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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Monique Hoewing of Norval combined a pair of first place finishes in the girls giant slalom to earn first overall in her category and helped lead the Milton Heights Ski Team to top spot in competition at Mansfield last Sunday.

All of that came after the 15-year-old Grade 10 student had competed in a 21-hour dance-a-thon at Bishop Reding.

Gendron paces Raiders

It may not have been the most decisive win but a 3-2 victory over the Milton Merchants last Friday was still one to be welcomed by Georgetown Raider coach Peter Sturgeon.

"Hey, it's a win," said Sturgeon a day after the one-goal triumph over the Central Ontario Jr. B league's western division cellar dwellers.

Not only was it a win, but the two points also pushed the Raiders up the west division ladder and into sole possession of third place with 30 points, one ahead of the Streetsville Derbys who still have four games in hand on Georgetown.

The forward unit of Kevin Dance, Bryan Gendron and Brent Presswood continued to shine since being formed a few weeks ago after the departure of veteran Greg Brazeau. Gendron scored a pair of goals in Milton on Friday, including one on the powerplay, with Presswood helping out on both and Dance assisting on one.

Chuck Loreto also continued with his hot-scoring pace, netting the other Raider goal with Travis Cole and Don Cruise assisting. Defenceman Davin Ciglen also earned an assist in the win.

Meanwhile, Brazeau was back in the Raider lineup for his first start since rejoining the squad last week.

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Bulging the twine

Unfortunately for Georgetown midget captain Dale McNiven (16) there weren't many more goals like this for the local squad in last weekend's annual GMHA consolation tournament. McNiven scored here in the locals' 7-4 preliminary round loss to Port Perry Eagles on Friday night. The Sunny Acres Farms team bowed out on Saturday after dropping a tight 2-1 decision to eventual consolation finalists Chatham Maroons. (Herald photo)

Thornhill wins midget tournament title

Three's lucky for T-Birds

By PAUL SVOBODA
 Herald Sports Editor

In baseball it's three strikes and you're out.

At the annual GMHA midget hockey tournament it would appear that it's three strikes and you're in.

That's the way it was for the Thornhill Thunderbirds as they made their third appearance at the Georgetown midget extravaganza a lucky one as they carted off the championship trophy with a 4-1 win over Chinguacousy in the tourney final on Sunday at Alcott Arena.

"We've been here for the past three years and last year we lost in the semi-finals," said Thornhill coach Bob Rossi after Sunday's final. "Wayne (Wayne Pries, tournament co-organizer) says the third year seems to be the lucky one."

Chris Amodeo, captain of the Thornhill squad and recipient of

the tourney's most valuable player award, scored twice to lead the Birds past a game Chinguacousy side in a fast-paced and entertaining final.

Dave Kribs and Brian Rasmussen rounded out the Thornhill score sheet while Derrick McEachern replied for Chinguacousy.

Earlier on Sunday, Andie Rennie fired a hattrick to lead Mississauga to a 5-1 win over Chatham Maroons in the consolation final. Mike Coles and Steve Small also scored for the winners and Toby O'Hara notched the lone Chatham marker.

For the host Georgetown Sunny Acres Farms midgets, meanwhile, it was two strikes and you're out.

Georgetown got off on the wrong foot in its tournament opener on Friday as Port Perry Eagles flew to a 7-4 win over the locals.

In consolation round quarter-

finals on Saturday, a determined Chatham Maroon squad hung on for a 2-1 win over Georgetown, and the hometown team was relegated to spectator status.

"There was too much individual play," said Georgetown manager Wayne Pries. "We didn't play well as a team."

Port Perry out-hustled the locals on Friday night on its way to a three-goal margin of victory. Goaltender Chris Cambouris appeared a bit shaky in the opening minutes as the Eagles scored a pair of quick ones but Georgetown still had trouble finding the range even after Cambouris steadied his game.

Rich Bond, Stu Vogt, Dale McNiven and Bill McDonald scored for Georgetown with assists going to Eric Long and Darren Lang (two apiece), Cam Herman, Bond and McDonald. Herman was

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Acton roots for injured swimmer

Residents of Halton Hills are rallying around a championship athlete from Acton High School who is in Sick children's Hospital in Toronto after sustaining serious back injuries while vacationing in the Dominican Republic last December.

