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Raiders suffering slump

By COLIN GIBSON
 Herald Sports Editor

It's just about gut-check time for Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders, following a pair of losses over the weekend that saw the team's early-season Central Ontario Junior "B" League, West Division, won-lost record drop to 0-4.

Friday night in Oakville, despite a solid performance in goal by Curtis Green, the Raiders were blanked 3-0 by the hometown Blades.

Saturday night at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, the Raiders were doubled 6-3 by Milton Merchants, in a game that was marred by a late third period brawl.

The melee erupted after the final Milton goal and both teams suffered as a result of the incident.

The Merchants' Pat Hanniberry was removed from the ice on a stretcher and taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for a mild concussion, then released.

Hanniberry sustained the head injury when his helmet was knocked off in one of the late-game scrums and he struck his unprotected head on the ice in one of the ensuing wrestling matches.

According to Milton Merchant sources, Hanniberry attended the team's Sunday practice, although he didn't suit up, and should be none the worse for wear.

Raider goaltender Curtis Green got involved in the fracas and will be sitting out two games as the result of the third-man-in rule concerning fights.

Raiders will also be without the services of rugged veteran Kevin Dance, for two to three games as he was tossed from the game just before the 'Main Event' erupted and assessed a gross misconduct penalty for using abusive language and arguing with the game officials.

The Raiders now sit in the basement of the league's West Division, but team coach Peter Sturgeon is not ready to push the panic button just yet.

"It may sound strange," noted Sturgeon, "but despite the losses, I thought the team as a whole put on a better showing on the weekend than in previous games."

"We are basically a young, inexperienced team," pointed out Sturgeon, "and it takes time to get everyone working together. I can see improvement, though, we're starting to jell and becoming more determined. The guys are coming to play."

The Friday night game in Oakville was the second meeting of the young Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League season between the Raiders and the Blades. The first encounter ended in a 6-3 Oakville win.

Thanks mainly to Green, the Raiders halved the Blades' offensive output on Friday but could only fire blanks at Jamie Cuff in the Oakville net.

Through two periods, the game remained scoreless, then Oakville popped three goals by the 12 minute mark to claim the win.

The Raiders had taken the Milton Merchants measure in two pre-season exhibition game wins and were within range after two periods Saturday-night for a victory.

The Merchants enjoyed a slim, 4-3 lead heading into the final 20 minutes of play.

Milton edged ahead 5-3 early in the third period, and the short-handed goal took the wind out of the Raiders' sails.

Mike Crestpence had been handed the unusual six minutes in minor penalties but the Raiders failed to capitalize on the golden opportunity.



The final Milton goal came with less than five minutes to go in the

game and more than anything else, it served to rub salt in the Raiders' already festering wounds.

It was shortly after the Milton final goal that the Georgetown fans were treated to the local version of World Wrestling Federation antics.

Despite being turfed from the game, Kevin Dance again paced

Raider roster faces changes

By COLIN GIBSON
 Herald Sports Editor

Four losses in a row and suspensions to two key players just might alter the Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raider roster heading into this week's Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League action.

Although both Raider coach Peter Sturgeon and team general manager Bob Hooper wouldn't get into specifics, it's clear that some roster changes are in the offing.

Sturgeon admitted that he has had conversations with five Ontario Hockey League major junior teams concerning player availability but would only go as far as stating, "Naturally, we're always looking to improve our hockey team."

Hooper was similarly circumspect concerning roster changes, but affiliate midget players Adam Hagan, Trevor Elinesky and Ken Kosziwka will undoubtedly continue to suit up for the Raiders.

Former Raider Des Brown, whose ties were cut from Owen Sound Platers, apparently is still trying to latch on to a major junior team but would be welcomed back to the Raiders with open arms.

Raiders are also interested in obtaining Brown's younger brother Kevin, who played bantam hockey in the Metro Toronto Hockey League last year and needs a release to join the Raiders.

Kevin Dance will be sitting out a two or three game suspension as a result of a difference of opinion with Saturday night's game officials, while goaltender Curtis Green will be watching from the sidelines for two games for being third man in, in one of Saturday night's tussles.

It is expected that Shawn Reis will step between the pipes for the Raiders this week, with Jason Nicholson serving as back-up.

According to Hooper, the shoulder separation suffered by rookie defenceman Craig Cooper, will keep the youngster out of action for at least another week.



NO QUARTER WAS ASKED, or given, in the Raiders-Milton Merchants game Saturday night at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Raiders defeated Milton twice in pre-season exhibition games, but the Merchants came out on top 6-3, in the Saturday regular season contest. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

the Raider attack, collecting assists on all three Raider goals.

Raider marksmen included Kelly Foster, Brent Presswood and Steve Duberry.

For Milton Jeff Daw, Brad Thompson, John Kovacs, Ken Guilford and Paul Hartey scored goals.

Curtis Green made 25 saves for Georgetown before being ejected from the game. Jason Nicholson took over in the Raider nets with time running out and wasn't tested with a shot.

Chad Muldun also made 25 saves in the Milton nets.

Tuesday (yesterday) the Raiders travelled to Peterboro for a game with the league's West Division newest entry. At press time, the score was not available.

