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SECTION B, THE HERALD, Wednesday, November 23, 1988, Page 1

# OHA champion '68 Raiders were the toast of the town

They were the toast of Georgetown.  
 Twenty years ago they knew local fame and celebrity that few smalltown hockey teams can boast today.

They were the 1968 Georgetown Raiders and during one magic hockey season they were the hottest junior "C" ticket in Ontario.

"We were big celebrities," mused Kent Robinson, 41, a member of that 1968 squad that skated to the all-Ontario championship. "Fans would invite guys off the team over to their houses for Sunday dinner. Once my brother Paul and I were asked by a fan if we would attend his daughter's eleventh birthday party."

Robinson relived some of those fond hockey memories last week as a delegation from the '67-68 Raiders prepared to help usher in a new chapter of Georgetown hockey.

Former players and members of the executive were on hand at Alcott Arena last Friday night as the Jr. Raiders put the finishing touch on a transformation that began last summer.

After officially adopting the traditional Georgetown hockey moniker last summer after 11 years as the Gemini, the Jr. B squad unveiled its new red and black uniforms prior to Friday's faceoff with Etobicoke Capitals. Robinson's Jr. C champion Raiders are just one of the title-winning teams from Georgetown's vaunted hockey past that the current version of the Raiders hope to emulate.

"We would've been competitive in the OHA Jr. A league," said Robinson. "We had an excellent hockey team."

Indeed so strong were the Jr. C Raiders that they played an exhibition game against the old OHA Jr. A Hamilton Red Wings during the '67-68 campaign. The Hamilton squad featured future NHLers like Rick Smith, Rene Leclerc, Ed Hatoun, Danny Lawson and Pete Mahovlich.

The Raiders played 56 games that season, losing only six. After running away with first place in the old OHA Suburban Jr. C Hockey League with a 23-4-3 slate the Raiders set their sights on a provincial championship.

"It was pretty well a certainty that whoever won that league would win the Ontario title," said Robinson, attesting to the high calibre of play in the suburban loop.

After beating Streetsville and Ajax in the preliminary rounds the Raiders dispatched of longtime rival Milton in the league championship finals and it was off to find Ontario gold.

Dresden, Huntsville and New Hamburg fell in succession and when the last puck had been shot Georgetown stood as the cream of the crop of Jr. C hockey teams in Ontario.

"We were a well balanced team," said Robinson. "We had good scoring and a good defence. Teams really couldn't key on any one guy."

Robinson's brother Paul led the

Suburban loop in scoring in 1968 with 47 goals and 40 assists and played on a high-scoring line with Brent McMullen and Bill Dwyer.

"Paul was running the powerplay from behind the net before Wayne Gretzky ever heard of it," says Kent.

Another hot-shooting line had Ron Lane and Dwayne Hay skating with Terry Leswick, nephew of former Toronto Maple Leaf star Tony Leswick.

A strong defence led by Phil Lavell stood up in front of a one-two goaltending punch made up of Fred Cowbrough and Brian Peavoy. "One couldn't play at home because he got too nervous," laughed Robinson. "So we always knew who was playing in goal."

As talented as the 1968 Raiders were Robinson says the cement of the unit was provided by coach Gerry Inglis. "He's the best coach I ever played for," stated Robinson.

"He knew how to get 110 per cent from every guy." Inglis was also a master of psychological warfare.

Favorite Inglis tricks, according to Robinson, included wearing home sweaters on the road and thus forcing the home team to change, and taking the enemy team's end for the start of the game after warming up in the opposite end.

"Once he sent only me to centre ice for the national anthem in Milton while the rest of the team stayed on the bench," recounted Robinson. "Boy, did that get their fans riled up."

Robinson was the self-confessed "team fighter. I was a good fighter," he said. "I used my own rules and I fought when and where I wanted to."

The burly defenceman, known as "Bear," once instigated a near riot during a road game in Ajax. "We were losing 5-1 and I went out and took out their centre," recalled Robinson with a devilish grin. "Then I fought their defenceman, goaltender and coach. They got four guys kicked out, the cops came to the rink and we ended up winning 8-5."

Playing an exciting brand of winning hockey quickly endeared the Raiders to the local hockey fans. Robinson remembers filling Memorial Arena for playoff games and having crowds still lined up out to Guelph Street. "They'd be hanging from the rafters," said Robinson. "We'd get 1500 out to games. Once the fire marshal had to close off the crowd."

Robinson said another key ingredient in the team's success was the Raiders' togetherness. "We were a family," he said. "Every Saturday night before a Sunday game we'd go over to the Dwyer's to drink pop and watch TV. We didn't party before games or even bother with the girlfriends. Then on Sunday night after a game the whole team would go to a movie together in Toronto and do a bit of hooting and hollering."

