

Raiders season on the line?

Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders got the monkey off their collective backs this past weekend in Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League, West Division, play as the team posted back-to-back wins over Brampton Capitals and Burlington Cougars to break out of a winless slump stretching all the way back to Oct. 14.

The two weekend wins raises the Raiders record to 3-16 and it also raises hopes that the team will begin to live up to the expectations team management envisioned leading into the 1989-90 Junior "B" season.

Inexperience, roster changes and disappointing play from players who were expected to shoulder leadership roles, has plagued the Georgetowners to date.

The team finally started to implement the preachings of Raider mentor Peter Sturgeon, in the two weekend games and lo and behold, four badly-needed points were garnered.

Wins can be contagious and a winning attitude is a must at this level of hockey, where emotions play a big part in the game.

Raiders are entered this week in the prestigious 12th Annual Pepsi International Junior Hockey Classic for the Father David Bauer Memorial Cup and this writer sincerely hopes the players enter the pressure-packed tournament with their heads on straight.

Raiders are presently in last place in the Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League, West Division standings and undoubtedly will come up against stiff - and perhaps overmatched - competition in the five-day shinny soiree.

The Raider program will be on display - one that stresses hockey for the good of the player - and regardless of the game scores, the players will be under the proverbial microscope.

How they handle the attention could well determine how the team fares through the balance of the 1989-90 season.

Sixteen teams will be vying for the championship hardware but there is more at stake than simple team honors.

Highly-touted junior player Eric Lindros, suits up for Detroit Compuware and everyone wants to see if he can live up to his buildup.

National Hockey League clubs will be well-represented as will major junior teams of the Ontario Hockey League.

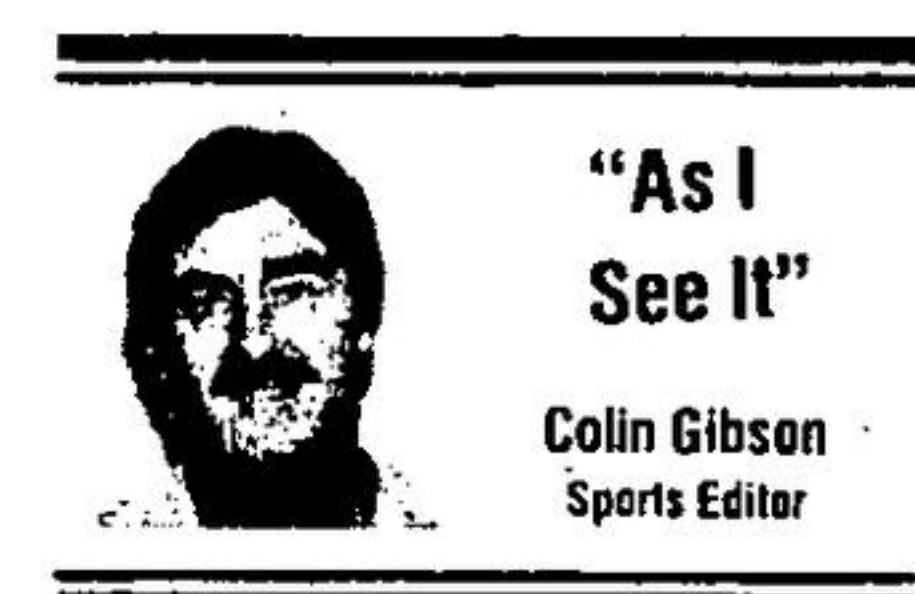
It is reported that confirmed requests have been received from 87 U.S. colleges and that at least 17 Canadian universities and 14 community colleges have asked for tournament credentials.

The list of players now toiling in the NHL who have showcased their talents in previous years' tournaments include: Pat Flatley - New York Islanders; Terra Cotta native, Scott Mellanby - Philadelphia Flyers; Paul Cavallini - St. Louis Blues; Gino Cavallini - St. Louis Blues; Russ Courtnall - former Leaf now with Montreal Canadiens; Wendel Clark and Ed Olyck - Toronto Maple Leafs; Pokey Reddick - Winnipeg Jets; Gary Sutter - Calgary Flames; Brendan Shanahan - New Jersey Devils; Rob Boyce - Boston Bruins; Sean Burke - New Jersey Devils and Joe Nieuwendyk - Calgary Flames.

The teams are split into four divisions, with only the division winner advancing to semi-final play on Saturday.

The championship final is scheduled for 12 noon Sunday.

Included with the Raiders in their division is Central Ontario Junior "B" West Division rival Streetsville Derbys, Kingston Voyageurs and Vaughan of the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey



"As I See It"

Colin Gibson
Sports Editor

MINOR ATOMS

Century 21 edged

By DAVE BEAVAN
Herald Special
Brampton 7
Georgetown 5

In Minor hockey, the difference between two teams quite often is one player. Thursday evening, Century 21 Minor Atoms outplayed rival Brampton for most of the game but they couldn't handle little David Lapchuk who scored four goals and led the visitors to a 7-5 win.

Trevor Rich got Georgetown off on the right foot when he scored unassisted early in the first period after an end to end rush.

This is Trevor's first year on the team but he certainly looks at home centering the third line and getting some ice time on the power play.

Just fifteen seconds after Trevor's goal Sam Butt knocked in Allan Rasmussen's rebound and the home team were up 2-0.

Brampton scored two quick goals to start the second period and were threatening again when Michael Crawford broke up a play at his blueline and hit Brad Kouyoumjian with a lead pass.

Brad let a bullet shot go which forced the opposing goalie to make a sprawling save. With the goalie down Andrew Beavan pounced on the rebound and calmly flicked it up under the crossbar to put Georgetown ahead again.

Andrew has regained his scoring touch since moving onto the line with Davidson and Kouyoumjian as he has counted a goal in his last two games.

By the midway point of the third period, Brampton had regained the lead 4-3, but that was when Shane Thompson grabbed a loose puck just inside the blueline and drilled it over the visiting netminder's shoulder to knot the score at 4-4. None of Shane's goals are from screened shots. Our players all know how hard he shoots and when he winds up they all scatter.

After Brampton again took the lead Georgetown scored a goal which looked so easy you would wonder why they don't do it all the time.

Ricky Clark circled the net and passed to Brad Davidson up the middle. Brad then passed to Brad Kouyoumjian as he cut in from left wing. Kouyoumjian scored with his high wrist shot and the game was again tied 5-5.

Unfortunately, with only three minutes left in the game Brampton's little superstar scored his fourth unassisted goal and it proved to be the

Any chance Georgetown might have had for a comeback was spoiled by three very questionable penalties taken in the last minute of play.

League.

Vaughan, a Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League team last year, which defected this year to the junior division of the MTHL, replaces Chicago Young Americans, a last-minute dropout.

Raiders are scheduled to meet Vaughan today (Wednesday) in an 11:30 a.m. game.

Thursday in a 9:30 a.m. scheduled game, Raiders challenge Streetsville Derbys.

The Raiders final division game has been scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Friday morning against Kingston Voyageurs.

Tournament semi-final games are slated for 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Weston Lions Arena.

Naturally, Raiders are entering tournament play with the ultimate goal of capturing the gold medal.

However, Raider players should also keep in mind that old sports cliché: "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game," when they don the blades against tourney opposition.

For many of the players and perhaps the Raider organization as a whole, the 1989 Pepsi International Junior Hockey Classic could be the turning point of the 1989-90 hockey season.

As I see it, anyway.

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