

SPORTS & LEISURE

Jr. A Raiders earn weekend split

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Despite scoring just two goals in their first eight periods of this new Ontario Junior Hockey League season, the Georgetown Raiders can still boast about taking away two points from their longtime nemesis.

Just not too loudly.

The 1-1-0 Raiders scored a 1-0 victory over the host Oakville Blades Friday night, even though they were outshot 46-18 and thoroughly outplayed at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex in front of about 150 spectators.

A power-play shot from the point by Oakville resident Nathan Domagala midway through the first period stood up as the lone goal of the evening as Blades' shooters were left frustrated by Raiders' netminder Michael Nishi, a late training camp cut of the OHL's Windsor Spitfires.

Having lost several veteran forwards during the off-season to scholarships and the age limit, the Raiders were expected to struggle in the goal-scoring department with the current roster. They did outshoot the visiting Newmarket Hurricanes 37-36 Saturday evening at the Alcott Arena, but had trouble finishing off chances in a 3-1 defeat, with Ted Anstett's second-period marker all the home side could generate.

In its home opener on Sept. 10, Georgetown trailed the Brampton Capitals 1-0 after 40 minutes before a malfunctioning Zamboni forced a postponement of the contest until January.

"We've made a couple of trades to try to get a little bit bigger and tougher and to get some offence going," said Raiders' head coach and general manager Greg Walters.

"There'll be a few more moves. We've still got some tinkering to do."

Walters dealt second-year winger Travis Fulton and rookie blueliner Patryk Wojenski to the Vaughan Vipers prior to Friday's tilt in exchange for 20-year-old forward Stephen Genua, who had 19 goals, 33 assists and 169 penalty minutes in 47 games for Vaughan last season.

On the plus side, the Raiders do have a veteran defence corps to fall back on and 17-year-old netminder Nishi has returned for a third season in Georgetown, making several excellent saves in the shutout win over Oakville.

The Spitfires opted to go with an overager and Dallas Stars' first-round draft pick Jack Campbell as their goaltending tandem to start the season.

"I was at the Windsor main camp and they say I need a little more development," said the 6-foot-1, 170-pound Nishi, a 10th-round selection of the

Spitfires.

"I'll get more playing time in Georgetown and I'm here, ready to play. The team is trying together and it's early, so we'll see who plays well with who and who can be our weapons up front."

Walters, centre Patrick Megannety and athletic trainer Andrew Groombridge will miss Wednesday's home game against the 3-1-0 Burlington Cougars at 7:30 p.m. to attend a Team Canada East evaluation camp in Kanata, Ont. for the squad that will play in the World Junior A Challenge tournament Nov. 7-13 in Langley, B.C. Walters is an assistant coach for Team Canada East.

Later in the week, the Raiders travel to Milton to face the IceHawks Friday night before hosting the Huntsville Otters Saturday beginning at 7:30 p.m.

NOTES: Friday's game marked the fifth year in a row that the Blades have lost their first meeting of the season to the Raiders...With a dozen players returning from last year's roster, Oakville aims to make it to at least the OJHL finals for an unprecedented fifth consecutive season...The Blades have two Georgetown residents on their roster, rookie forwards Todd Bannerman and Chris Taylor, both 19. Neither played against Georgetown Friday. The lone local Raider skater, Zach Fung, was a healthy scratch against Oakville.



Georgetown Raider goalie Michael Nishi turns aside one of the 48 shots he faced in leading the Raiders to a 1-0 win over the Blades in Oakville Friday.

Eric Riehl/Metroland Media Group

Eagles claim Ontario title

Winning six of their seven games, including a victory over the host Windsor Hawks in the final, Georgetown's minor peewee Tier I Eagles claimed the Baseball Ontario AA championship on the Labour Day weekend, beating out 18 other teams.

It was a memorable summer for the minor peewee Eagles, who faced some of the best U.S. teams in their age group at a tournament in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The Eagles played teams from Colorado, Florida, Alabama and Wisconsin in the week-long, 100-team event held at Cooperstown Dreams Park.

Along with meeting some Major

League players, the local minor peewees sang the national anthem at the opening ceremonies and were inducted into the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame.

Baseball Ontario Championship

Preliminary round— Georgetown 10, Vaughan 5; Georgetown 16, East York 6; Georgetown 7, Sarnia 2; Georgetown 10, Windsor 1; Barrie 5, Georgetown 4

Semifinal— Georgetown 13, Peterborough 3

Championship— Georgetown 22, Windsor 4



Georgetown's minor peewee Eagles emerged victorious from the 19-team Baseball Ontario AA championship in Windsor earlier this month, routing the host Hawks 22-4 in the final. Team members (front, from left) are: Evan Chenier, Jacob Douglas. Second row: Alex Seelman, Andrew Smith, Chris Yalowica, Eric Taylor, Lucas Wepf. Back row: Cooper Sharpe, trainer Don Wepf, Ben Basilio, Eric Brown, coach Gene Basilio, Nolan Frew, coach Mike Yalowica, head coach Greg Seelman.

Submitted photo

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