

Unrealistic goals set by Raider executive

Which is more important? Change for the sake of change or maintaining continuity? In regards to the decision to replace Gary McFadyen with Charlie Hanman as coach of Georgetown Raiders Jr. B hockey team, I definitely choose the latter.

Sure, the Raider executive can point to the fact that the team didn't reach their goal of at least the second round of the playoffs as an excuse, but it is a flimsy and convenient one. I would answer that by taking a closer look at the management's ability to find and convince quality players to join the organization.

To begin with, perhaps some of the blame can be placed with former general manager Joe Walsh, who was let go by the team for that very reason - being unable to fill the tryouts with

quality starters. Management didn't provide the players to look at, so McFadyen didn't have much to choose from, yet he was able to double the number of wins of last season (12, up from six).

One of the criticisms levelled at Walsh by many people around town, including the Raider executive was that he wasn't able to contribute more of his time to seeking out prospects due to his job and other commitments. Who is responsible for hiring somebody who wasn't able to come through? It certainly wasn't McFadyen.

The Raider executive listed McFadyen's inability to complete this season with a .500 record and advance past the first round of the playoffs as their reasons for replacing him. My reaction to that is to ask if that goal was



Risky Business
by Robert Risk

realistic for a team that won only six of its games in 1989-90. A team that does win half its games is expected to advance past the first round of the playoffs, but having those expectations after winning just six games seems a little too unrealistic.

Walsh can't take all the blame for not getting players for the team. In many cases, the boys refused to report to Georgetown because they didn't want to play for a team that had such a lousy record. This is something McFadyen was able to change to a certain degree and was looking forward to improving further in the next season.

With McFadyen at the helm to follow up on his accomplishments, working with familiar faces and a core of players who knew and respected him, Raiders stood a much greater chance of actually reaching that .500 plateau and being a force to be reckoned with in the playoffs.

Instead, the Raider organization chose to try and hide behind their mistakes by coming up with

a scapegoat. I guess that's not too surprising, since so many of the major league teams do it all the time. I should know, having been a Toronto Maple Leafs fan for so long.

Correction

The Acton Figure Skating Club picture on the front page of the March 27 issue of the Halton Hills Herald was incorrectly identified as Cara McGiloway, dressed as Little Bo Peep, when the person in question was actually Sarah Venema as Goldilocks. The Herald regrets the error and any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Hanman named as Raider coach

Georgetown Raiders Jr. B hockey executive named Charlie Hanman, a long-time Georgetown Minor Hockey Association coach, as their coach for the 1991-92 season, on Monday, replacing Gary McFadyen.



CHARLIE HANMAN

The move comes after Raiders finished sixth in the Central Ontario Jr. B West Division and were eliminated three straight in the first round of the playoffs by Brampton.

"I have a lot of respect for Gary and I know that he gave it his best effort. But at the start of the season, our goal was to play .500 hockey during the regular season and get past the first round of the playoffs," said Raider president Finn Poulstrup.

McFadyen said not advancing in the playoffs was a disappointment for him as well, but wondered how realistic the executive's expectations were, given the team's record from the previous year.

McFadyen said he had no bad

feelings toward Hanman, acknowledging his experience as a coach who has been very successful with his teams (most recently guiding the Halton Hurricanes Major Midgets to the Central AAA championship on Sunday in Milton.)

Hanman said he was thrilled to get the opportunity to coach the team and verified he would be actively involved in scouting out the AAA leagues.

Hanman also promised the team will be a much tougher one to beat, especially at home. In a recent interview, Hanman said there will definitely be more penalties being tallied on the game sheets.



Acton house league championships

DWRT Trucking and A and S Engraving battled it out for the Tyke house league championship on Saturday at Acton Arena during the Acton Minor Hockey Association's Day of Champions. A and S won the Tyke title, followed by Goy Cartage (Novice), Nellis Construction (Atom), Goy Cartage (Pewee) and Acton Lions Club (Bantam) (Herald photo)

Success fuels local skater's desire



Michael Fedchyshyn, a member of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club, placed first in the All-Ontario Inter-Club competition held in Bowmanville on March 16, the highest he has ever managed in the sport. Several other successes this year has heightened his eagerness to take part in the competitive stream of figure skating in the near future. (Herald photo)

Georgetown resident Michael Fedchyshyn, 14, has enjoyed a great deal of success on the ice this year - not as a hockey player, but as a figure skater, most recently winning the All-Ontario title for Pre-Juvenile men in Bowmanville on March 16.

Fedchyshyn acknowledges that the sport of figure skating is still dominated by females, but as in the reverse case with hockey, that is beginning to change.

"When I first started, I could be guaranteed to place in the top three because that's how many guys were competing. Now, almost all the meets are completely filled to maximum."

Fedchyshyn said he doesn't get ribbed by his friends at school about wanting to do pirouettes at the rink rather than slapshots, which is perhaps a sign of the times.

"A lot of them joined up for CanSkate when I first started to learn and I just happened to stay with the programs when the other guys switched to hockey."

Fedchyshyn also had choices to make about which sport he would pursue as the demands on his time required him to decide between skating, Tae Kwon Do or Alpine skiing. He said he really enjoyed skiing, but doing it recreationally is enough for him now.

"It's a lot of work, going to practice for about two hours, three times a week and also

preparing for competitions. I'm kept busy all year, with a spring school at Alcott Arena this month and a seven week school in Oakville starting in July."

Fedchyshyn said he is happy that he stuck with figure skating, since it is a sport that satisfies his competitive nature and also suits his singular needs.

"I never liked team sports since I was never very good at it. I've even turned down requests to skate in pairs since I prefer to be on my own. I love the challenge though, seeing someone I want to beat and going after them. Winning the All-Ontario gave me the extra spark to keep going further."

House league hockey finals

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association is marking the end of the season with its house league Day of Champions on Saturday at Alcott Arena.

Eight games will be played to decide this year's house league champions, beginning with Bantams at 8:00 a.m., featuring Curwood Packaging against Georgetown Honda.

The GMHA is asking all of its players to bring an item of food for the Georgetown Food Bank.

Wrestling

First place finishes by Bruce Ryan, Steve Brown, Mike Large and Stew Teetzel helped Georgetown District High School take the Halton Junior Wrestling Championship, held at Bishop Reding on Thursday. The win sets the stage for the Halton championships, being held at GDHS tomorrow (Thursday).

Rebels beat out 10 other schools to win the title, finishing with 79 points, ahead of second place White Oaks (64 points) and E.C. Drury (61 points).