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Sturgeon ponders defensive woes

Time for Gems to get 'ugly in our end'

Georgetown Gemini coach Peter Sturgeon now has a clear goal in mind if his team is to turn its fortunes around this year.

The defensive unit must shut down the opponents attack.

The Gems scored 19 goals in three games this week but couldn't salvage a point from the three contests.

On Saturday at Gordon Alcott Arena the Gems stayed with Burlington Cougars for two periods before finally coming out on the short end of an 11-8 decision.

The previous night's action saw the Gems drop a 10-6 decision to Aurora at Alcott.

The Juniors also saw the Streetsville Derbys score eight times in Streetsville on Oct. 20 en route to an 8-5 victory.

The Gemini now have only two wins this season against nine losses and one draw.

Sturgeon offered no excuses for Saturday's loss but he made it clear where the team has to improve.

"We've got to get ugly in our end," he said.

Sturgeon is happy with the Gems' offensive showing this year but he wants his defencemen to take the body more in their own end.

"We've got to get some of the younger guys being responsible for themselves," he said of the young defensive squad.

"We're hurting in our end, there's no doubt about it," he said.

But the Gems' coach does see some promise, once the team gets more experienced.

"We've got the size to play with the other crews" he said.

"(There's) nothing that bad (that) work won't make up for."

Sturgeon doesn't think the Gems were out-muscled on Saturday despite the loss.

"I think we're getting tougher," he said.

Sturgeon would rather see his team take a 1-0 decision rather than the high scoring matches typical of the last three games.

Burlington took a 3-2 first period lead into the dressing room in Saturday's match-up.

The Gems opened the scoring at 8:13 when Kevin Dance scored from Chuck Loreto and Greg Brazeau.

The Cougars evened the score at the 12:33 mark but the Gems Joe Washkurak popped one in a minute and 40 seconds later.

Shannon Storr and Dance picked up assists on the goal.

The Cougars then scored twice in a span of 43 seconds to take a one goal lead at the end of the first period.

Washkurak evened the score on an unassisted effort just 35 seconds into the second period.

Just 42 seconds later Brazeau picked up his second point of the night when he took a pass from Cruise and Loreto and parked it in the Burlington net to give the Gems a 4-3 lead.

But the Cougars rang up three straight goals to take a 6-4 lead until the Gems pulled to within one when Washkurak scored from Storr and Glen Haigh at 10:49.

Just nine seconds later the

Cougars beat Gems netminder Dan Halliburton to increase the lead to two goals.

The Gems looked to be back in the game in the middle of the second period with two straight goals to even the score at seven.

Brazeau found the net off a Travis Cole pass at 13:24.

Recently returned Gemini Rod McClure scored on an unassisted effort 50 seconds later.

But the tied score was short lived as the Cougars scored just 52 seconds later to take a slim one goal lead into the final frame.

The Gems scored what proved to be their final marker just 47 seconds into the third period when Rick Floto's slow shot caught the outstretched leg of the Cougar netminder and deflected into the net between his legs.

Washkurak and McClure picked up assists on the Gems eighth goal.

The Cougars beat Halliburton three more times in the third period with the last goal coming at 11:15.

Burlington had 48 shots on goal on the night while Georgetown managed 39.

In Friday's match up Georgetown fell behind by three goals in the first period as Aurora took a 4-1 lead into the dressing room.

Kevin Dance scored two goals for the Gems while McClure, Brazeau, Brause and Cole each added singles.

The Gems were also outscored in the opening period against Streetsville.

The Derbys took a 3-1 first period lead and padded that in the second period by adding three more goals while the Gems managed only two.

Joe Washkurak fired a pair for the Gems while Cruise, Brazeau and Loreto added singles.

Thursday, the Gemini are travelling to Newmarket, where they will take on the 87s in an 8 p.m. contest.

Then it's back to the Alcott Arena Saturday night for a 7:30 p.m. match against Milton. Saturday night's game is also Price Beater Night and since it's Halloween, there's no telling what might happen.



