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HOCKEY

Retooled Georgetown Raiders begin training camp

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It's been a short off-season for the defending Ontario Junior Hockey League champs, who were edged 2-1 on May 6 by the host Trenton Golden Hawks in the final of the Dudley Hewitt Cup central Canadian playdowns.

Head coach and GM

Coming up just a goal short of advancing to the Canadian Jr. A hockey's championship tournament this past spring, the Georgetown Raiders are loading up to make another run in the 2017-18 cam-

Greg Walters said that despite the disappointing ending, the journey to get there "was a lot of fun" and he's aiming to go even farther into the playoffs this time after being ranked second in the country for most of last season.

Training camp began in Georgetown on Monday and the team's first exhibition game is on Tuesday against the Stouffville Spirit at the Alcott Arena beginning at 8 p.m.

"We've really worked hard to get some new guys in who should really help us," said Walters, entering his eighth season with the club.

"We're really happy where the team is at this point, considering we only have eight returning players. I think we're in good shape."

Back for another season are forwards Jordan Crocker, Richard Court, Matt McJannet and Jonathan Hampton, as well as defenders Austin Cho, Zack Dybowski, Carson Pearce and Jake Payette,

while Ryan Takamatsu has joined the Jr. B Elmira Sugar Kings to attend school in the area, but is listed as an affiliate player for the Raiders.

With both goaltenders having moved along, the Raiders turned to a West Division opponent to fill the void and acquired 20-year-old Mario Cavaliere from the Burlington Cougars.

The Mississauga resident posted a 27-9-3 record for the Cougars last season and had a .918 save percentage, saving some of his better outings for Halton rival Georgetown.

"Skating with Mario during the summer, we got to see how competitive he is," added Walters.

"He's very team oriented and just wants to win. That's a huge pickup for us."

Walters also recruited some talent from the Jr. B ranks, picking up 18-year-old forward Holden Hrysko of Burlington, a second-round draft pick of the OHL's Sarnia Sting, who

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- Greg Walters

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CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT



Eamonn Maher photo

The fifth-annual Pasma's Hockey Development Summer Camp was filled to capacity again this year as dozens of youths aged 6-18 took part in elite, skill development and goalie instruction sessions at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex over two weeks. Pictured above (front, from left) are: Goalies Josh Frost, Addison Hauver, Andie Allinott. Middle row: Grant Hale, Jackson Chaytor, Jason Collis, Michael Canali. Back row: Instructors Rod Pasma, Josh Dickinson, MacKenzie Entwistle, Michael McNiven, Connor Brown, Jason Dickinson.



OJHL Images

The Georgetown Jr. A Raiders lost both of last year's goaltenders to graduation, so finding a replacement was one of the club's top off-season priorities and the acquisition of veteran stopper Mario Cavaliere from the Burlington Cougars has put any concerns to rest.

had 22 goals and 23 assists with the Caledonia Corvairs last season.

Nineteen-year-old centre Brendan D'Agostino from Stoney Creek was acquired from the Chatham Maroons after the five-foot-nine, 180-pounder finished fifth in GOJHL scoring with 91 points in 50 games

in 2016-17.

Netminder Andrew Albano, an 18-year-old from Hamilton, was picked up from the Waterloo Siskins. He had a 14-3-0 record with a .926 save percentage last year.

Added to the Raider blue line is six-foot-five, 20-year-old Andrew Cordsen-David from the Trenton Golden Hawks. The Philadelphia resident had five goals and 19 assists in 44 games with Trenton but didn't see much action in the playoffs due to injury.

Three players from last year's squad, leading scorer Jack Jacome, local native Josh Dickinson and netminder Nick Latino-vitch, will suit up for Clarkson University this fall/winter.

Walters has also brought in former Oakville Blades' executive Chris Vanstone to take on the assistant general manager's role.

The Raiders have road exhibition games on Thursday in Stouffville and in Oakville Saturday at 7:30 p.m. before starting the regular season on Friday, Sept. 8 at Oakville against the Blades.

Those two teams meet again the following night in Georgetown's home opener.



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