

GEMINI GEMIS

It's a tired and overworked cliché, but somehow, this time of year, it always seems to be appropriate: "The playoffs are the start of a whole new season..."

And so it has been, and is now for the Georgetown Gemini as they attempt to "boldly go where no Gemini team has gone before."

The Gems are currently enmeshed in a quarter final playoff struggle with the Vaughan Raiders, as the first step in their attempt to claim a Central Junior B hockey league championship.

If they should accomplish the task - and a difficult one it will be - it will mark the first time in the Gemini's 11-year history they have been able to advance past Central loop play.

In the 11 years of their existence, the Georgetown organization has had more than its share of ups and downs.

In their inaugural season, there was great cause for optimism to surround the newly-formed Georgetown Gemini.

Despite being a new entry, the Gems finished a phenomenal third in the Central league with a record of 19 wins, 14 losses, and three ties for 41 points.

In the opening round of the playoffs they upset Dixie, but then lost in a double round-robin series with Streetsville and Brampton, held to determine the league finalists.

Not bad for a new club.

The Gems continued to hold a certain degree of respectability the subsequent two seasons, finishing fifth in 1976-77 and sixth in 1977-78. However, they were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs both years.

From there, things started to go somewhat downhill.

In 1978-79, the same season the Streetsville Derbies went on to win the Sutherland Cup, the Gems finished a miserable 12th and missed the playoffs.



The Georgetown Gemini are no strangers to playoff hockey, having made it to post-season play seven times in their 11 seasons. But this year, despite a strong finish in regular season play, they are struggling against the Vaughan Raiders in a best-of-seven quarterfinal series.

dropping the first two games of the set. Here, Mike McIven of the Gems goes down to another loose puck in front of his net during action Sunday in Vaughan. (Herald photo)

The following season they were seventh and made a token appearance against Burlington before being ousted four games to two.

In the 1980-81 season they were 10th, and the following season they

were ninth, missing the playoffs both years. The following season, hard as it may be to believe, the Gemini came the closest they ever have to winning the league title, under the coaching of Jules Russiani. What was surprising about it was

the fact that they finished seventh in the regular schedule. The upstart Gems had a record of 10 wins, 26 losses and six ties heading into post season play, but beat Oakville and then the Burlington Cougars, before finally bowing to Streetsville in the finals.

In the 1983-84 season, the Gemini finished a healthy fourth but were dispersed in the quarter-finals by Mimico.

In the 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons, the Georgetown squad made the playoffs but were eliminated in the first round both years.

All of which brings us up to the present day.

This year, the Gemini finished the regular schedule with a record of 19 wins, 15 losses and six ties, good for 41 points and fourth place in the eight-team loop.

That could be termed respectable. However, anyone who was of the betting persuasion may want to take into account the team's record over the last half of the season before placing any wagers.

After reaching the midway point of the season, the Gems had a record of seven wins, 12 losses and two ties. Since that point they rolled to 12 wins, just three losses, and four ties.

But there's more... Two of the Gems' losses in the second half of the season came on the last weekend of regular season play.

On Feb. 13, Georgetown lost to Oakville 6-3 in a game that ultimately had no bearing on the final standings.

The following night they lost to Burlington 8-3 in what was, in the true sense of the word, a "nothing game".