The Georgetown Gemini had a fruitful week offensively in three Central Jr. B hockey games as they scored 19 times. But the bad news is, the Gems gave up 29 goals in the three games, and failed to pick up any ground in the standings. Here, Georgetown goalie Dan Halliburton makes a toe save against a Burlington Cougar player during action at the Alcott Arena Saturday night. (Herald photo)

Defence keys minor novice attack

Too often, the defenceman is the unsung hero on a hockey team.

Details of scoring, usually by forwards, generally dominate most game accounts.

But for the Georgetown Minor Novices, it was the defencemen who really showed their mettle last week, as the team played to a 4-1 draw with Burlington, and dropped a close 6-4 decision to Milton.

Saturday, at Burlington, the Novices played a little off their regular style, and had it not been for their defence, they may not have salvaged a draw.

Steven Smith showed fine puck control and some fancy stick handling behind his net to help kill a penalty, and also led several rushes to pick up an assist.

Fellow defenceman Shane Thompson had a goal and an assist, while displaying fine skating and great puck control.

Mike Crawford may be a little

smaller than his team mates on defence, but this does not deter him from being one of Georgetown's most aggressive defencemen.

Saturday against Burlington, he poke checked, blocked shots, and did a good job of clearing players out in front of the net.

In his first year on defence, Wesley Blight is improving with each game. He already has several goals to his credits, and added an assist Saturday, showing his offensive talents compliment his defensive skills nicely.

With these four rearguards playing so well, it's no wonder the Burlington Wolves found the scoring tough. Burlington was forced to come back with a goal late in the contest to earn the tie.

Brad Kouyoumjian had a pair of markers for Georgetown, while Thompson and Brad Davidson had the other goals. Smith, Blight,

Davidson, and Curtis Hoogendam had an assist each.

Sunday, on home ice, Georgetown tangled with Milton and suffered their first loss, as the entire team appeared to let down.

Georgetown kept it close in the first period with several end-to-end rushes. Davidson scored twice, both times from Ricky Clark and Kouyoumjian, and then Steven Gibbons scored from Thompson and Andrew Beavan. Milton replied with three goals of their own to make it 3-3.

The second period was tight, with close checking, but Milton managed to score and take a 4-3 lead.

In the third, Kouyoumjian combined for a goal with Davidson, but they couldn't hand on as Milton scored twice, once into the empty net, to take the win.

The minor novices will spend time practicing this week, in preparation for a match with Dundas this weekend.

Sports briefs

Bingham leads WMU

Sophomore outside hitter Joanne Bingham, a former Georgetown District High School student, led the offensive attack as Western Michigan University posted two Mid-American Conference volleyball wins on Oct. 16 and 17.

The Broncos, 14-3 over all, and 4-0 in the MAC, defeated Bowling Green 15-13, 15-4, 15-5 Friday night at Bowling Green, Ohio, and downed the University of Toledo 15-9, 15-5, 15-4 Saturday night at Toledo.

Bingham blasted 23 kills and hit for a 400 percentage during the two three-game sweeps, as WMU extended its conference win streak to 79 straight, dating back to the 1982 season.

Free skating

There will be free skating in Acton and Georgetown on Friday, Oct. 30.

The Acton Public Skate will be from 2:30 to 3:50 p.m. This opportunity has been made possible through the generosity of the Acton Rotary Club.

The Georgetown skate is from 1 to 2:20 p.m. at the Memorial Arena. This opportunity is possible through the generosity of the Georgetown Optimist Club.

Take advantage and enjoy the freeskate!

Parent-tot program

The afternoon session of the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department's Parent and Tot Learn-To-Skate program has become very popular. This program is at capacity, with a waiting list. In response to this demand, a daytime session is being offered Tuesdays, 2:30 to 3 p.m. at the Georgetown Memorial Arena. The program commenced this week but they are still accepting registrants.

Pat Bidney will be the instructor. Pat has been involved in skating for the past 24 years.

For more information, call the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185, ext. 260.

Oldtimer tourney

Who says hockey is the great adult Canadian spectator sport?

Perhaps a bit softer in the belly, but still mentally tough, the hockey oldtimers will be coming to play for a Georgetown tournament Nov. 5-8. All participants must be over the age of 35.

There will be 32 teams in the third annual, oldtimer tournament. Taking place all weekend at the Alcott Arena, the event will include four divisions and some 534 players.