On one occasion the entire team stormed a hospital to liberate a fallen comrade. "Brad Johnson broke his ankle in Ajax," recalled Robinson. "After the game we forced our bus driver to take us to the hospital and we all trooped in. The nurses told us we couldn't go in but we just said, 'Oh yeah, watch us,' and we went in and took Johnson home."

But like all good things the Raiders saga would soon come to a close. The squad missed the playoffs the next year as age limits left only two veterans in the lineup.

The following year, the Suburban league folded.

As for Robinson and his teammates, several of the '68 Raiders left their marks in other parts of the hockey world.

"Most of the guys are still around," said Robinson. "Why I've heard that Brent McMullen is playing in three oldtimer leagues up in Owen Sound."

Robinson's brother Paul had a brief stint with the OHA's Peterboro Petes before a broken cheekbone ended his competitive playing days. Paul went on to become the first person in Ontario to have his name inscribed on the OHA's Jr. C championship trophy as both a player and coach after he guided Bowmanville Eagles to the title.

Kent Robinson fondly recalled the final game in the 1968 championship series when the Raiders dusted New Hamburg 8-1 at Memorial Arena.

Robinson missed the game but was back in time to enjoy the team's fire truck ride through a euphoric Georgetown.

"I was at a graduation ceremony in Toronto," recalls Robinson. "I phoned back between periods and got updates on the score. First it was 2-1 when it was 5-1. I left for Georgetown after that."

# Georgetown spikes fourth v-ball title Jr. Rebels dynasty

Webster's dictionary defines "dynasty" as: "a succession of rulers."  
 With their fourth consecutive Halton County high school junior

volleyball title the Georgetown Rebels would certainly qualify as a dynasty.

Rebels gunned down the Pearson Patriots in three straight games last Wednesday at GDHS to strengthen a grip on the Halton junior trophy that's been firm

since 1965.

"Everyone played well," said ecstatic GDHS coach Bob McKay after the match. "We served well and didn't let them run."

Pearson's highest point run, in fact, came in the third game after Georgetown won the first two by scores of 15-7 and 15-8. In game three, Pearson fought back from a 9-5 deficit to force a 9-9 tie with four straight points.

But that's all the Rebels would give their visitors as GDHS pulled out the stops and cruised to a 15-11 win.

"We got a scouting report on Pearson and went to work early," said McKay. "We never had to worry about our offence, all our kids like to hit the ball, and we had no problems on defence."

Georgetown took away Pearson's spiking game and forced the visitors to go to the tip early. "We figured they would get frustrated if the hits didn't come and we knew if we could keep hot we could win it," said McKay.

"We got here on our spiking ability," said Pearson coach Jim Mitchell. "But they took it away from us so we had to tip. We just never got untracked. We knew they attacked from the middle but they attacked everywhere. It's a shocker, we hadn't lost all year."

