

OHL teams say local picks can "step right in"

# GM's endorse Raider grads

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Herald Sports Editor

If everything goes according to plans, all three Georgetown Raiders taken in the May 27 Ontario Hockey League priority draft should be taking regular shifts in the OHL next season.

The Guelph Platers, Cornwall Royals and defending OHL champion Peterborough Petes all gave ringing endorsements to their respective Georgetown Jr. B draft choices last week.

Defencemen Trent Cull and Rod Pasma were both selected in the first round, seventh and ninth overall, by Guelph and Cornwall, respectively and Gendron, a winger, went in round six to Peterborough, 89th overall.

"We feel Trent will be able to step right in and play," said Platers general manager Rob Holody on Wednesday. "We don't expect him to come in and be a Paul Coffey right away but he'll certainly have that chance in the

future."

Cornwall GM-coach Orval Tessier applied much the same terms to Pasma. "We feel he can definitely step right in and play," said Tessier on Thursday. "We've always worked hard on our defence. Our first pick last year was a defenceman (John Slaney, St. John's, Nfld. midgets) and he scored 60 points last season."

Meanwhile, in Peterborough, GM-coach Dick Todd has lost three graduating left wingers from his 1988-89 league champion Petes and he says Gendron will be given every opportunity to win one of those open spots in next year's lineup.

"We feel he's an excellent player and his style of play is conducive to our system," said Todd. "We feel Bryan has an excellent chance of playing for us."

Although Holody said the Platers were originally looking for a big goalscorer in the first round of the May 27 draft, the availability of

Cull when Guelph's turn came around forced the team to change its drafting strategy.

"We felt he was the best player available," explained Holody. "Our team last year was a Vancouver Canuck-type hockey club. We were looking for goal production in the draft. But we like Trent. He's a big strong aggressive player. We think he'll fit in. He's the kind of player we want here."

Cornwall, meanwhile, had Pasma tabbed as its number one pick well before the draft. Pasma was ranked 18th, (Cull was 10th) but Tessier said there was no doubt who his club was going to take.

"Rod was our number one priority," he said. "We were hoping he would be there."

Tessier found Pasma's size most attractive but the Royals also feel the 6-foot-4, 204-lb., 17-year-old has the developing skills to match.

"If you look at the recent Stanley Cup playoffs it seems today's defencemen are all big," said Tessier. "Hockey's going that way, to big mobile defencemen. We feel Rod has great ability and we're looking for him to do well down the road too."

Tessier said Cornwall's decision to take Pasma in round one was also based on the fact the squad is losing veteran backstop Richard Tabaracci and top blueliner Mathieu Schneider.

As for Cull, the Platers also believe there's big things to come from their Raider grad.

The 6-foot-2, 185-pounder heads into Guelph as an aggressive 15-year-old and Holody sees a lot of potential in the youngster. "He's rough around the edges, but he should be a fine Jr. A player," said Holody. "What he lacks in finesse he makes up for in intensity and aggressiveness. Trent has that spark in his eye that says he wants to play."

The last time Guelph had a seventh overall pick in the first round they chose another young defenceman, Mike Speer, who is currently ranked as a second rounder for the upcoming National Hockey League draft on June 17.

"If Cull can follow in Mike Speer's footsteps we'll be happy and I know Trent will be happy," concluded Holody.

Meanwhile, Todd admitted a strong second half and a five-point playoff scoring total in four games helped Gendron, who was ranked as a 10th round choice prior to May 27.

"I like his aggressiveness," said Todd.



"Thanks, coach"

Acton High School rugby players surprised outgoing coach Martin Lewis at the AHS athletic awards banquet May 25. The ruggers presented Lewis with a personalized jersey and a special card of thanks. Pictured with Lewis are some members of the Redmen rugby squads. The Acton teams enjoyed some success in 1989 with the juniors upsetting arch-rival Georgetown Rebels and the midgets qualifying for the Halton County quarter-finals. Lewis was assisted in his coaching duties this year by Dave Boycott. (Herald photo)



Cercor defeated the Independent in a tight game in the final of the 12-team Project Playground softball tournament held at Glen Williams Park on the weekend. The tournament was held to raise funds for \$14,000 worth of playground equipment for Glen Williams Park. A committee has been working for several months to raise funds for Project Playground. The Town of Halton Hills has kicked in \$6,000 for the equipment. Here, one colorful batter takes a swipe at the ball in the late innings of the final game. (Herald photo)

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