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Potential wins eluding Georgetown club

**Gems unable to hold leads**

By DAN RALPH  
 Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Gemini are fast becoming their own worst enemy early in the Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League season.

For the third time in four games Georgetown saw potential victory become nothing more than yet another tough defeat the result of not being able to hold on to a lead. The latest scenario was enacted Saturday night at the Alcott Arena when Georgetown blew a 3-0 lead in dropping a 4-3 decision to Milton Merchants. Not only was the close defeat a hard one for Gemini to take, but Milton notched the winning tally with just one second left to play in the game.

The night before in Oakville the story was much the same. Georgetown held a 3-1 advantage over the hometown Blades with 12 minutes left to play when the roof began to cave in. Once the smoke (in this case it was fog) had cleared

Oakville had scored four goals to pocket the 5-3 win. The other occasion where defeat was snatched from the jaws of potential victory was in Georgetown's season opener two weeks ago at the Alcott Arena. Gemini led Burlington Cougars 3-1 early in the second period before the visitors left Georgetown with a 4-3 win. To date Georgetown's record is 1-3.

In all three losses Georgetown was in command of the game and deserved the lead. But once a good lead was attained, the Gemini players sat back and allowed their opponents to dictate the play and thus make a concerted effort at making comebacks. Nowhere was this fact more evident than in Saturday's contest where Georgetown allowed Milton defenceman Robin Rossette (who appeared out of shape) become a dominant factor, mainly through trying to stick-check Rossette instead of playing the body on him.

It's unlikely anyone was more

disappointed with Saturday's loss than Gemini assistant general manager Jules Russiani. After the contest Russiani made it a point to inform his troops of the disappointment by holding a closed door meeting in the Gemini dressing room.

"I told a few of the kids I wasn't too happy with their play and I told the team as a whole I wasn't happy," Russiani said. "Saturday was a complete and total lack of effort. This game is won on heart, guts and desire and that is what is hurting this team. When you should be 4-0 and you are 1-3, it's crazy."

Georgetown can't blame the losses on the play of their goaltenders this season. Mike McNiven has been quite solid between the pipes, as has Dan Halliburton. Halliburton played the better part of two-and-a-half periods in Oakville after starter McNiven caught a shot in the jaw. Russiani said Halliburton performed well despite losing two long shots in the fog in the final period.

Russiani added if Georgetown's future fortunes continue to decline in a similar fashion, changes may be in the works.

"If they (players) don't produce they will sit the bench or be out the door," Russiani said.

Wally Petrie had two goals for Georgetown Saturday while Joe Washkurak had the other. Steve Scannell had two goals for Milton, including the winner. Paul Romain and an unidentified player had the other Milton tallies. Friday night in Oakville Petrie, Jim McCabe and Todd Cull had the goals.

Saturday also marked the return of a pair of former Georgetown

Chrysler Raiders. Gerry Inglis (coach of Intermediate "A" and Senior "A" teams) and Ron Twiss (Raiders' player) are coaching the new Milton franchise, which assumed the Merchants name this summer after having been sold. Inglis, who is the head coach, said it will take another few wins before his club gets that winning feeling.

"I think it will because of last year (Milton won five games last season)," Inglis said. "What I like is these kids have been fantastic. We've gotten away from the swearing on the bench, and these kids want to learn and play."

Inglis said there wasn't more meaning for this game because it was against Georgetown. For Inglis, a win is a win.

"I like Georgetown, but I'll beat them if I can," he said.

Like Georgetown, Milton has had some hard luck early this season. Merchants lost 2-5 to Oakville to open the year, but the two teams were tied 2-2 late in the game. Friday night Milton overcame a 6-1 verdict against Burlington Cougars to notch a 6-6 tie. But Burlington won the contest 7-6 on a very bad goal late in the final period. With four imports cards remaining, Inglis said it might be tough to make player decisions because he feels his club is playing well now.

This weekend will feature a pair of home games for the Georgetown club. Friday night Mimico is in town while the undefeated Barrie Colts arrive here Saturday night.

Splish splash



This Georgetown District High School girls field hockey player shows what can happen in this sequence of photos when a field is as wet as the Georgetown field was last week due to all the rain this area had recently. First of all the footing is quite bad and subsequently a lot of slipping can occur (above). Then comes the wet realization of the situation upon impact (middle) then of course that funny feeling that results once the whole incident is over (bottom). Georgetown won this game over Bishop Reding 3-0, and tied White Oaks 1-1 earlier for a 2-1-2 record so far this season. (Herald photos by Dan Ralph)

**Jr. Rebels finally going to play football**

Georgetown District High School's junior football team will finally open its season today after having to wait almost two weeks to do so.