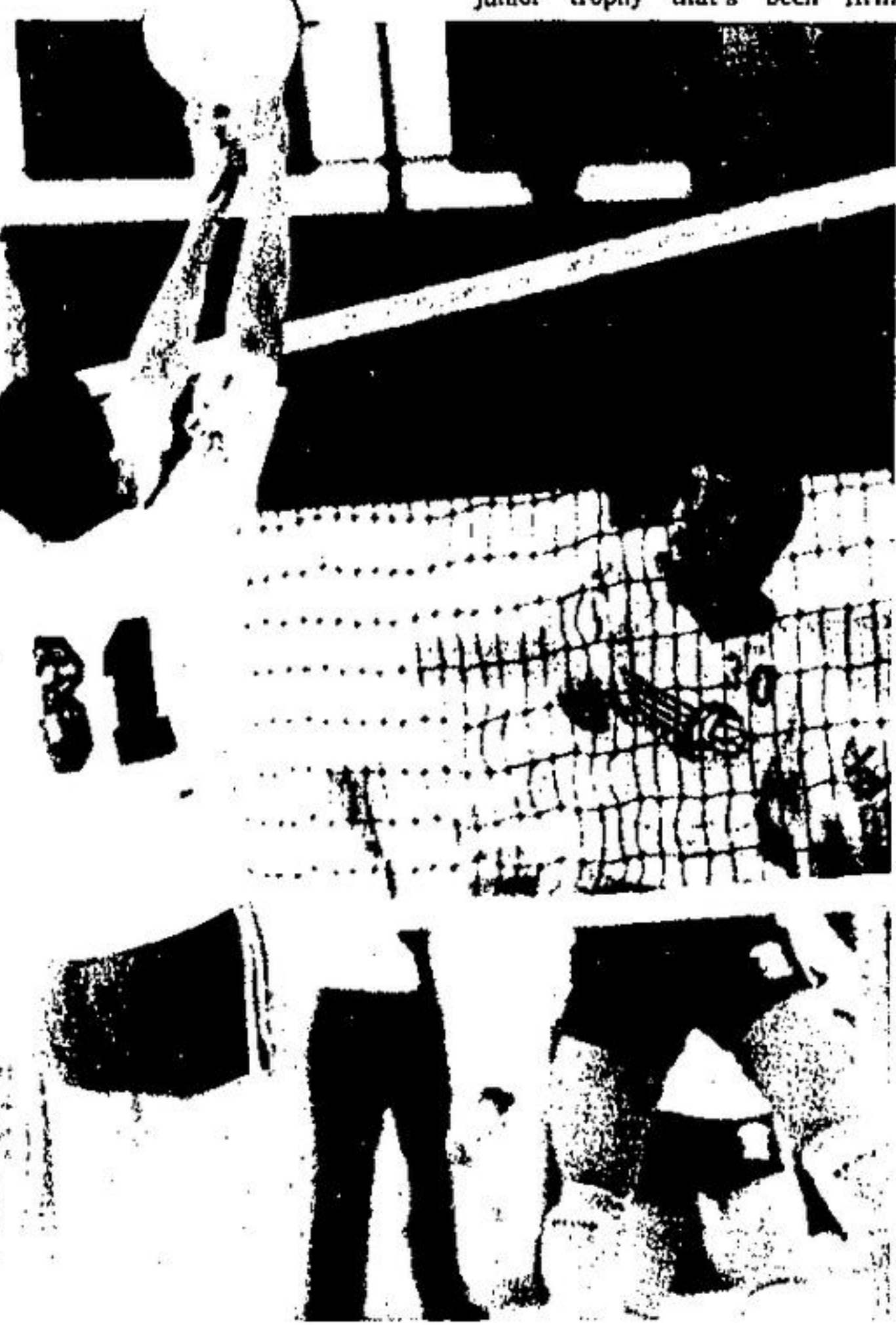
McKay cited his setters, Chris Cambouris and Mike Bosman, as being key cogs in the Georgetown machine. "Holy smokes, I don't know where we'd be without them," he said.

The junior mentor also praised John Jickling, Peter Gombocz and John Katsilieris. "John Katsilieris was really pumped," said McKay.

As for next season, McKay says he's losing four players (three of them starters) from the 1988 champions' squad. Cambouris, Bosman, Gombocz and Nick Varicchio will all move up the ladder to senior volleyball.

With a strong bench McKay figures to be right back in the hunt for Halton gold next year and a fifth straight county crown. "It's rewarding when you can get the kids to play to their potential," he said.

Back for next year's run will be Jake Mashinter, Adam Poyntz, Dave Lawrence, Grant Cox, John Katsilieris, Derek Ehard, John Cruise and Greg Dobbin.



Take that

Georgetown Rebel Junior volleyball standout Peter Gombocz (30) spikes the ball over the net and over the outstretched hands of a Pearson Patriot during last week's

Halton final at GDHS. Rebs asserted their county volleyball domination with a three-game sweep of Pearson to claim an unprecedented fourth straight Halton title. (Herald photo)

# New uniforms sharp, Raiders not as Jr. B's drop two on weekend

The uniforms were different but the results bore an eerie similarity to some of last year's as the Georgetown Raiders suffered a pair of home ice losses last weekend.

Raiders unveiled their new red and black outfits on Friday at Alcott Arena but the Central Ontario Jr. B league's west division leading Etobicoke Capitals took little notice in gaining a 10-7 win. On Saturday, it was Oakville's turn to be unimpressed with the new duds as the Blades earned a close 7-6 victory.

It's been a bumpy ride back down to earth for the Raiders who have now lost three straight home games after ending a nine-game unbeaten streak two weeks ago.

Last weekend's losses dropped the Raiders back into third spot in the western division with an 8-3 record for 19 points, three back of second place Burlington and three ahead of fourth place Streetsville.

Although the Raiders are proving they're a much-improved contender after last year's sixth place debacle, coach Peter Sturgeon was not taking last week's slide lightly.

"We've got to get back to basics," said Sturgeon. "We've got to bear down. Everybody has got to play together."

Penalties and defensive breakdowns turned out to be the nemesis of the Raiders last weekend. On Saturday, Raiders took 22 minutes in minor penalties over the first two periods while Oakville had 18.

"I don't like to complain about officiating but that was pathetic," said Sturgeon. "As soon as we hit the ice there were penalties called on us. You've got to let the kids play the game."

Kevin Dance, Chris Lee, J.P. Latour and Bryan Gendron were all given the gate with misconducts in Saturday's loss to Oakville.

But on Friday it was defensive problems that plagued the Raiders and Sturgeon was no less blunt about the situation. "We broke down in our own end," he said. "We had problems getting the puck out. You've got to give credit to Etobicoke because a good club will take ad-

vantage of that."

