

Russians set to invade Georgetown

The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming! — to play hockey that is.

The Georgetown Junior A Raiders will get a chance to lace up their skates against some of the top Russian juniors when the two sides square off in an exhibition tilt at Gordon Alcott Arena on Monday, January 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Central Red Army Junior A squad will make Georgetown one of their stops on a grueling 52-day, 30-game, swing through southern Ontario.

The Russian under-18 squad, which will boast seven or eight members of the National Junior Club, will begin their tour on December 4 in Madoc against the Pickering Panthers of the Metro Junior A Hockey League and conclude with a battle against the Timmins Golden Bears of the Northern Ontario Hockey League on January 20.

In between, the Central Red Army contests against a cross-section of Metro, OHA and NOHA teams.

Along with Georgetown, the Russians will

tangle with Burlington, Hamilton, and Brampton of the Central Ontario West Division.

The tour has been arranged through RusCan, a business set up by Daryl Kramp and Doug Baumken, specifically to bring the Central Red Army, or Central Sport Club of the Army as it is known to Ontarians.

According to the RusCan organizers several large corporate sponsors have come on board for the tour. While helping offset costs of the Russian team's visit, some sponsors have donated prizes for youngsters in attendance.

The corporate donations have also made it possible for the local squads, in this case the Raiders, to use the event as a fundraiser.

"It's a 60-40 split of the gate," stated Baumken, of the arrangements. "All the Raiders have to do is pay for the ice, the officials, and sell the tickets. It's a win-win situation for all involved."



ALEX BELOPOLSKY

Alex Belopolsky of Central Red Army visited Alcott arena last week and is hopeful that his squad can use the schedule against their Canadian counterparts a learning experience.

"We're looking forward to playing in the birthplace of hockey, we want our players to get the experience, the exposure. We want to develop complete players," said Belopolsky. "We want them to learn the North American style."

Belopolsky said that the players that will compete on the tour are between 15 and 18 years of age and come from the Russian Republic and surrounding areas.

One player, Belopolsky said, that local fans might watch for in Georgetown is Sergi Samsonov.

At 16 years of age this talented star of the future has been compared to 'The Great One' Wayne Gretzky. "Some say he's better than

Gretzky was at that age," added Baumken. Samsonov picked up 297 points in 90 games last season.

Raider president Finn Poulstrup is looking forward to the opportunity for his club. "It's real exciting. Three or four of their players will probably be playing in the NHL in a few years," said Poulstrup. "It's something our players, and fans, will never forget. We're bringing world class entertainment to Georgetown."

According to Kramp, the tour is a return to grassroots hockey. Instead of high priced tickets in a large arena the tour will be conducted through the smaller market areas with prices that can allow the whole family to enjoy an international contest.

All tickets for the event are \$7 and went on sale in Georgetown Friday. They can be picked up at Johnson and Associates, Firestone, any of the local sports stores, Halton Cable 4, Georgetown Marketplace Mall, from Kinsmen, Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council or at Raider home games.

HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

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Darts

ALEX TOUGH

Changes at the top

Changes take place at the top of both the Halton and Industrial leagues. In the Halton league, Charleys Two move into first place and in the Industrial League, Gasketman take over first place.

Charleys Two take a five point lead after their win over Legion One. Legion Four and Charleys One are tied for second place and a further tie is in place for third spot. Legion Three and Brackys Brew Crew are those teams. Legion Two and Brackys Tapsters languish in the last two places for the moment.

Charleys Two and Legion One began with tying the opening teams sets. In the singles only Legion's Ray Clarke managed a win, over Rob Campbell. The doubles went all the way for Charleys to set up a magnificent win. The win, sent Charleys into first place in the standings.

Trevor Campbell closed out 116 and scored 140 to lead the stats. Bruce Hope had five bonus points, to equal the bonus high of the night, and Jim Charter scored three bonus points. Chris Hildebrand was the only opponent to gain a bonus.

