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**Get that Flag!**

A determined-looking young ballcarrier heads upfield while a member of the Burns Transport team tries to nab a flag during charity flag football action at GDHS on Sunday afternoon. The youngster was helping out the Halton Regional Police who played the Ladies Flag Football League-leading Burns squad in the charity fund-raiser. CITY-TV also tried its luck against the Burns team in a second contest. (Herald photo)

**Exhibition opener Friday**  
**Sturgeon sees resurgence in the Raiders recipe**

While his sense of humor may have helped him through a losing season last year, Georgetown Jr. B hockey coach Peter Sturgeon is looking for big improvements from his newly renamed Raiders in the 1988-89 campaign.

"Hockey is a funny game," said Sturgeon during an interview with The Herald on Monday night. "It's an instinctive game. You set out plans and then you play."

The plans won't deviate much from last year, said the second-year bench boss. "We'll alter our plans just a little bit, nothing major," he said. "We have a definite goal in mind, we'll state it and then we'll be heading towards it."

The Gemini, now known as the Raiders, suffered through a 23-point season last year which saw them finish seventh in the eight-team Western Division of the Central Ontario Jr. B league and bow out of the playoffs after four straight losses to the Oakville Blades. But Sturgeon, coming off his rookie season as Raiders coach, sees a bright light on the horizon for the 88-89 Georgetown team.

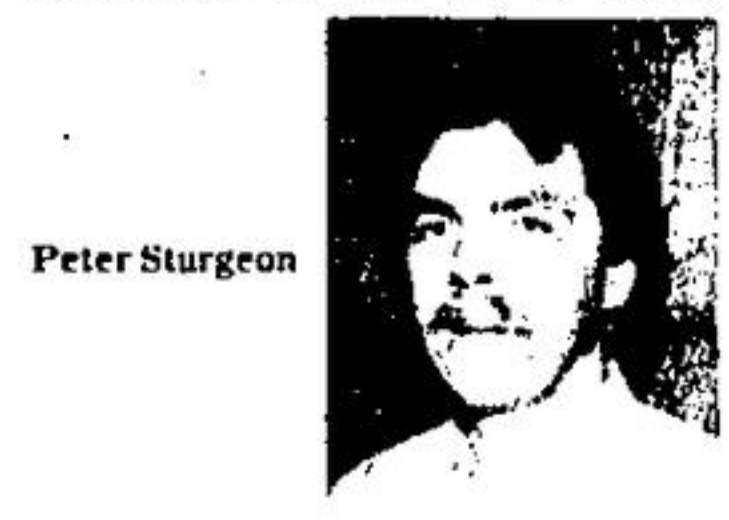
One thing that should help Sturgeon and the Raiders in their pursuit of success in the upcoming season is the return of some key veterans from last year's squad. "We're proud of the crew that ended the season here," said Sturgeon. "The guys coming back will be a big part of this year's team."

Returning veterans as the Raiders opened regular training camp on Sunday afternoon at Alcott Arena included goaltender Todd King, defencemen Mark Pries, forwards Don Cruise, Kevin Dance, Brian Gendron, Greg Brazeau, Chuck Loreto and Brent Presswood. Another veteran, forward Shannon Storr, will be attending the OHL's Windsor Spitfire camp and will be a key cog in the Raider machine if he returns to Georgetown.

The return of Brazeau and Loreto has got to be particularly good news

for the Raiders as both were big guns for the Gems last year. Kevin Dance, a sparkplug winger, will also be counted upon heavily to add to the Raider resurgence.

The Raiders entertained about 70 skaters at rookie camp which wrapped up last Thursday and the bulk of the main camp will be made up of newcomers to the Jr. B scene.



Peter Sturgeon

"We've got around 38 kids in camp now," said Sturgeon, with sessions planned for last night and tomorrow night before the club's exhibition home opener on Friday against Richmond Hill Dynes.

Six goaltenders, 12 defencemen and about 20 forwards are currently in the Raider camp and it will likely be an all-rookie lineup that will see action against Richmond Hill on Friday. "We're trying to give everyone a fair chance," said Sturgeon. "It'll be a close competition."