This weekend the Raiders have home-and-home games scheduled

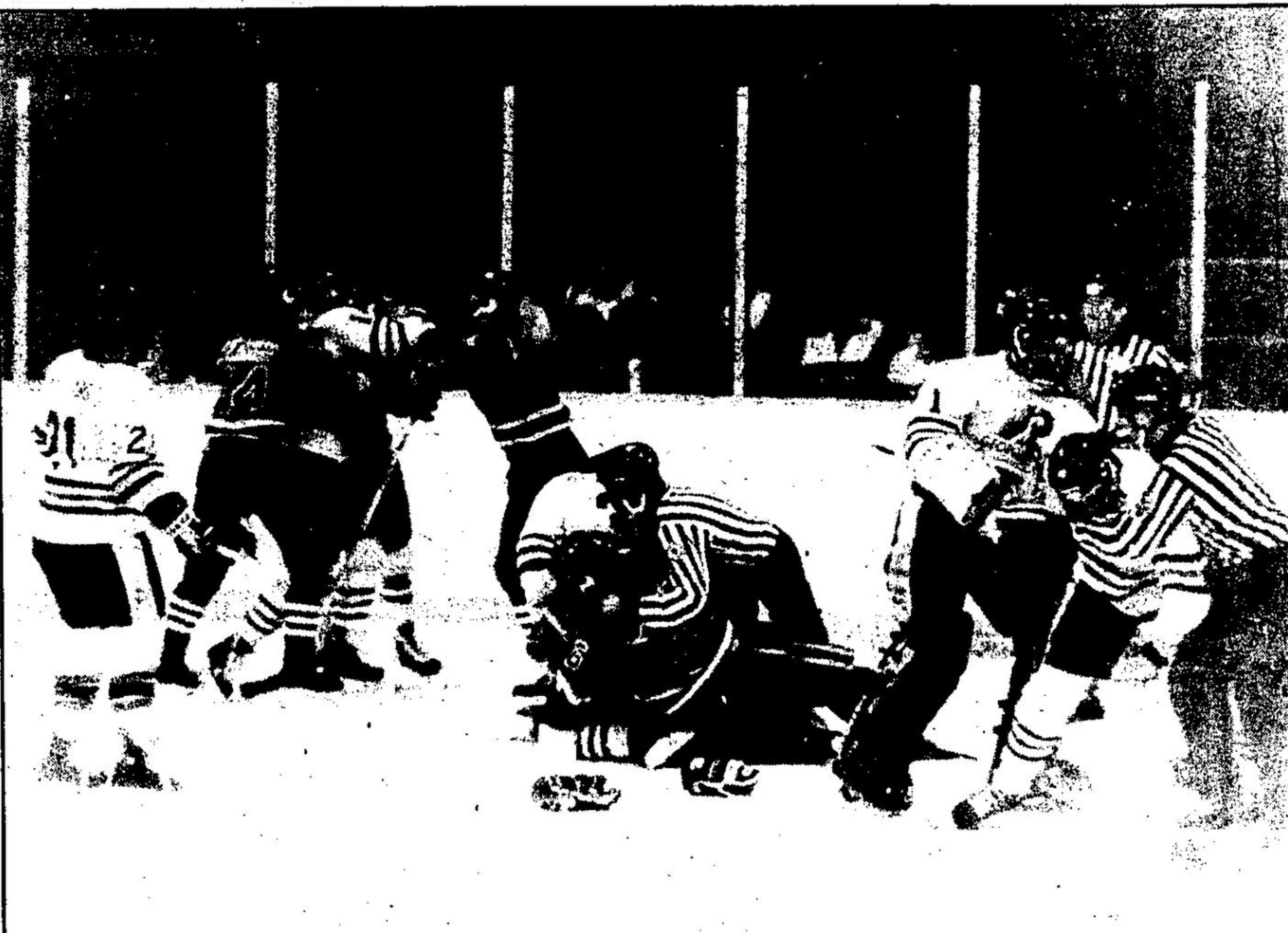
against West Division leader Burlington Cougars.

Friday, Raiders journey to Burlington to enter the Cougars' lair then Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, the Raiders play host to Burlington.

Central Ont. Jr. B

West Division							
Burlington	4	3	1	0	22	17	6
Milton	4	3	1	0	22	17	6
Stratford	4	2	0	2	28	23	6
Oakville	3	2	0	1	17	11	5
Peterboro	5	2	3	0	28	32	4
Brampton	4	0	3	1	17	21	1
Georgetown	4	0	4	0	10	23	0

East Division							
Barrie	5	5	0	0	43	16	10
Orillia	5	3	1	1	25	12	7
Newmarket	4	2	2	0	16	16	4
Lindsay	4	1	2	1	17	28	3
Collingwood	3	1	2	0	11	15	2
Aurora	4	1	3	0	9	25	2
Markham	5	1	4	0	20	29	2



GEORGETOWN PONTIAC-BUICK RAIDERS and Milton Merchants staged their own version of the 'Main Event' late in Saturday night's Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League encounter at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Milton Merchants won the game 6-3. Raiders goaltender Curtis Green is facing a suspension for being third

man-in on a fight, as is the Merchants' Pat Hanniberry, similarly for being third man in. Hanniberry was removed from the ice on a stretcher after suffering a head injury which was later diagnosed as a mild concussion, suffered in the late-game melee. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)