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**Wolves coach says ex-Gem should go high in next NHL draft**

**Bennett looks headed for the bigs**

By PAUL SVOBODA  
 Herald Sports Editor

Don't be surprised if you turn on your TV set some Saturday night in the future and find Georgetown native Adam Bennett wearing an NHL uniform.

Bennett, 17, is taking a regular shift on defence with the OHL's Sudbury Wolves this season and according to his coach the steady blueliner will be a coveted underdog pick in next year's NHL draft.

"He's got pro written all over him," said Sudbury coach Ken McKenzie after Bennett scored the winning goal in the Wolves 3-2 road win in Guelph last Friday night. "Without a doubt he'll be drafted no later than the second round."

Bennett, a member of the Georgetown Jr. B Gemini last season, was the first pick - second overall - of the Wolves in last summer's midget draft. With Sudbury heading into a 10-day Christmas break, Bennett is rounding nicely into one of the Wolves' steadier rearguards.

"We're very happy with his development," said McKenzie. "He's stepped right in and is now one of our top four defencemen. He's smart, heady and he moves the puck

well. Adam has a lot of skills."

At least two NHL teams have already taken notice of Bennett. The Washington Capitals took him and the other draft-eligible Wolves out to dinner recently and Bennett alone was entertained by the Vancouver Canucks organization.

But the affable teenager isn't letting the attention of pro scouts go to his head. While he hasn't been finding the transition to major junior "A" hockey that difficult he readily admits he's got plenty of work still to do.

"Nothing is guaranteed, it's still early," he said of his meetings with Washington and Vancouver. "They just wanted to let me know they were interested and what was expected of me."

Bennett, a standout merely by size alone (he's six-feet, four-inches tall and tips the scales in excess of 200 pounds) says speed is the biggest difference between Jr. A and Jr. B hockey.

"You've got to think quicker and play quicker," he said. "But I like the fast part of it. I'm starting to improve my defence and I think my offensive skills are coming along."

Indeed, Bennett's goal on Friday was his third of the season and se-

cond in two nights. He scored the night before Sudbury's visit to Guelph in a 0-5 overtime loss in Windsor.

On Friday, Bennett showed his offensive prowess by picking up a loose puck at centre ice and blasting a low hard bullet past Guelph Plater goaltender Mike Parson with just seven seconds remaining in period one.

The goal gave Sudbury a 3-1 lead and ultimately stood up as the winner in the 3-2 final score.

Bennett says he's enjoying his first season away from home although he's finding the balance between high school and junior hockey to be a tough one.

"Sudbury's a great place to play hockey," he said. "The fans are behind you on every play. It's tough though, too, with a lot of road trips but you've just got to set time aside to get the school work done."

Bennett says a typical day in Sudbury means, "sleeping in as late as possible," before putting in a full day at school. The Wolves practise for a couple of hours each evening and then it's off to either the weight room or the library.

Road trips break the daily routine and Bennett says he enjoys them. "It's fun staying in the hotels and I get a chance to see my parents when we come south," he said.

Meanwhile, Bennett has found himself the brunt of good-natured jokes in the Sudbury locker room following a recent trade by the Wolves. When Sudbury dealt sophomore blueliner John Uniac to Kitchener Rangers he became the fourth consecutive first-round midget draft pick of the Wolves to be moved from the club.

"Yeah, the big joke going around is that I'm next," quipped Bennett. "But I feel pretty secure. John wasn't happy in Sudbury so the trade was best for everyone. I'm confident our management knew what it was doing. It's also meant more ice time for me."

Bennett is billeting with a family in Sudbury and he welcomes the home atmosphere as a chance to get away from hockey when he leaves the rink each day.

"You grow up quickly in junior A," he said. "You have to know when to be serious and when you don't have to be. You've got to play tough."



**Eyeing the future**

Georgetown native and former Gemini rearward Adam Bennett mans the blueline for the OHL's Sudbury Wolves during their contest in Guelph last Friday night. Bennett powered home the winning goal as

the Wolves edged the Platers 3-2. NHL scouts are high on the young first-year OHL'er and expect him to be an early pick in next summer's big league draft. (Herald photo)

**Brazeau drops Raiders for school books**

Greg Brazeau has bid farewell to the Georgetown Raiders.

The 19-year-old right winger informed coach Peter Sturgeon last week that he plans to return to his native Sault Ste. Marie and pursue his academic studies at Lake Superior State University, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, just across the border from its Ontario counterpart.

"It's something that I've been thinking about for a long time," said Brazeau. "It hasn't been the greatest season for me with injuries, and I figured if I didn't give college a shot now, I might not get around to it."

"He's decided to go back and give it a whirl," said Sturgeon. "We gave him lots of time and opportunity and when he played to the best of his abilities he was a good player. We wish him good luck."

At the time of his departure Brazeau, a second-year member of the local Jr. B squad, was the team's fifth leading scorer with 11 goals and 17 assists. He had been playing on an explosive forward line with feisty centre Kevin Dance and junior "A" prospect Des Brown.