Hustlers defeated Dream Team 5-4 on Wednesday, the first defeat for Dreamers in the top division since moving from the second division. (This season, of course, there is only one division.) Coupled with Gasketman's shock 8-1 win over Teamsters, this allowed Gasketman to take over first place in the standings.

Hustlers opened up with their usual slow first set and lost. A win for Hustlers in the second set, with a win for Dreamers in the third looked as though the match was lined up for set about. However, Hustlers then ran off four sets wins in succession to give them a 5-2 lead with two to play. Dreamers buckled to their task and won the last two sets to leave a 5-4 win for Hustlers.

Brad Youmans opened with 120, Rod Beaumont scored two 140s, Ron Scarlett netted a maximum, Beau Beaumont notched 140 and Neil Olmstead scored 116.

All in a fine match. One set had four "over the ton" scores in succession and was finished in fifteen darts.



Holy Cross sisters Michelle (left) and Carley Doell turned in outstanding efforts at the recent Canadian Cross-Country Championships in Etobicoke. Carley finished first in the mite division while Michelle took 6th in the tyke division.

Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Carley Doell claims cross country crown

Halton Hills sisters Carley and Michelle Doell paced themselves to outstanding efforts at the Canadian Cross-Country Championships in Etobicoke Sunday, November 6th.

Carley blew past her competition to win the girls mite division while Michelle was impressive as well, finishing sixth in the tyke girls pack.

Centennial Public School runners represented Georgetown well at the Canadian Championships as well, with 13 runners competing.

Top runners for the Chargers were Tim Walinga and Mitchell Edwards, who finished fourth and sixth respectively in the tyke boys division.

Dan Walinga took 41st in the division.

In the atom boys division, Greg Bidwell and Chris Garland led the Centennial pack in 20th and 21st places while Matt Walinga finished 33rd and Chris Cormpilas finished 35th.

Patrick Potosky complete the race in 42nd position, Matt McGivern took 51st spot and Steven Dennis rounded out the pack in 52nd place.

In the atom girls division, Kathryn Weston finished 36th, Sharlyn Kogan took 42nd and Bethann Elliot finished 43rd.

Mustangs leading the way

The McKenzie-Smith Mustang boys remain in first after week five of North Halton volleyball action, with six wins and one loss.

Centennial and Stewarttown are close behind with five wins, two losses while Sam Sherratt and W.I.

Dick rounded out the pack.

In girls play, Centennial is out ahead with a 6-1 record while W.I. Dick and Stewarttown share second spot with 4-3 records.

McKenzie-Smith sports a 3-4 record while Sherratt is 1-7.

Rebel volleyballers headed for OFSAA

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

It's been a tough, demanding five-year journey — but Bob McKay and the GDHS senior boys volleyball crew are headed back to the OFSAA championships.

The senior Rebels' upcoming trip to the provincial finals follows Tuesday's Haltons at Sheridan College in Oakville — where the club retained their regional crown with a decisive 2-0 victory over the Blakelock Tigers.

However, the day wasn't a clean sweep for Georgetown as the junior Rebels were taken down 2-1 by Iroquois Ridge.

Despite having beaten the 'Ridge on three separate occasions over the regular season, Russ Linney's junior boys couldn't quite duplicate their strong semi-final showing and lost the last two games of the three-game match.

Georgetown scored a monster comeback in game one with 13 straight points for a 15-13 win, but then were taken down 15-8, 15-9 by Iroquois Ridge — who were coached by former GDHS volleyball player Michelle Walker.

"It was a great game, we choked a bit in the first game but didn't let it happen again. It also took us a while to adjust to Georgetown's tipping game, but we did," said coach Walker, who scored the first championship for the new Oakville school.

Meanwhile, Linney explained that while his Rebels turned in a solid performance, they "left their best game at the semi-finals last week."

"However, even on an off-day, it still took a very tough team to beat us. I'm very proud of the guys this year, they worked really hard."

Leading the way for the Rebels were Matt Johnson and Jeff French with some big hits and Alfred Tsang with solid setting and defense. Mike Chambers, Andrew Gass and Steve Smith also had good outings for Georgetown.

