

SPORTS & LEISURE

Teams trade 3-2 wins

New-look Jr. A Raiders split opening games with Blades

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The Georgetown Raiders' new-found youth movement began in earnest over the weekend with a 3-2 win and a 3-2 loss against the Oakville Blades in Ontario Junior Hockey League regular-season action.

Usually one of the more-experienced teams in the OJHL, the Raiders, who had the league's best regular-season record last season on the way to winning the West Division title, had just two 20-year-olds in their lineup on the weekend and several youngsters making the jump from the minor hockey ranks to the Jr. A level.

Purchased by Burlington industrialist Bill Court during the summer, the Georgetown franchise has undergone a near-complete makeover, with the expected growing pains evident for a team filled with talented prospects.

"Obviously, we're going to be a young team and we're trying to get some local kids in here who are driven to go to the NCAA for scholarships," said third-year head coach and general manager Greg Walters.

"It's going to take some time as a coach to see what your players are capable of doing, but this team has the potential to develop some exciting young players. Oakville is in the same situation we are."

Both weekend contests were at times scrumbly but neither team enjoyed a two-goal lead at any time. First-line winger Drake Hart, a 19-year-old from Cayuga, netted the winner late in Friday's game in

Oakville, finishing off a 3-on-2 with vets Brendan Woods and Nick Perruccio getting the assists.

Hart had two goals on the evening and rookie Nicholas Dozzi of Stoney Creek had the other.

At home on Saturday, the Raiders led 2-1 at the game's midway point, but a pair of soft goals chased starting netminder Gabe Grunwald and the Blades held on for the one-goal victory.



GREG WALTERS

Woods had both Raider goals, with Georgetown resident Todd Bannerman earning an assist on the second Oakville tally.

Next up for the Raiders is a road date Friday against the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots in Etobicoke. Georgetown's next home date is on Wednesday, Sept. 19 against the Hamilton Red Wings.

NOTES: Georgetown's Liam Clare, a 2011 Windsor Spitfires' draft pick, looked sharp on the Raider blue line over the weekend. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound Halton Hurricanes' product is the lone Halton Hills' resident to crack the roster...The Raiders have a pair of brother tandems on this year's roster. Drake Hart's 17-year-old sibling Davis didn't play on the weekend, while 19-year-old blueliner Alex Adams was acquired in a trade with the Orangeville Flyers in exchange for defender Geoff Bagnall. Seventeen-year-old forward John Adams had an assist for the Raiders in Saturday's loss...Last year's playoff and regular-season MVP, Tyson Fawcett, along with another key contributor up front, Jacob Bauchman, apparently don't fit in with the Raiders' youth push and are at home in Barrie waiting to be dealt.



Georgetown Raiders' forward Nick Perruccio tries to find a shooting lane through the checking of Oakville Blades' defenceman Vince Palermo during their Ontario Junior Hockey League game Saturday at the Alcott Arena. The Blades pulled out a 3-2 victory in front of about 400 spectators after the Raiders had beaten host Oakville 3-2 Friday to begin the regular season.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Copeland, Fender capture bronze as part of Ont. Games relay squad

A couple of members of the Halton Hills Blue Fins earned bronze medals as part of a relay team at the recent Ontario Summer Games in Toronto.

Keri-Lyn Copeland and Emma Fender made up half of a girls' 4x200m freestyle relay team that finished third in their race.

Individual top-10 results were turned in by:

Emma Fender— 6th 400m IM; 8th

100m breaststroke (HHBF club record)

Britney Dortona— 8th 800m free, 100m butterfly

Keri-Lyn Copeland— 7th 400m free; 8th 200m free

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Megan Brosseau of the Blue Fins placed third in the 1km open water swim at the recent provincial championships in Welland.

Acton High in need of coaches

Some student athletes at Acton District High School may be unable to play their favourite sport this fall unless community coaches can be recruited for the Bearcats' girls' basketball and boys' volleyball teams.

Staff transfers and maternity leaves have left vacancies in the co-curricular program that are unable to be taken on by teachers within the school.

Physical education director Spike

Adams said that any commitments will be needed to be made as soon as possible because tryouts are set to begin and the regular season schedule starts in a couple of weeks.

Candidates must undergo a police check prior to receiving clearance to coach at the school.

For more info call Spike Adams at 519-853-2920 or e-mail adamss@hdsb.ca



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