

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Struggling Raiders fall 7-5 to Junior Sabres

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

You could chalk up the Georgetown Raiders' 7-5 loss to the Buffalo Jr. Sabres Saturday as "one of those nights," only it's been happening far too often recently to be just a case of bad luck.

The 23-9-2 Raiders dropped their third game in four tries against the fifth-place Jr. Sabres this season and now two-thirds of the way through this Ontario Jr. Hockey League campaign, second-place Georgetown has fallen seven points behind front-running Burlington in the West Division standings after being tied only a couple of weeks ago.

Unable to bury the third-period equalizer Saturday, the Raiders had many misadventures in their own end and were outshot 30-28 overall, leaving head coach Greg Walters shaking his head over the state of his underachieving lineup.

"Our consistency needs to get a lot better," said standout forward Evan Rodrigues, who was held to a rare pointless night while taking two minor penalties.

"We come out and play a good game and then get shut down the next. Penalties killed us tonight and we can't afford to be doing that. We've just got to figure out where our game is right now."

Georgetown led 3-2 midway through the contest before giving up three goals in six minutes to the 14-17-2 Jr. Sabres, who received a penalty shot stop from goalie Seth Anderson on Raider Duston Hebe-



Georgetown Raiders' defenceman Matt Chiarantano tries to make the job of Buffalo Jr. Sabres' goalie Seth Anderson difficult during Buffalo's 7-5 Ontario Jr. Hockey League win Saturday evening at the Alcott Arena.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

brand in the final frame that would have tied the score.

Scott Wilson (2), Justin Basso, Anthony Cortellessa and Matt Chiarantano tallied for the hosts Saturday.

On Thursday, the Raiders scored twice in the final four minutes of the third to edge the Spirit in Stouffville 5-4. Newcomer Tyler Walsh (2), Alex D'Oliveira, Travis Fulton and Hebebrand were the Georgetown marksmen in the victory.

Ahead this week for the Raiders is a

trip to Milton Friday, followed by a home date with the 18-12-5 Huntsville Otters Saturday at the Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Despite his team's recent slide, Rodrigues has personally enjoyed a December to remember, committing to one of U.S. college hockey's top programs, the Boston University Terriers, beginning next fall.

The 17-year-old from Etobicoke was named Team East's MVP in one of the games at last week's Canadian Junior

Hockey League's Prospect Series in Dauphin, Man., not long after being named to the tournament all-star team at the World Jr. A Challenge in Penticton, B.C., in which his Team Canada East squad earned silver medals.

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound Rodrigues, who is eligible for next summer's NHL Draft, has 12 goals and 22 assists in 22 games with the Raiders this season after a 51-point rookie year in 2009-10.

"There were a couple of other schools I was looking at but I went down to Boston and visited the city and it just stood out for me over the other schools," he said.

"It's good to get the recognition and hopefully I can keep it going the rest of the year."

Rodrigues would do well to follow the lead of former Raider Brandon Pirri, who at age 19 has already played a game for the Stanley Cup-champion Chicago Blackhawks.

The Toronto Beaches resident had a superb half-season in Georgetown two years ago before moving on to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, N.Y., for 2009-10, signing with the Blackhawks after a stellar freshman campaign.

A 6-foot-180-pound centre, Pirri has five goals and six assists in 23 games with the American Hockey League's Rockford IceHogs and was invited to attend this week's Team Canada tryouts in Toronto for the World Junior Hockey Championships later this month in Buffalo.

### Rebel robbery

Ethan Spence (89) of Christ the King's Jaguars was stopped on this scoring attempt by Georgetown District High School's Brandon Bodiam last week at Alcott Arena in a match-up of Halton high school squads. Dylan Hannan scored his second goal of the game with 36 seconds left in regulation time for the equalizer in a 2-2 tie, after Rebels Brandon Allison and Cam Hryciw had tallied late in the third period. The 2-0-2 Jaguars are in first place in the Richardson Division standings and will host Oakville-Trafalgar Wednesday at 2:45 p.m., while the 1-2-2 Rebels visited Loyola yesterday (Monday).

Photo by Eamonn Maher



### Looking for Shamrocks

Calling all former Erin Shamrock and Acton Sabre alumni.

The Shamrocks are holding their annual "Alumni Night" on Monday, Dec. 27 at the Erin Arena and are looking for players from those teams to join them for the festivities.

The Erin Shamrocks moved from Acton to Erin a number of years ago.

There will be four alumni teams with games at 6 and 7 p.m. with a booster club and dance, featuring *The Practically Hip*. Join the Shamrocks and meet your former teammates from years gone by.

To register for the game, visit [www.erinshamrocks.org](http://www.erinshamrocks.org) and follow the link or contact Gerry Corrigan at 519-833-2509.

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