In the second match of the double header, the senior Rebels needed only 32 minutes to take down the

Tigers and recapture their Halton crown for another year.

Having beaten Blakelock in regular season play, coach McKay knew it would take a big performance to counter Tiger all-star Dan Lewis, one of the best high school players in Canada.

And a big performance his team delivered, shutting down Lewis' hitting game and scoring two straight 15-3 decisions with the support on over 100 screaming Rebel fans.

The lopsided victory was even more surprising in that Georgetown had to make due without heavy hitter Matt Deruchie, who developed a throat infection and was operated on this past week.

Filling his shoes was rookie Brad Spears who made some nice digs in game one and nailed down the final spike in game two for the match win.

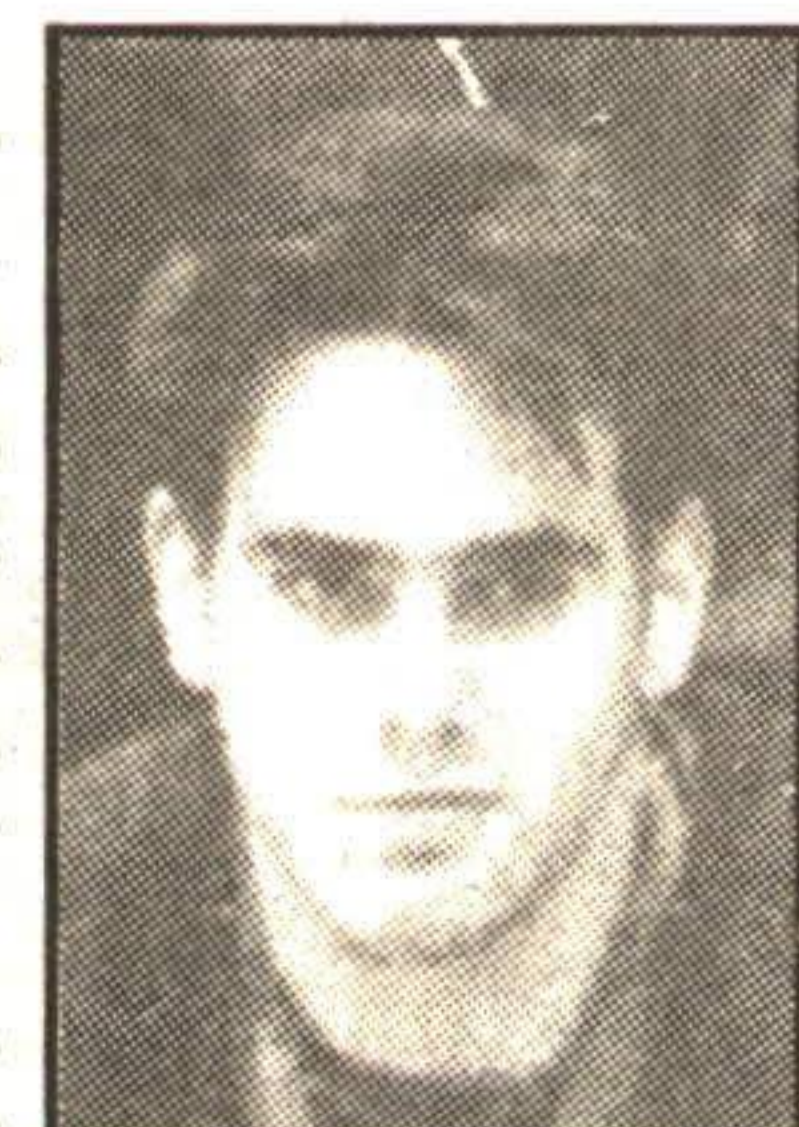
The afternoon was a total team effort on Georgetown's part, as all six starters played key roles in earning the victory.

From devastating hits by Ron Harrison and Martin Sommer, to great back-court defense by Sean Peasgood and Jim Katsilieris, to top-notch setting and killer serves by Matt Brain — the Rebels dominated at every turn.