Matthew Fleet, 16, a Grade 11 student at AHS and member of the Acton Swim Team, was reported to be in stable condition in the intensive care unit of Sick Children's Hospital last Friday after undergoing a fourth spinal operation.

"He's talking to us and he's asking about school," Matthew's mother Doreen told the Herald on Friday. "We're very much impressed with the support he's getting. The people in Acton are rooting for him."

Matthew, who won every event in the Halton junior boys swimming championships last year, sustained serious spinal injuries in a freak accident while swimming in the ocean during a family vacation in the Dominican Republic on Dec. 27.

According to Mrs. Fleet, a large wave flipped Matthew over and carried him into the sand causing a major injury to his spine.

An air ambulance scheduled to fly Matthew to the American mainland was delayed one full day due to inclement weather and initial treatment for the injured youth was sought at a hospital in Puerto Plata.

"That was a nightmare in itself," said Mrs. Fleet. "The only thing that moved in the corridors at night were the rats. It was appalling."



Matthew Fleet

Matthew finally arrived at Sick Children's Hospital on Dec. 28 where he immediately underwent two operations in an attempt to repair his injured spine. Doctors also performed a tracheotomy (an emergency incision of the trachea to aid breathing) due to difficulties with Matthew's left lung.

Matthew's spinal cord was not severed in the accident, said Mrs. Fleet, and the two most recent operations have included bone grafts to try and realign and stabilize the spine. The area of trauma is located in Matthew's fifth vertebrae, which is located just above the middle of the back.

Mrs. Fleet said the family was not sure yet what type of recovery Matthew could expect. "It's early in the game," she said.

"It's going to be a long haul, he's going to need a lot of support," said Mrs. Fleet, who was maintaining a vigil at Sick Children's Hospital with her husband David. "We're hoping and praying."

Sturgeon shows class with Brazeau reinstatement



Paul's Call

Paul Svoboda
 Herald Sports Editor

Raider coach Peter Sturgeon showed he's a class act last week by reinstating prodigal winger Greg Brazeau.

If you remember correctly, Brazeau left the squad last month to pursue an education in Sault Ste. Marie.

Last week, upon discovering he couldn't get into Lake Superior State University until March, Brazeau contacted Raider centre Kevin Dance about the possibility

of returning to Georgetown. Dance, in turn, contacted Sturgeon who put the matter before the team.

On Friday, Brazeau was back in the lineup.

"I wasn't too thrilled at first," admitted Sturgeon. "I don't like quitters and I told him so. But we're here for the team. The team decided they wanted him back and I'm in full agreement. I told him if he wanted to come back and give everything he's got he'll help the team."

An earlier chapter in the Brazeau story this season had the veteran winger leave the Raider camp after a dispute with Sturgeon over lack of ice time. Brazeau was coming off a knee injury.

Just before he left the team for

the second time he'd had an appendectomy.

There's been some tough sledging for number 27.

Still, Sturgeon could easily have played the heavy last week. Burned before, he may have had good reason to ignore Brazeau's latest request. But he didn't.

And not just because Brazeau is a talented hockey player who'll help the Raiders into the playoffs. Sturgeon has shown before that he realizes the complexities of life in the '80s - or any other decade for that matter - facing young adults. Especially a young hockey player who is wondering what to do with the rest of his life.

Sound familiar?

At any rate, Brazeau has responded to this latest vote of

confidence.

"I'm in the right state of mind," said Brazeau after his return Friday. "If we're out of the playoffs I'll go back to school in March. If we're in I'll stay and go back next September. The guys really helped me on Friday."

Hopefully the Raiders, and Brazeau himself, will make his stay a long one.

LATE CALLS: So the Super Series is over. Red Army and Dynamo Riga (sounds like a Frank Zappa song) posted a combined 6-6-2 record against various NHL clubs (yawn).

Most over-done story? The Vacheslav Fetisov saga. Would he or wouldn't he join the NHL's Jersey Devils. Who cares?