

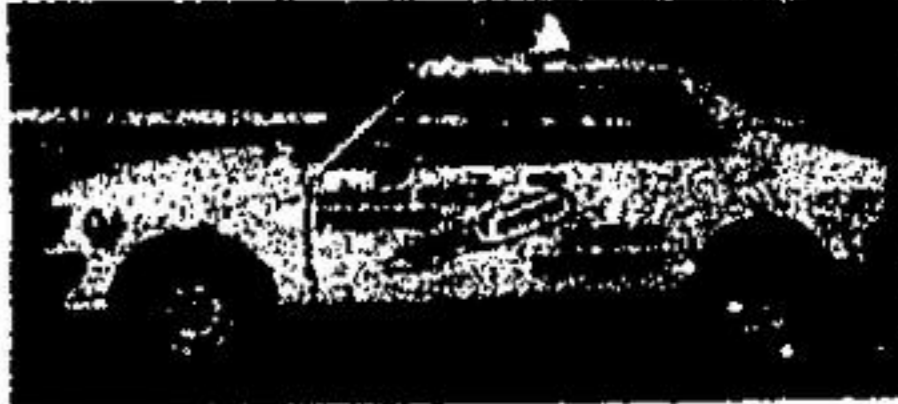
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jim Whorley, 14, scored 2 goals and assisted on the other 2 as his GMHA Peeewe house league Carpet Barn team dropped a close 5-4 playoff decision to Murray Motors last week.

Jim and his teammates have a chance to avenge the loss as the same two teams meet in the GMHA Day of Champions Peeewe final.



One on one

Acton Tigers goaltender makes the stop on this shot by an Eagle forward during Saturday's Acton Non-contact Hockey League final at Acton Arena. Eagles overcame a two-goal third period deficit to win the league title with an exciting 6-5 overtime triumph. More on page 26. (Herald photo)

Bantam bowlers roll back to clinch Ontario silver

A group of young Georgetown athletes proved that last-minute comebacks are not just reserved for hockey overtime periods and extra innings in baseball.

Georgetown Bowl's bantam boys five-pin team put the finishing touches on its own thrilling last-minute comeback as the local squad rolled to a silver medal in the Ontario championships on Mar. 19 in Scarboro.

"They didn't quit," said proud coach Ralph Miller of his five-man team. "They were in second place after the first game and dropped again after the second game. But in the third game they came right back with an 855 to take the silver."

The team of Martin Johnston, Kevin Shapcott, Chris Gostlin, Chris Wilkes and Matthew Walker took the Ontario silver medal with an overall score of 2443 (with a 373 pins-over-average as a team), under 100 points less than the gold medal-winning Hamilton team. Oshawa took third with a 2363.

"It was pretty good when you consider this was their first major competition," said Miller.

The Georgetown crew bowled an 843 in game one of the final, hit

for a 745 in game two and roared back for gold with an 855 in game three. Shapcott ended the day with an individual 399, Wilkes had a 463, Walker was 494, Johnston hit 512 and Gostlin counted 575.

What also made the Georgetown silver even more impressive was the fact Walker bowled in the bantam final as a peeewe (7-year-old) against 10-year-olds.

The locals topped all but one of 17 opposition teams at the Scarboro roll-off after having won the 14-team regional competition in Guelph on Feb. 19.

While Miller was impressed with his team's comeback win he was equally pleased with the show of sportsmanship displayed by his young charges. "They conducted themselves as good sports throughout the competition," he said.

"I was also impressed with the encouragement the kids received from the parents, and especially from Grant Somers who doesn't even have a youngster on the bantam team but who is always out there supporting us," said Miller. "It helps to have the fans behind you, especially when you come back in the third game."

Hooper pondering role with Raiders before May executive meeting

By PAUL SVOBODA
Herald Sports Editor

Possible changes within the Georgetown Raiders Jr. B Hockey Club will be discussed at a May 9 executive meeting, but it's likely that some major decisions will already have been made before that date.

Team president Dave Kentner said last Thursday that the usual club protocol will call for the year-end release of all vice-presidents at the May 9 meeting, after which nominations will be heard. "At that time we will name a vice-president of hockey, a general manager and a coach," said Kentner.

Both current general manager Bob Hooper and head coach Peter Sturgeon have apparently been asked to return to the club next season in their respective positions. Both said last week they are currently considering their decisions.

"I've given it a lot of thought," said Hooper on Thursday. "I haven't made up my mind what I'm going to do next year. I'm still general manager at this moment and I'm proceeding with normal operations. If I'm going to do it (act as GM for another season) I'll tell them (Raider executive) within two weeks."

Meanwhile, Sturgeon says he would speculate he'll be returning to coach the Raiders next season, although he hasn't made a commitment to the organization yet. He indicated he was somewhat miffed with some negative statements made about the team in the wake of its playoff exodus to Oakville in four straight games, the second time in two years that scenario has occurred.