When it came to blocking, all six players had their chance to turn back Lewis — who didn't have much in the way of a supporting cast to work with.

"There was no doubt that we shutdown Dan Lewis today," said McKay, following Tuesday's victory. "This was one of the most efficient and well executed matches we've ever played. Very seldom do things go exactly according to game plan, but today they did."

The senior Rebels will now compete at the OFSAA finals at McMaster University in Hamilton this coming Friday and Saturday.



MATT DERUCHIE



LISA EARLE



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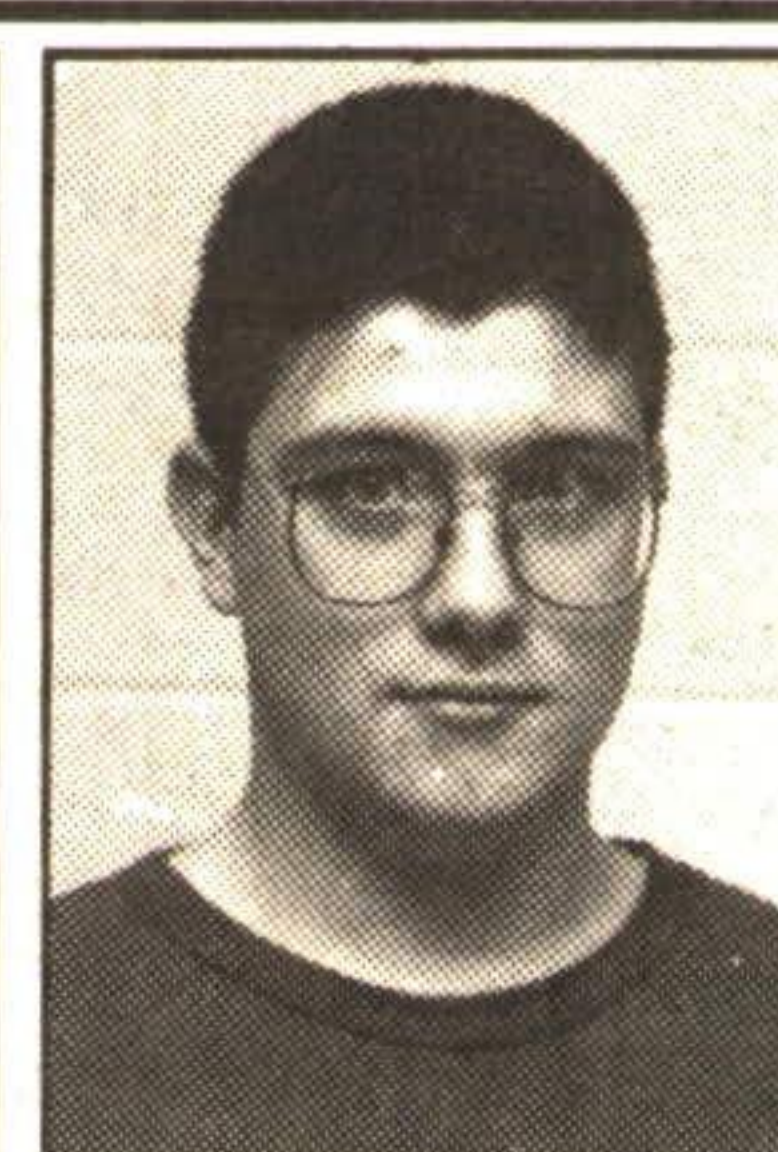
High school

Athletes of the Week

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Lisa Earle and Matt Johnson. Lisa was chosen for her contribution to the midget Rebels basketball team in recent action against Milton High School. Matt was honored for helping the junior Rebels volleyball team make it to the Halton finals, beating out Oakville Trafalgar. Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Eleni Hallis and Giancarlo Scappin. Eleni was selected for her contribution to the junior Redmen basketball team, as they recently beat Iroquois Ridge in Oakville. Giancarlo was chosen for his outstanding season on the junior Redmen volleyball team.



ELENI HALLIS



GIANCARLO SCAPPIN