


ONLY
\$34⁰⁰
PER WEEK
1989 HONDA CIVIC
GEORGETOWN HONDA
203 Guelph St. (Hwy. 7) Georgetown LOW COST LEASING
SALES - SERVICE - 873-1818



Sports

and Recreation

COLIN GIBSON Herald Sports Editor

DOWNTOWN FAX SERVICE
Evenings & Saturdays Too!

YOUNG'S I-D-A PHARMACY LTD.
Downtown Georgetown 877-2761

Relations strained with GMHA

Sabre owner questions treatment of players

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor
To know Mitch Lajeunesse is to... well, to be honest, he's a hard man to know.

A large, bear-like, gregarious fellow, he also gives the impression that he is not a man to be toiled with or crossed. He's also not afraid to speak his mind or take the consequences of his own actions.

These latter personality traits appear to be at the crux of his dispute with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association. Rightly, or wrongly, he feels the Sabres have

been treated unfairly by the GMHA and he wants to stand up and be heard.

"I'm standing up for the team and for Acton," declared Lajeunesse, in no uncertain terms. "It's about time we, in Acton, stood up for ourselves. Acton will be my home for a long time and I'm proud of the place."

A native of Kapuskasing, in Northern Ontario, Lajeunesse grew up in the school of hard knocks where you fought for what you wanted and fought to keep what you earned.



Mitch Lajeunesse

He is 37 years old, married with three children and a successful realtor with A.J. Tait. He also coaches the Acton Novice Rep team.

He took over ownership of the Sabres this past winter and was viewed as somewhat of a savior by many who felt the team was on the verge of folding. One of his commitments was to keep the team in Acton for at least five years.

He is no stranger to hockey wars, either.

Lajeunesse played minor hockey in Kapuskasing, played for the Tier II Junior "A" North Bay Trappers, played Junior "B" hockey in Milton and remained to play Intermediate hockey in Milton for close to 10 years.

He claims he informed the Sabres executive, when he took over the team, that he would be a "hands-on" owner and he has certainly lived up to the promise.

He attends practices, games and follows the team on the road. He also wants to be part of any executive decisions involving the team.

He wants a winner for Acton and thus came into conflict with the GMHA.

The Sabres finished sixth in league play last year and were eliminated in the first round of playoffs.

From the moment he took over the team, Lajeunesse vowed things would improve.

Obviously, new and better players were needed. Lajeunesse intended to get these players.

Three midget-aged players, Dale McNiven, Adam Hilts and Mike McElroy had expressed an interest in playing for Acton at training camp and Lajeunesse wanted them for the Sabres.

The GMHA, worried about the prospect of being forced to fold the major midget team because of lack of players, balked at first about releasing the players.

The players eventually were released and signed with Acton, but the seeds of future problems had been sown.

The blow-up between Lajeunesse and the Sabres centred around net-minder Chris Cambouris, registered with the GMHA.

Cambouris bounced between the Sunny Acres Farms, Raiders, Sabres and Orangeville Crushers camps in pre-season training.

A Sabre executive decision to go with Jim Mantione and Dean Bower - Sabre goaltenders last year - seemed to end Acton interest in Cambouris.

However, when the Sabres lost four games in a row, including a 14-3 thumping by Orangeville, Lajeunesse felt a change had to be made and instructed his general manager Robin Inscoc, to check out the availability of Cambouris.

Inscoc was informed that the GMHA was in the process of forming a juvenile team, that might need a goaltender and refused to release Cambouris.

Negotiations for the player's release appeared to be at a standstill so Lajeunesse, over the objections of team executive members, inserted Cambouris in goal for a game against Caledon.

As Cambouris had not been released, the GMHA filed tampering charges with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and the Ontario Hockey Association subsequently fined the Sabres \$100 and suspended coach Ken Steen for one game.

Lajeunesse admits his actions were wrong, but felt the issue had to be forced and in his own inimitable way, took the bull by the horns and now must face the consequences.

His executive is in an uproar, the Raiders are viewing the situation nervously from the sidelines and no doubt, the players can't help but be aware of the off-ice controversy.