Sturgeon said he'll dress six defencemen and 13 forwards for the Friday game and he's toying with the idea of playing a different goaltender in each period. "I'll have to wait and see," he said. Meanwhile, Sturgeon has been impressed with the size and potential of some of this year's rookie crop. "There's some good size there but they need some work," he stated. The recently approved move by the OHA which allows Georgetown to recruit Peel County players without using eligibility cards will be a definite plus for the team, says

Sturgeon. "There's a lot of good young players in camp with Peel County opening up. There's some good possibilities in Brampton," he said.

A potential working agreement with the OHL's Guelph Platers also has Sturgeon thinking but the former Boston Bruin chattel is only interested if Georgetown receives long-term help. "If we can have a player and groom him in our system then that would help us," he explained. "If we get a player for two months and Guelph pulls him back up then we're not interested in that. We're looking to help them (Guelph) year to year, not in the interim."

Sturgeon says he would like to see "as many local players as possible" on the squad and he's been impressed at this early stage with the talent coming out of the GMHA.

The sophomore coach plans to bank on experiences gleaned from last year. "There are things we learned last year, little things," he said. "Those directly involved with the players and the league. There's a lot to learn." But Sturgeon likes to return to the simplicity of the game when the philosophizing and game-planning strategies are completed. "Hockey is hockey," he said.



**RAIDER RAMBLINGS:** Sturgeon feels the newly-revised league schedule which will see no inter-division play between teams in the East and West divisions during the regular season is "great." He said the schedule will promote intense local rivalries. "We've got Oakville and Milton just down the road and we had a lot of one-goal losses to them last year," said Sturgeon. "We've got some scores to settle."

**Bus planned for final**

Local soccer fans will get a chance to cheer on Georgetown United at the Ontario Cup final on Sept. 17 in Oshawa.

Team coach Sam Inglis announced last week the club is hoping to book a supporters bus to travel to the championship game at Oshawa's Civic Stadium. "If we get enough response we can run a bus," said Inglis. "It would be nice to fill a bus with supporters."

The bus would leave Alcott

Arena parking lot at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17 to arrive in Oshawa in time for the scheduled 7:30 p.m. kickoff between United and Toronto's Braga Arsenal. Inglis said a fee of \$5 per fan would cover the cost of renting a charter.

Tickets can be ordered in advance from Inglis (877-9666) or Ray Ellis (877-1318) and Inglis said the club would appreciate receiving any bookings by Friday, Sept. 9.

**Georgetown earns spot on rugby map**

Aug. 24 is a date that will be long remembered by members of the North Halton Rugby Football Club. It is, arguably, the date that rugby came of age in Georgetown.

For the first time in its six-year history the North Halton RFC hosted a touring international side.

"It's been a great event for the club," said North Halton coach Sandy Mackenzie after the local side defeated England's Tonbridge RFC 14-9 on Aug. 24 at Neilson's Field. "The guys have been up for this for weeks."

North Halton did indeed appear pumped for its encounter with the touring English side as the Georgetown-area side played perhaps its best game in the 1988 season on the way to its 14-9 win. Appropriately enough, the largest crowd of the season for a North Halton home game - about 100 spectators - was on hand to witness the entertaining match.

Rob Paul turned in his usual stellar effort at scrumhalf for North Halton, scoring one try and kicking one convert and constantly harassing his opposite number at the base of the Tonbridge scrum. Veteran lock and former provincial rep player Cam MacIver also stood out until leaving the contest late in the second half with an ankle injury. MacIver scored a try for North as did young prop Mark Armstrong.

"It was a 15-man effort, everyone played well," said Mackenzie. While it was difficult to argue with Mackenzie's summation, there were some key performers in the North Halton lineup.

Duane Wilson played a textbook game at fullback and Casey Vanderveis proved he is ready for a fall season of collegiate rugby at Wilfrid Laurier University with his slashing running style and heads-up play. Ian MacIver, playing out of position on the wing, displayed plenty of athletic talent and used his forward instincts to give Tonbridge plenty of problems on defence.

Ted Ford-King at flanker, Jamie Spiller in the centres and Tim Kunica filling in for MacIver toward the end of the game all played strong roles in the North Halton win. Captain Terry Pottruff was also clearly visible throughout the match with his experienced field leadership.

"They were quite up for the game," said Tonbridge hooker Nick Wilkin. "I thought their backs played superbly and their forwards

worked very hard. They've got some tough lads in there."

"It was definitely the highlight of our season," said Mackenzie. The North Halton mentor was encouraged by the large turnout of supporters and he hoped the showing would bode well for the future of the club. "We hope to build on this," he said.