Georgetown was to have opened the year Sept. 24 when the Rebels hosted E.C. Drury. However a change in the days on which Tier II teams (like Georgetown) play forced the Rebels to scrap plans for the Perdue opener.

Prior to the start of the season it was decided Tier II teams would play their games each Thursday while the Tier I clubs would in turn hit the grid iron the day before. In years gone by the situation had been reversed, but this year it was changed in an attempt to give Tier II schools a chance at playing a day later. Thursday is seen as a better day for both obtaining officials and giving coaches an extra day for game preparation.

The week before Georgetown was to begin play, Rebels' coach Rick Redshaw received a letter saying Tier I schools would now be playing their games on Thursday, and Tier II teams would have to re-schedule their games for Wednesday. No official reason was given for the move other than the letter saying it was decided upon. As to who decided the change, again that wasn't mentioned in the letter.

The change presented a problem for Rebel officials. Their first game couldn't be re-scheduled as last Wednesday the Georgetown field hockey team had made prior arrangements for a league game with Bishop Reding. Also, the game couldn't be played at E.C. Drury's field because it was literally under water. The end result was the game was postponed indefinitely and Georgetown will host Aldershot today. The contest with E.C. Drury will be played when a convenient date can be arranged.

The two-tier system is set up to put teams of equal ability together and prevent mis-matches ultimately. Each year the top Tier II club is moved up to Tier I while the bottom Tier I team is moved to Tier II.

Redshaw isn't pleased with all the delays his team has had to work around. In addition, it appears re-scheduling of the missed games will be up to the coaches involved and not the league convenor.

Redshaw is also of the opinion this present move could have a negative impact on Tier II football in Halton. If the lower league is continually given second and third-best alternatives, those involved will eventually pull out of coaching and playing.

"If we're going to develop football in Halton and the lower ones are always getting dumped on we will lose football," Redshaw said. "Our kids changed hockey practice times and work days to comply with the Thursday setup."

Redshaw said he would like to see one person oversee the operation of football in Halton. This person would be employed fulltime and would ultimately prevent such a late scheduling change to occur.

The schedule change too will provide a few problems for the Rebels other than players leaving. The

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KEEPING ONE'S CONCENTRATION-A Rebel player here fixes his attention on the football that's coming his way during practice last week. After a couple of weeks of delays the Rebels will play their first game of the season today hosting Aldershot. The delay came in a last-minute changing of the schedule. (Herald photo)

**Hopkins runs well at ETSU**

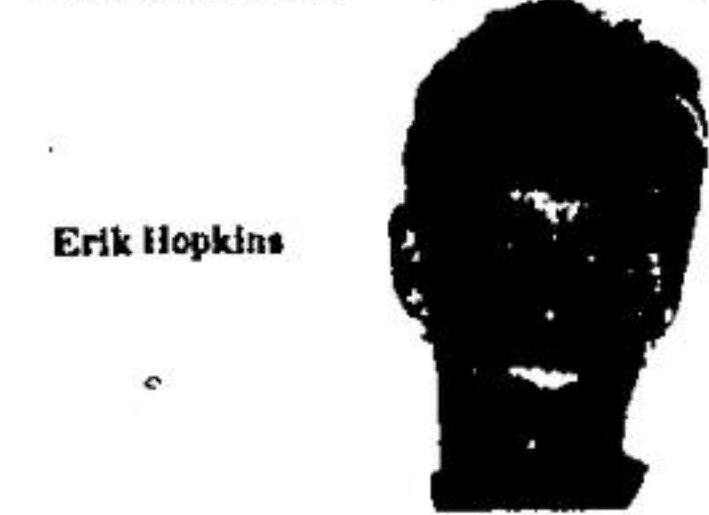
Herald Special

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE—Dave Walker, coach of East Tennessee State University's cross country team, is facing a season as defending Southern Conference champs with an almost completely new team.

Only three members of last year's championship squad return for competition this season.

"It's up to the new kids on the block to take over," Walker said recently.

One of Walker's "new kids" is freshman runner Erik Hopkins of Georgetown. Walker said it will be between Hopkins and Ray Jones from Dublin, Ireland as to who will assume the second and third positions on the team.



The official season opened Sept. 20 in Lexington, Kentucky where Hopkins was ETSU's second finisher in the eight kilometre course. He placed 39th in a field of over 200 runners.

The next week at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Invitational Hopkins was once again ETSU's second finisher with a seventh-place effort in a field of approximately 174 runners.

"Eighty per cent of the runners I now compete against are on scholarship so it's like running OFSAA (Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association provincial championships) every weekend," Hopkins commented. Hopkins also ran in the Clemson Invitation which was held Saturday in South Carolina.

Hopkins, who was Georgetown District High School Rebels' top senior boys cross country and track athlete, is currently on full scholarship at East Tennessee State University.



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