"It's too bad he's leaving at this point in the season," said assistant coach Jay Anderson.



Greg Brazeau

Earlier this season Brazeau walked out on the team after a dispute with Sturgeon over lack of ice time. The pair patched up their differences and Brazeau returned to take a spot on the hot-shooting line with Brown and Dance.

Brazeau had just returned from a knee operation at the beginning of the Raider training camp.

He finished last season as the second leading Georgetown scorer with 33 goals and 41 assists for 74 points in 43 games.

**Egg Nog Jog '88**

**Frigid runners shatter records**

Cold weather made for record times as 151 runners braved frigid temperatures at the sixth annual Egg Nog Jog in Terra Cotta last Sunday.

John Gill, 21, of Brampton crossed the line first in 36-minutes and 26-seconds to set a new course record for the 11-km run, beating the old mark of 37:00 set last year by Georgetown's Sean Cleary.

Meanwhile, Cleary also beat his previous record time by finishing second in Sunday's race with a time of 36:40.

The 151 registered competitors also topped the previous high of about 125 in 1987 and temperatures estimated in the -20 degree Celsius range meant running was almost a necessity just to keep warm.

"It was really cold but other than that it was a great day," said organizer Sue Powell of the Credit Valley Conservation Area, co-sponsors of the United Way fundraising event along with the Georgetown Track Club.

One-hundred and forty-two of the 151 registered runners started the 11-km run at 10 a.m. Sunday and all were reported to have finished with no reports of frostbite.

Rick Lane of Acton rounded out the top three finishers in the men's division by placing third behind Gill and Cleary in 37:48.

On the women's side, Kathleen McNabb, 29, of Oakville hit the tape first in 46:19 followed by Diana Keinz of Orangeville in 48:51. Toronto native Susan Flynn came third with a time of 50:52.

Michael Olsen, 11, of Georgetown, was the youngest competitor in the annual race for the fourth consecutive year and turned in a highly respectable time of 62:00.

The oldest runner was 61-year-old George Gidman of Acton.

Powell said figures are still being tallied but she estimated this year's run garnered about \$800 for the local United Way fundraising drive.

**Raiders, Cougars love those ties**

People are starting to talk about those Georgetown Raiders and Burlington Cougars.

For the fourth time this season the two squads sister-kissed each other as they played their way through a 2-2 deadlock at Alcott Arena last Saturday night.

The game was also the second tie in a row for the Raiders who drew the lowly Milton Merchants 5-5 in Milton on Friday night. The pair of saw-offs came on the heels of a 5-2 Raider defeat in Streetsville on Dec. 6.

"I don't know what it is with Burlington," said Raider bench boss Peter Sturgeon. "It was a tight defensive game. We both had enough opportunities. I guess we'll take a point from Burlington anytime but I think we'll soon have their number."

The weekend action left Georgetown in fourth place in the seven-team western division of the Central Ontario Jr. B loop with 24 points, two behind Streetsville and five atop Oakville.

**RAIDERS 2, BURLINGTON 2**  
 The teams were tied 1-1 after 20 minutes with Bryan Gendron scoring from Rob Doucette for the Raiders. Burlington went ahead 2-1 in the second before Travis Cole tied it up with Kevin Dance and Chuck Loreto helping out.

The third period was a scoreless affair and Raider goalie Todd King was cited for keeping Georgetown in the game as he kicked out 45 Cougar shots. "Todd played very well," said Sturgeon. Both Burlington goals came on the powerplay.

Meanwhile, Don Cruise missed Saturday action with a sore shoulder and Sturgeon didn't dress Des Brown, Brent Presswood or newcomer Craig Chandler. "It seemed to me that some guys didn't come to play against Milton on Friday," said Sturgeon of the move. "Craig Chandler hasn't made a commitment to play yet."

Midget call-ups Jim English and Bill McDonald saw regular duty on Saturday and Sturgeon said both skaters played strongly. "They did fine, they're both hard workers," he commented.

**RAIDERS 5, MILTON 5**  
 The hometown Merchants scored a powerplay goal with two minutes remaining in the third period to gain the tie with Georgetown which is 12 points ahead of them in the standings.

Travis Cole potted two goals for Georgetown with Rod Pasma, Shannon Storr and J.P. Latour adding singles. Chuck Loreto and Latour each had two assists while Rory Kennedy had a solo helper.

Curtis Green tended goal for Georgetown.

**STREETSVILLE 5, RAIDERS 2**  
 Sturgeon was disappointed his charges didn't rise to the occasion of a third-place battle with the Derbys on Dec. 6.

Georgetown was behind throughout the contest, losing 3-1 after one period and 5-2 after a pair. "The effort just wasn't there for a game to decide third place," said Sturgeon.

Des Brown and J.P. Latour scored with Brent Presswood and Rod Pasma receiving assists. Todd King went the full mile in goal for Georgetown.