In Canada, where the game is still often treated as a cult sport, rugby has slowly been building its image. Often noted more for its association with beer-drinking and song-singing, the sport is being promoted by its followers as one of the most physically demanding games in the world.

Most representative players at the provincial and national levels are required to meet stringent fitness test levels throughout the playing season and off-season to maintain their status on high calibre sides. The sport also boasts a World Cup tournament held once every four years.

The social side of the game, however, is still a major part of rugby. "That's the beauty of the game," said Tonbridge lock Steve Turner. "You play hard against your opposite for 80 minutes and then you're friends afterwards."

Former GDHS football coach Bill Bingham, who has played almost every traditional North American sport from hockey to basketball says he "wouldn't have looked back" if he had played rugby as a youth. "It's a great game," he says. Bingham now coaches rugby at GDHS.

Detractors who claim rugby is a high-risk injury sport are now receiving detailed reports to the contrary. A recent study conducted in Pennsylvania indicated the instances of serious injuries in rugby to be vastly lower than football and even below soccer.

Mackenzie says the game in Ontario needs to be promoted on a higher level. "There's a good senior league in Ontario with guys playing on provincial and national teams," he said. "The bigger clubs need to be playing in large stadiums capable of seating good crowds and they need to publicize themselves more."

On the local scale, Mackenzie hopes the tour-hosting and strong performance against Tonbridge will attract new players and supporters to the North Halton side. A recently-approved \$5,000 grant from the Town to improve Neilson's Field will also help the club.

One spectator at the Aug. 24 match asked how long North Halton had been operating and he expressed in-

terest in attending the next home game. "That's what we need to hear," said Mackenzie.



**Jump ball**

It's a jump ball as members of the Tonbridge, England rugby club (stripes) and North Halton vie for possession of the ball at a lineout

during the Aug. 24 international match at Neilson's Field. North Halton recorded a 14-9 win over the British visitors. (Herald photo)

**Penalty box is out cell blocks are in**



**Paul's call**  
 By PAUL SVOBODA  
 Herald Sports Editor

Open up the jails and cancel the judge's vacation. Athletes will soon be lining up at the gates to populate Canada's prison system.

Sound ridiculous? Maybe. Then again, maybe not. Provincial Court Judge Sydney Harris has his way the courts of Ontario may soon be filled with over-zealous hockey players and crackback blocking football linemen. Not to mention brawling baseball players, hacking hoopsters or sucker-punching soccerists.

When Judge Harris last week sentenced Minnesota North Star forward Dino Ciccarelli to one day in jail - along with a \$1,000 fine - he opened a veritable Pandora's Box of possibilities.

Sure, the NHL has faced criminal charges from the courts of the land before. Prior cases were, however, always dismissed and it was tacitly implied that the sporting world could handle its own disciplinary affairs. Besides, no professional athlete enters an arena without knowing his head may be on the line.

But now, for the first time, an NHL player has been forced to face the humiliation of a jail cell for striking an opponent during a league game.

According to reports, Judge Harris stated that although Luke Richardson (the Leaf recipient of Ciccarelli's stick) consented to

some degree of physical contact by participating in an NHL game he did not consent to being whacked by Ciccarelli's lumber.

Oh, really? What should we expect next? Charges against the winner of an NHL fight because the loser did not consent to being tagged with a left hook?

The NHL receives an abundance of media attention today, much more so than it did in 1950 or even 1960. Brawls and stick-swinging incidents have been spotlighted front and centre. The majority of the American media has branded the league as a two-fisted ogre.

For its own good the NHL needs to rid itself of ugly stick duels and lumber lashing. No one who loves the game will argue that one.

But first and foremost, the league deserves the opportunity to clean its own closet. Detractors say that opportunity has been granted in the past and ignored by the NHL brass. Now, they say, the NHL needs outside discipline.

Hence Ciccarelli's charge. There's only one problem with that, however. Just about everything done in a hockey game would be considered a chargeable offence in the street. Try hip-checking your neighbor on his way to putting out the garbage or try drifting a slapshot at your mother-in-law at the family picnic. See if you don't spend Saturday night in the slammer.

And, why stop at hockey? Instead of opening up the courts to ridicule and a long line of sports criminals, the robbed do-gooders should direct their attention to the NHL brass and lobby for rule changes.

Slap the hand, not the fingers.

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