Teams competing will be from

such places as Fort Erie, Kitchener, Wellington, Whitby, Oakville, Guelph and other towns across Ontario.

Star Fuels splits

The Georgetown Star Fuels Pee-wee B hockey team split a pair of games last week, to bring their record on the season to two ins and three losses.

Greg Dobbin scored twice and added an assist as the locals shaded Burlington 4-3 in a close, clean contest. David Osborne and Derek Ellard had a goal and an assist apiece in the victory.

In their other outing, Georgetown suffered their second loss of the season at the hands of Ancaster by a 4-2 margin, in a hard hitting affair.

Ellard accounted for both Star Fuels' markers, but riddled by penalties in the final frame, Georgetown was unable to mount any offensive force and suffered the setback.

Adult skate tonight

Anyone who has ever wanted to learn how to ice skate or improve their skating skills, but never took the time or found the right opportunity to give it a try; now has that opportunity.

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Dept. is now offering an eight week Adult Learn-to-Skate program on Wed. evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning tonight (Oct. 28).

The instructor will work closely with skaters in a small group setting to help them learn and develop all the basic skills to enjoy the art of ice skating. Don't pass up this great opportunity to finally master those basic skills of skating, any longer.

Register today at the Recreation and Parks Office at 25 James Street or call 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

Open house

There will be a meeting tonight (Oct. 28) at the Acton Library for citizens who are interested in organizing a Community Open House.

This event is being planned for community and recreation service organizations and will give them an opportunity to display what they are all about.

It will take place in the Fall of 1988 and will be held at the Acton High School. Similar Open Houses were run successfully in 1984 and 1986 in Georgetown.

It is hoped this event will be the biggest and best ever so anyone with time on their hands who would like to be part of the committee, should plan to attend the meeting. It takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Watson Room of the Acton Library.

For more information call the Recreation and Parks Office at 877-5185 and ask for Jeff Bliton.

Royals win

The Bishop Reding Secondary School Rebels defeated the Georgetown District High School Rebels 2-1 last week in a junior field hockey contest.

Maria Sweeney scored both goals for the winners, as they rounded out their season.

Bishop Reding Royals took a giant leap forward this year placing second to Georgetown in their ten team junior volleyball division.

The Royals wrapped up second place Thursday with a 15-5, 15-2 drubbing of Perdue Panthers.

The win puts the Royals record at eight wins and one loss this year, quite a turn around from last year's 2-7 record.

Much of Bishop Reding's improvement can be attributed to the stabilizing coach Brian Arsenault has brought to the team, and to the addition of Grade 10 students to the school this year.

"Last year as a Grade 9 school we took our lumps," Arsenault said.

He feels the team is competitive now but "most good junior teams have some Grade 11 (students)," Arsenault said.

The team has developed a cohesion that comes with a small school of under 400 students.

With 10 returning players and six first year players, the Royals have plenty of experience on the team.

"It's just working that much better this year," Arsenault said.

"We've practised every night since the beginning of school. I don't know if anybody's missed a practice," he said.

The Royals only loss this year came at the hands of Georgetown in the second game of the season.

Despite the loss, Arsenault thinks that was one of the best games his charges have played this season.

But the "second season" for Bishop Reding starts Nov. 3 when they take on the third place team from the other division in the quarter finals of the Halton playoffs.

The final standings show Georgetown on top with a record of 8-1. The Rebels get the nod for first place over the Royals because of the results between the two teams.

In the opening round of playoffs, Bishop Reding takes on Assumption Nov. 3, while the GDHS Rebels will meet M.M. Robinson of Burlington.

Arsenault is attempting to find a neutral court for the match against Assumption, since he feels the Bishop Reding gym may not be best

suitable for playoff competition. He says E.C. Drury in Milton is being considered as a possible site for the engagement with Assumption.

Bishop Reding locks up second spot



The Bishop Reding junior volleyball team capped off a successful regular season Thursday as they downed the Perdue Panthers in a best-of-three match. Here, a couple of Royals go up to block a shot during action Thursday. The Royals are preparing to take on Assumption in the first round of playoffs next week. (Herald photo)

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