THE GEORGETOWN PONTIAC-BUICK RAIDERS goal area was not the safest place to be over the weekend. The Raiders had two home games scheduled at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena and when the ice chips had settled, even the rink rats

were scurrying for cover. The Raiders lost 9-3 to Peterborough, Friday night, then were drubbed 11-2 by Streetsville in the Saturday evening home encounter. (Herald photos)

Raider roster shuffled

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor
Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders saw their 1989-90 Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League Western Division record plummet to 1-10 following a pair of weekend losses at Gordon Alcott Arena and for certain players, the losses represented farewell appearances.

The Raiders lost 9-3 to Peterborough, Friday evening and 11-2 to Streetsville, Saturday night and a roster shake-up is occurring.

An open secret around the team has been dissatisfaction in the play and leadership shown by veterans Kevin Dance and Kelly Foster. Neither player saw action Saturday night against Streetsville.

An announcement from the Raiders on the two players' status with the team is expected this week.

Mark French, who played Junior "B" hockey for Milton last year and had been in action this year with the Tier II Junior A team in Smith Falls, signed with the Raiders Thursday and saw action in the weekend encounters.

In addition, brothers Kevin and Des Brown, have signed on with the Raiders.

Kevin Brown, a right winger, was the property of the

Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League. The Raiders paid for his release.

Older brother Des, who toiled for the Raiders last year, has put his Ontario Hockey League hopes on hold for the present and rejoined Georgetown.

Davin Ciglen, a defenceman, has rejoined the Raiders.

Raider coach Peter Sturgeon, expects more new players to join the team this week and is on the verge of cementing an affiliation with North Bay Trappers of the Ontario Hockey League.

Given the present disappointing Raider record, there was little else the team's executive could do but to institute changes - even if some were unpopular.

The 11-2 loss to Peterborough Friday night was an accurate reflection of how the team has performed, for the most part, this year.

Raiders came out flat, Peterborough jumped out to an early lead and it was "turn out the lights" time for the Georgetown pucksters.

Peterborough led 5-0 after the first period, 6-2 after 40 minutes of play and outscored the Raiders 3-1

in the final period en route to the 9-3 triumph.

Bill McDonald, Brent Presswood and Kevin Burrows scored the Raider goals.

It was much the same story Saturday night against Streetsville as the Raiders were overwhelmed before they could get their game in gear.

The Derbys led 3-1 after 20 minutes, opened up a 7-2, 40-minute lead, then counted four more times in the final frame, without a reply from the Raiders, to sew up the 11-2 win.

Bill McDonald scored both Georgetown goals, with Jim English assisting on both markers.

The Raiders have two road games this week and it might help the newcomers adjust and get to know their teammates.

Thursday night the Raiders travel to Brampton and Sunday afternoon the Georgetown crew visit Streetsville.

The Raiders' next home game is Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, with Streetsville Derbys once again providing the opposition.

Raiders aware of hockey dispute

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor
"Technically speaking", the Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders are not directly involved in the current dispute between the Acton Tait Realty Sabres and the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association.

Reading between the lines, however, it is clear that the dispute is causing some concern in the Raider camp.

The Raiders primary affiliation agreement is with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, as it is the main feeder system for the hometown Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League club.

To damage this relationship would not only cost the Raiders, in terms of player availability, but would also damage the team's credibility in the community as part of the team's constitution declares that one of the purposes of the Junior "B" operation is to provide local players the opportunity to play hockey at that level.

The Raiders also have an affiliation with the Junior "C" Acton Tait Realty Sabres. However, as Raider president Dave Kentner pointed out, the two affiliations are apart and separate.

"Technically," Kentner said,

"we are not involved in the dispute. Our primary affiliation is with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association. This is our first priority. We would not allow a secondary affiliation (with the Sabres) to affect our first priority."

"I can't condone the Sabres' actions (use of a not-released GMHA player) and it could have been done differently."

Kentner pointed out, "The affiliation with the Sabres came about mainly because of the friendship of the two coaches (Ken Steen with the Sabres and Peter Sturgeon with the Raiders) so I can't see how our relationship with the Sabres will be directly affected."

Raider general manager Bob Hooper noted, "It's none of our business. We're not part of their (the Sabres) problem. We have a good relationship with the GMHA, but it's just like anything else, you have to abide by the rules. He (Sabre owner, Mitch Lajeunesse) didn't."

Raider coach Peter Sturgeon, had little to say regarding the Sabre-GMHA dispute but did note, "We work with the GMHA for the betterment of player development and I have no problems in that area at all."