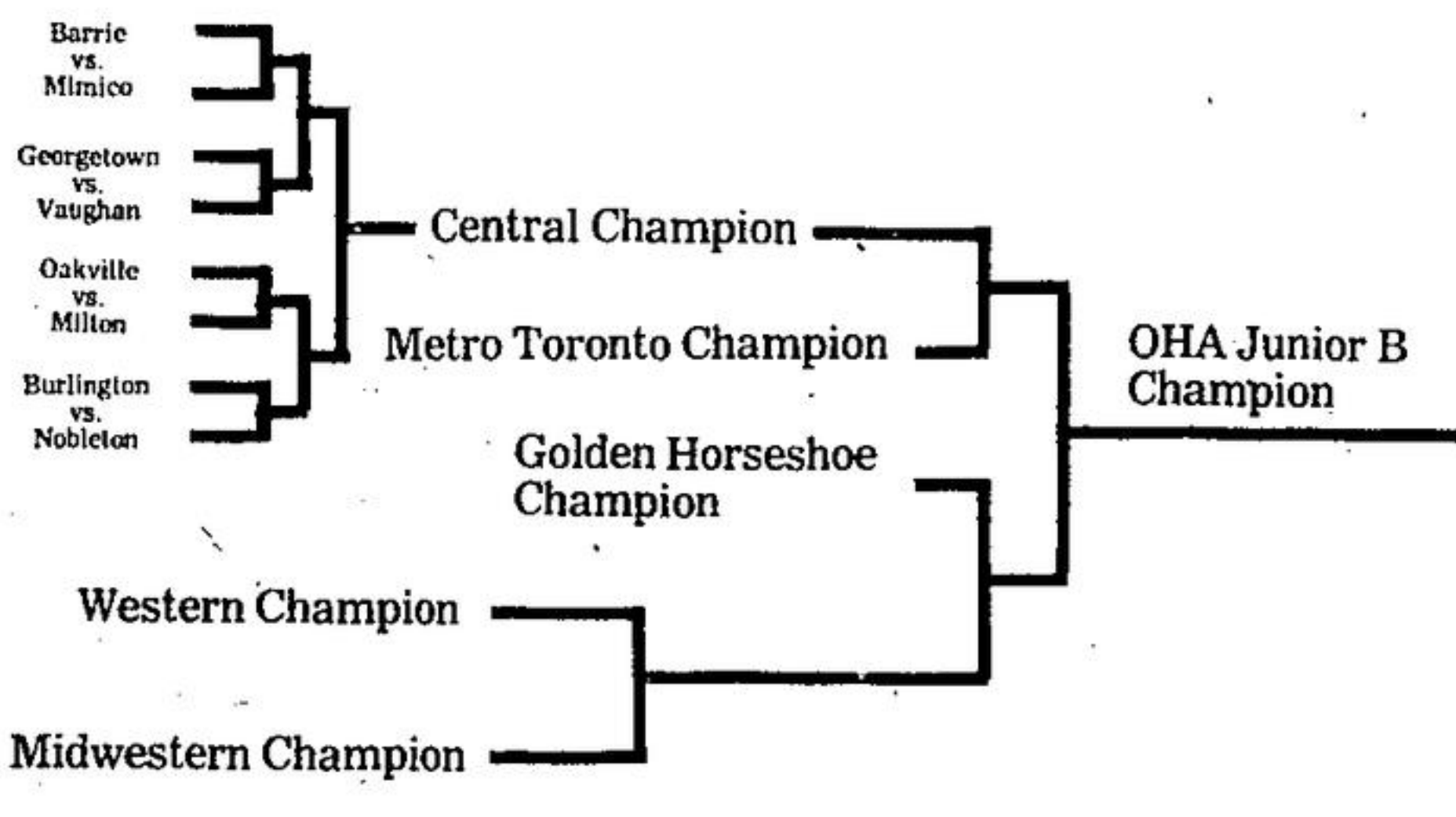
Anyone wanting to take a scientific approach to predicting the fortunes of the Georgetown Gemini in this year's post-season play would certainly want to keep that in mind when coming up with a projection.

On the other hand, however, one wouldn't want to forget the 1983-84 season, when a fourth place regular season finish meant nothing after the Gems were put out in the first round.

Only time will tell if the Gemini's strong finish in the regular schedule can be parlayed into their first-ever league championship.

After all, the playoffs are indeed the start of a whole new season.

The road to the Sutherland Cup



Petrie earns honor as High Life Player

Wally Petrie has been named the winner of the Carling O'Keefe Miller High Life Player of the Year Award.

The Georgetown Gemini winger accumulated a total of 20 points over the season, based on three-star selections conducted after each regular home season game.

Team captain Wayne Morrow was in second with 17 points while Rod McClure was third with 16.

Bill Hawkins, who chaired the committee for the award program made the announcement last week after final tallies were totalled.

In the balloting for Player of the Month honors throughout the season, McClure was the winner for

the month of November, and shared the award jointly with Morrow for the month of December. Petrie was the winner for January, while Warren Hart won the honor for February.

Petrie will be presented with the Miller High Life Award at the team's end-of-season banquet.



Wally Petrie

CENTRAL ONTARIO JUNIOR B QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS (Best-of-seven series)			
Barrie	vs.	Mimico	3-0
Game 4: Wednesday (today) at Mimico 8 p.m.			
Oakville	vs.	Milton	3-1
Game 4: Tuesday (yesterday) at Milton			
Burlington	vs.	Nobleton	3-1
Game 5: Friday, at Oakville 8 p.m.			
Burlington	vs.	Nobleton	3-1
Game 6: Thursday (yesterday) at Burlington			
Georgetown	vs.	Vaughan	3-0
Game 5: Friday at Burlington, 8 p.m.			
Vaughan	vs.	Georgetown	3-0
Game 6: Thursday (yesterday) at Georgetown			
Vaughan	vs.	Georgetown	3-0
Game 7: Tuesday at Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.*			
Georgetown	vs.	Vaughan	3-0
Game 8: Saturday at Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.*			
Georgetown	vs.	Vaughan	3-0
Game 9: Sunday at Vaughan, 8 p.m.*			
Georgetown	vs.	Vaughan	3-0
Game 10: Tuesday at Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.*			
(* if necessary)			