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# SPORTS & LEISURE

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## Raiders' playoff foe yet to be determined

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
*Staff Writer*

With the Ontario Jr. A Hockey League playoffs set to start next week, the Georgetown Raiders don't know their first-round opponent yet, but it's fairly certain they'll open at home Monday night.

The third-place Raiders can't move up or down in the standings heading into this weekend's final two games of the regular season and will face the sixth seed among the eight teams that qualify for the post-season in the 15-team league.

There are, however, four teams that could finish sixth, depending on the results of the remaining contests this week. Couchiching, Aurora, Villanova and Trenton are all within two points of each other with two games left and Villanova is slated to host Trenton Sunday.

The Raiders will travel to Rama Friday to take on the fourth-place Couchiching Terriers and then host the 13th-place Bramalea Blues Saturday beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Alcott Arena.

"Everything's so up in the air that we're just going to work on a few things in the last two games. You

don't want to show too much because (Couchiching) is a team that we could play in the first round, but still, you go out to win every game," said Raiders' coach and general manager James Richmond.

The opening-round series must be completed by March 5, so Richmond had set aside Monday, Wednesday and Saturday of next week for home dates in the best-of-7 format.

The 39-10-5 Raiders faced the OJHL's top two teams last weekend and came away with a split, including a hard-fought 3-2 overtime victory over the front-running Kingston Voyageurs at home Saturday night. Duston Hebebrand delivered his second game-winning goal against the Voyageurs this season on a high wrist shot in extra time, with rookie Michael Nishi earning the win in goal.

Nishi had to be called in to relieve usual starter Tony Capobianco after two periods last Friday in an uncharacteristically shaky effort by the 20-year-old in Oakville against the rival Blades. Trailing 5-3 heading into the final frame, the Raiders came back to equalize, only to have Oakville's Kellan Lain net the winner with seven minutes remaining.



Team captains Michael Ingoldsby of Oakville Blades (left) and Chris Borges of Georgetown Raiders battle for control of the puck during Ontario Junior A Hockey League game at Joshua's Creek Arenas. The Blades prevailed 6-5 in an entertaining tilt. Photo by Michael Ivanin/Metroland Media Group Ltd.

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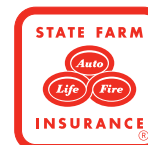
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