RAIDER RAMBLINGS: Just over the halfway point in the schedule and sporting a 9-9-6 win-loss-tie record Sturgeon says the Raider crew should be feeling pretty good about their efforts. Especially considering last year's overall mark of 9-32-3.

"We're still a reasonably young hockey team," said Sturgeon. "I'm really pleased with the progress of Cull and Pasma, particularly in the past few games since the Jr. B tournament. We're playing 500 hockey which is a hell of an improvement over last year but I would still like us to be in the top three positions in our division. I think we're going to have a better second half. When this club plays its game we're dangerous."

With 130 goals scored Georgetown has the second highest production in the west, second only to Burlington at 147. That's a Raider average of about 5.5 goals per game. On the defensive side, Raiders have allowed 121 goals, second most in the division next to Milton (151). That's just about five goals a game. So maybe those six tied games shouldn't be that much of a surprise.

Rob Doucette scored a goal and Chuck Loreto and Kevin Dance each earned an assist as the West dumped the East 8-5 in Sunday's league all-star clash in Streetsville. "Apparently our guys really stood out," reported Raider assistant coach Jay Anderson.

Raiders visit Mimico tonight and Oakville on Friday before hosting Etobicoke on Saturday. The squad then takes a six-day break for Christmas.

**TOP 10 RAIDERS SCORERS:**

G	A	PT.
Chuck Loreto	19	34
Travis Cole	22	16
Kevin Dance	16	21
Don Cruise	8	26
Greg Brazeau	11	17
Des Brown	13	13
J.P. Latour	8	12
Chris Lee	6	11
Brent Presswood	6	17
Rob Doucette	2	12

**Down and out**

It's a traffic jam at the Burlington Cougar net in last Saturday's Central Jr. B league contest at Alcott Arena. Raiders and Cougars played to a 2-2 draw, their fourth such result in head-to-head meetings this season, with Bryan Gendron and Travis Cole scoring for Georgetown. Raiders are in fourth place in the seven-team western division just past the halfway point of the regular season schedule. (Herald photo)



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**McMurtry, Baker have big job ahead**



**Paul's Call**  
 Paul Svoboda  
 Herald Sports Editor

Dear Roy:  
 Congratulations on your new job. If you thought the law practice was exciting, just wait until your first day at the CFL.

First of all, let me just say I've long buried the proverbial hatchet since you decided to take on the NHL back in the '70s.

You remember, don't you? That's when you decided to take guys like Big Bird Saleski, Hammer Dave Schultz and Mad Dog Bob Kelly to court - real live law courts - for beating up on poor, unsuspecting Maple Leafs.

You see, I'm a Flyer fan. But hey, I've mellowed since then so let's just not talk about it, okay?

It's like this, Roy. If you can help the old CFL then I'm your number one pal.

Firstly, Bill and you should expect some visitors on your first day at the new office. By the way, where is the office? Toronto, I suspect. Well, I think you should move it to Regina. They seem to have things back under control in Saskatchewan so you might be better off. Bill likes it there, anyway.

Okay, back to your visitors. The B.C. Lions will be there, Harold Ballard might storm in and of course the Ottawa Rough Riders will be represented.

B.C. will want money. Now you've got to remember B.C. is used to socialist governments. Give

them a few bucks, make a few promises. You know, Hey, you're a lawyer, right?

Tell Pal Hal he can play in Varsity Stadium. It's the best grass stadium in eastern Canada and it might just wake up the Argos. I mean, can you remember the last time they did a promotion? Hey, you can only do so much with the Loblaw's Family Section. Why, you can't even drink a beer in there.

As for Toronto. Well, frankly Roy, I don't know what's wrong with those guys. Maybe they just don't trust the Argos after all these years.

Torontonians have this big thing about wanting to be Americans. Look at the NFL. Not yet, anyway. The Dome is too small and there's only about 1,000 U.S. cities lined up with bulging pockets at Pete Rozelle's front door.

The way I see it, Roy, is you've two things going for you. The last two Grey Cups.

So why not have a mini Grey Cup Game every week of the season.

Oh yeah, that reminds me. This year's Grey Cup proved the single point belongs. Don't go changing that. Montreal? Don't worry about La Belle Province. They only go with winners (check the last two federal elections) if you get the league back in shape they'll be banging on your door.

And one more thing, Roy. Give Leo a job. The league needs him.

Okay, good luck and if you need anymore advice just give me a yell, Roy.

I've got to go make my NFL picks for this week.

Your pal,  
 Paul

**SPORTS**

- Saintly spikers..... B2
- Ice-fishing epic..... B2
- High school report..... B3

**SPORTS**

- Scoreboard..... B3
- Sabres stymied..... B4
- Dynamic darts..... B4

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Cinderella's charming.. B5
- High Spirits soars..... B5
- Christmas TV..... B5

**INSIDE THIS SECTION**