

Sparse crowd sees Raiders fall in opener

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Georgetown won all four regular-season meetings against the Knights this year and built a 3-0 lead just over a minute into the second period before the visitors surprised the Raiders by coming back to score a 4-3 triumph in front of only about 100 spectators.

Game two was played Wednesday night, also at the Alcott Arena, with the next two contests at Canlan Ice Sports in North York tonight (Thursday) and Friday. Georgetown hosts game five Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"I've left teams before when they were just starting to come together and then the new coach comes in and gets all the credit," laughed Anderson, an Oakville-Trafalgar Secondary School teacher and former Raider coach on three separate occasions.



JAY ANDERSON

"We came into a situation here that was already established and there are some good pieces here. We did change some things and added new wrinkles but it's the players working hard that makes it successful. Anything past today is uncharted territory for this

team, but it's only one game that we've won. I almost think that this rink is more suited to us than our own Olympic-size rink because Georgetown's such a fast-skating club. We're just trying to put the puck in their zone and get pressure as much as we can, hoping they cough it up."

Without captain Chris Borges in the lineup due to injury, the Raiders committed some pre-season-like defensive breakdowns and veteran goalie Tony Capobianco wasn't in his usual MVP form.

The hosts outshot Villanova 45-35 but went 0 for 7 on the power play and gave up two man-advantage goals, including the winner by Eric Ducharme midway through the third period.

One of the first things Anderson did when hired by the Knights was to coax 20-year-old netminder David Jenkins back to the club

after he walked out in December, awaiting a trade to a contender.

Jenkins was the key to Villanova's late-season surge, earning the OJHL's player-of-the-month award for January, and stymied Raider snipers several times in game one.

"We got up 3-0 and then we were undisciplined," said Raiders' coach and general manager James Richmond.

"The teams we've had here over the past couple of years have been disciplined in the playoffs and we lost the momentum because of some dumb penalties. (The Knights) are a hard-working team, but I think it was more of a case that we let them back in it. We'll bounce back, but we need better goaltending."

Rookie Evan Rodrigues, Scott Wilson and Jeremy Wick put the

Raiders ahead before the sixth-place Knights tallied three times in six minutes to equalize.

Anderson isn't the only Georgetown connection to the Knights.

Local native Robbie Murden came over in a trade from last-place Milton early this season and the 17-year-old forward has been an effective fourth-liner for Villanova, collecting six goals and six assists in 38 games.

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After taking the opening game of their best-of-5 Ontario Minor Hockey Association midget AA quarterfinal series, Georgetown's Sunny Acre Farms Raiders suffered three one-goal losses, including two in overtime, to the Belle River Canadiens.

Georgetown 4, Belle River 3: Matt Weber (3G); Stan Gaweda (G); David Bathgate (2A); Andrew Haffner, Warren Brayne (A); Cam Jenkins (W).

Belle River 3, Georgetown 2 (OT): Brent Jones (G, A); Weber (G); Jenkins (A).

Belle River 3, Georgetown 2: Gaweda, Cody Gresswell (G); Paul Davison, Troy Noakes, Tyler Nieuwendyk, Brent Jones (A).

Belle River 2, Georgetown 1 (OT): Kyle Kutlesa (G).

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