**OAKVILLE 7, RAIDERS 6**  
 On Saturday, Raiders led 4-3 after 20 minutes despite serving 18 minutes in minor penalties.

Oakville tied it at 5-5 in the second period and outscored Georgetown 2-1 in the third.

Mark Pries, Chris Lee, Davin Cigen, Travis Cole, Chuck Loreto and Brent Presswood fired goals for Georgetown while Des Brown had two assists. J.P. Latour, Kelly Foster, Travis Cole, Chuck Loreto, Don Cruise, Chris Lee, Trent Cull and Kevin Dance had solo assists.

**ETOBICOKE 10, RAIDERS 7**  
 After a good start left Georgetown leading 4-2 after 20 minutes the

Raiders broke down in their own end and allowed Etobicoke to battle back.

Etobicoke narrowed the gap to 6-5 for Georgetown after two periods before exploding for a five-goal third period with Raiders replying only once.

Travis Cole turned the "true" hat-trick for Georgetown, netting three goals in succession, after having scored once earlier in the game, to end the night with four goals.

Des Brown, Kevin Dance and Trent Cull scored the other Raider goals. Chuck Loreto had three assists, Shannon Storr and Don Cruise had two apiece and single helpers were earned by Travis Cole, Greg Brazeau, J.P. Latour, Des Brown, Kelly Foster and Rod Pasma.



Rising Capital

The puck blurs over the shoulder of Georgetown Raider netminder Todd King as Etobicoke's Nick

Nikas provides a leaping screen during last Friday's 10-7 Raider loss at Alcott Arena. (Herald photo)



Class of '68

Several of the team members from the Georgetown Jr. C Raiders who claimed the OHA provincial championship in 1967-68 were on hand Friday to help the "new" Raiders celebrate Colors Night at the Alcott Arena. Front row, from left are Frank King (executive

member); Gerry Inglis (coach); and Harold Badham (executive). In the back row are players Fred Cowbrough (goal); John Quackenbush (defence); Dave McMenemy (defence); and Kent Robinson (forward). (Herald photo)

## The magic of Mario a sight to behold



### Paul's Call

Paul Svoboda  
 Herald Sports Editor

Mario Lemieux is the best hockey player in the world today.

How do I know that?  
 I saw him play in Maple Leaf Gardens last week and believe me, Mario is the best.

Okay, okay. So I'm being a bit facetious.

I mean after all, isn't The Great One (a.k.a. Hollywood Wayne) still king of the NHL? Who am I to utter hockey blasphemy against the pride and joy of Walter and Phyllis and all of beautiful Brantford?

Well, I'm still convinced. Mario is now the best.

After pouncing upon a pair of Leaf tickets that came my fortunate way last Wednesday afternoon I hurried down to Hogtown to witness the magnificent Mario in all his splendour.

Harking back to my old U of T days I found a free parking spot amidst the myriad of parking lot hucksters shouting, "Park here, only 10 bucks." What a deal. (Instead, find a back street off Jarvis - mind the working women, now - and dump it behind a high rise.)

Once inside the still awe-inspiring confines of the House that Hal built I managed to avoid the equally myriad hucksters of Leaf trinkets - more expensive than the parking spots but much less valuable.

Quelling a nosebleed as I ascended to my seat among the real fans (i.e. in the gray) I settled back to watch

Mario in action.

For starters, the guy gets about 59 minutes of ice time.

Powerplay, penalty-killing, double shifts, regular shifts - you name it, Mario does it.

He has that Esposito-like reach, that deceiving Mahovlich-like stride, and a touch around the net that eludes description. Call it, simply, Mario Magic.

The big guy picked up a goal and three assists during his stop in T.O. and the Leafs even managed to win, much to the delight and relief of John Brophy.

Whatever number 66 wants in Pittsburgh the Penguin owners should give him. A delight to watch.

**RAIDER RAMBLINGS:** Chuck Loreto was the recipient of the Miller High Life Player of the month for October.

Referee Andre Fautoux, who came under fire three weeks ago from Milton coach Gary Ford in the aftermath of a suspended game in Milton which saw the Merchants unable to complete the contest when several of their players were tossed out of the match, handled the Saturday game.

Some interesting numbers also made their debut along with the new Raider uniforms last weekend. While 13 (Kevin Dance), 33 (Rob Doucette), 44 (Brent Presswood), 77 (Bryan Gendron) and 32 (Des Brown) have been seen more commonly in the NHL in the past few years, 80 and 91 may be a bit less familiar. Kelly Foster is wearing number 80 and Rod Pasma (who also favors inspirational messages on his sticks) carries number 91.

Raiders visit Burlington Cougars on Friday before hosting Streetsville Derbys at Alcott Arena on Saturday.

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