut. Also returning are second basemen Russ Price, catcher Tom Marchment, right-fielder/catcher Larry Withnell.

Last year Hornby finished in a tie for third spot with Orangeville as both had identical 15-13 records. In the first round of the playoffs Glen Williams defeated Hornby. The ReMax team starts its season Tuesday in Acton.



He shoots he.....

The Georgetown Ball Hockey Association officially kicked off its season last week. In this game Little Traller World's Shawn Coffey (left) flips a shot at O'Tool's goalie Mike Russell as teammate Mike Green

attempts to block the shot. Coffey might not have scored on this shot, but his team managed to win this game 10-2. See story on page B2. (Herald photo)

Dinners have importance

MARKHAM-During a pro athlete's career, it's inevitable strong friendships and memorable occasions will arise. For many months of the year the players spend a lot of time with one another, and during the course of a season bonds are formed.

But when retirement occurs the player is no longer an active member of that close athletic group. He is now forced to get involved in the work force, and the time normally spent with hockey mates is no longer available.

It's for that reason the National Hockey League Oldtimers get together each year at the annual dinner held at the Markham Firefighters Hall. The purpose is to have old friends share stories and briefly experience that feeling of closeness which was a part of their careers.

"This is the best thing that could have happened," commented Georgetown's Bob Goldham, who was the Master of Ceremonies for this year's dinner held Friday night. "It's important that the guys who went through a lot with one another get a chance to get together, even if it's just to say hi."

"There are a lot of times when you don't even have to say anything. You just shake their hands and put your arm around



Playing The Field

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

their shoulder. That's all."

Goldham's hockey career began in the 1940s with Toronto Maple Leafs. He was traded to Chicago, then Detroit where the local blueliner finished out his career.

Each year, though, there are two or three members of this hockey fraternity who don't make it to the next dinner. For those remaining players, Goldham says that makes them appreciate the dinner even more.

"You always feel bad," he said. "It doesn't matter if you knew the guy or not. It makes you happy that you're well."

"You see guys here like Punch Imlach. This is one of the few things you see him at. It's a funny type of bond that's hard to describe. It is a sinking fraternity," Goldham said.

"We talk about the good times, you remember a dumb thing you did once," Goldham continued. "Even in the bad times you can

find something funny in them."

Goldham feels that getting together once in a while is best. More often wouldn't prove to be as beneficial.

"You can overdo it," he said. "It's important to keep in touch with and keep tabs on them (hockey friends). But I'd hate to see it be overdone and eventually start to lose its magic. This is good."

NOTES-Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council was to have made a presentation to Brian McFarlane at Friday's dinner but he had to skip the dinner due to the National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoffs. The presentation will be made May 27 in Oshawa. Hockey greats Bobby Orr and Harry Sinden will be among the 31 people inducted to the Oshawa Hall of Fame at a dinner being held May 31 at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium. There will be a dinner held either Sept. 12 or 19 to honor former Globe and Mail Sports Editor Jim Vipond. The proceeds will be donated to a trust fund that will help pay for Vipond's care. Vipond is in Penetang and currently has Alzheimer's Disease. Former Ontario politician Frank Drea made the announcement at Friday's dinner.

Sabres will be icing team

ACTON-Acton will have a team competing in the Mid-Ontario Junior "C" Hockey League this season.

That decision was made Thursday at the team's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. The meeting was held at the Acton Legion.

The meeting, which was originally postponed three weeks ago due to poor attendance, had 16 individuals turn out. The consensus of those people was to compete in the 86-87 season.

This year's Sabres executive will remain pretty much intact from that of last year. Ed Thomson will be president while Bruce Cargill too returns for his second year as vice-president. Diane Thomson will replace John Rogers as team treasurer while Elmer Dunn will again be the club's general manager. The secretary position remains unfilled.

The Sabres managed to add a pair of new directors, giving the team about 10. Ideally, the team would like somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-20.

"The reason being if we get a lot of people to help then they all can do a little rather than having a small number do a lot," said meeting chairman Dunn, as president Thomson and VP Cargill were absent for business reasons. "We want to try and fill the arena this year. If we can then we'll be self-supporting."

"We weren't that far from it last year but it was the same group that did everything," Dunn continued. "It makes a difference."

Dunn and those present tentatively scheduled the next meeting for May 27 at the Acton Legion starting at 7:30 p.m. Dunn said it's important the hockey team start setting its course for the 86-87 season at that time.

"We've got to get going for next year. We've got to map out what we want to do and how we'll do it," Dunn said. "Everything should run a lot smoother this year because we know what to expect."

"It (Jr. "C" hockey) had everything you'd ever want last year, but we just didn't get the people out," Dunn continued. "I'd rather have someone pay to see a game than sell a raffle ticket to him. This way he gets something out of it."

The club too will try and pay an outstanding bank loan of \$700 before the start of the year. However, the Sabres have \$575 left to be paid in overdue ad revenue.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mayor's Race

Registration is now being accepted for the Mayor's 8th Annual Road Race on Sunday, June 8, 1986. Entry forms can be picked up at either Recreation Office - 25 James Street, Georgetown or 40 Mill Street East, Acton and at North Halton Sports in Acton and Georgetown. Call 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

Swim times

The Recreation and Parks Department offers adult daytime swims at the Georgetown Indoor Pool: May 6, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Pre-schoolers and parents are welcome to join the adults during the Tuesday swim.

Ball hockey

The Recreational "Over 30 plus 30 Over" Ball Hockey League is still looking for extra players to help fill out our six team rosters. This Non-Contact league plays Tuesday evenings between 7 and 10 p.m. with all teams making the playoffs.

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