"I've put a lot of time into the hockey team and would like to see the program continue," he said. "It's taken a tremendous amount of time on my part as coach. I don't like to walk away from the rink without a win, but I think Georgetown Jr. B is heading in the direction of a St. Mary's (St. Mary's Lincoln, a solid organization in the Western Jr. B Hockey League) in that we are a team bringing in young players to develop."

Sturgeon said while negative statements about the club wouldn't affect his decision about returning to the Raider bench next year, he did say the club had to be patient.

"We did a lot of work to see what it would take for us to be a hockey community. The foundation is laid and the program is in place. Now we've got kids that want to come to Georgetown. Things are headed in a positive direction, I've talked to some Toronto area general managers and there could be some surprises next year."

Bob Hooper



Hooper, meanwhile, concurred with Sturgeon on the positive movement made by the club in the past couple of seasons, although he expressed disappointment with the playoff record. "We've done a lot with the hockey team, made a lot of changes, but we've lost a lot of hockey games (in the playoffs) and that feels bad. If I leave the club that'll make me feel bad. You see Etobicoke advance (the Capitals won the Central loop's western division playoff final recently) and we were pretty well even-steven

with them during the regular season (2-3-2).

"We've just got to learn how to beat Oakville," he quipped.

Hooper feels the Hooper-Sturgeon combination has been a strong one for the local Jr. B outfit. "Peter did a lot of the general manager's work last year and that was the idea. He did some and I did some. We'd probably do the same thing again. We'd like to add some depth in the managerial and coaching positions. Pete's not going to stay with the B's forever and we have to build with that in mind."

As for any minor changes and tinkering within the managerial and coaching ranks, Hooper said that would have to wait. "You've got to make the top decisions before you make the bottom ones," he said.

There have been hints that Hooper might be offered a vice-president's position but the current GM did not wish to expand on that topic. "I'll reserve comment on that," he said.

As for his decision on whether or not to return as GM next year, Hooper said his decision will be, "non-negotiable."

Kings and Rangers in Stanley Cup? Why not?



Paul's Call

Paul Svoboda
Herald Sports Editor

Who said the NHL playoffs get any easier to predict?

It certainly wasn't a sportswriter.

But for the first time in a long while, all the 16 teams that qualify for Lord Stanley's derby this season will deserve to be there - at least, on the basis of points, that is.

And yes fans, the Leafs will back into the playoffs again. I guarantee it.

Here's this scribe's rundown on everybody's Cup-winning chances:

Calgary: If they get there again, even against Les Habs, the Flames will win it.

Montreal: You can't count these guys out - ever. A Hab-Flame final? Very possible.

Washington: Notorious playoff chokers, but they've got a good streak going as they head into the hardware round. A darkhorse shot.

L.A. Kings: A Cinderella story would have the Gretzky-led Kings in the Cup final. It's not such a pipe dream. They'll definitely knock off Edmonton, then who knows?

Boston: 0-8 versus the Habs this year, always a bad sign in Beantown.

Pittsburgh: Despite the Magic of Mario, Pens are just glad to be there.

Rangers: Most improved team in the NHL, next to L.A., and with ageless Guy Lafleur the Rangers could surprise.

Edmonton: Oilers haven't really cut loose since the Gretzky trade. They'll fall to L.A. in round one and Glen Sather and Pete Pockington will be run out of town on a rail (if there are any VIA trains running by then).

Detroit: They'll be too banged up after finishing the Chuck Norris Division playoffs to do anything else, despite having the league's most underrated MVP, Steve Yzerman.

Buffalo: Much improved, but not this year.

Philadelphia: Always there, but not this year. A healthy Tim Kerr will help them upset the Caps.

Hartford, Vancouver, St. Louis and Minnesota: Way to go guys, but everyone knows you're just along for the ride.

The Leafs: They'll take Detroit to seven games, lose in the second overtime period of game seven, and Torontonians will go

home happy with the knowledge that those darned Leafs are, after all, on the right track.

Talk to me in June.

CUTTING SHARP FIGURES: Tara Hart, Lesley Watson, Sarah Arnesen, Danielle Dembie and Rosie Gimeno all won medals for the Georgetown Figure Skating Club at a recent major competition in Sarnia. They'll be skating in the Just Cruisin' carnival at Memorial Arena on Apr. 1-2.

ROUNDBALL RALLY: After a season-long chase, the Pacemakers have finally caught the Blue Zone in Georgetown Ladies Basketball League standings. The Zone, first-place occupants since the start of the season, were upset by the cellar-dwelling Steroids last week and the Pacemakers moved a half game ahead of their rivals to claim top spot in the six-team circuit. More details in Saturday's Herald Outlook.



Scoring silver

Coach Ralph Miller's Georgetown Bowl bantam boys five-pin team capped a late game comeback by capturing the silver medal at the Ontario championships in Scarboro on Mar. 19. The silver medalists are Martin Johnston, Chris Gostlin, Kevin Shapcott, Matthew Walker and Chris Wilkes. (Herald photo)