

SPORTS & LEISURE

Name change not a big 'hit' with some

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The nickname for the newly formed Halton Hills Minor Hockey Association was unveiled at a meeting Tuesday night and judging by some of the feedback through social media, there are those in the community who would like to *fughetaboutit*.

Following a voting process that was left to the youths in the Georgetown and Acton minor hockey organizations at the recent Coaches' Cup new arenas' fundraiser, the apparent overwhelming choice was the Hitmen.

Facebook, Twitter and emails were in a frenzy Wednesday about the new name, which is also used by the Western Hockey League's Calgary franchise, named after hometown pro wrestling hero and former team owner Bret 'The Hitman' Hart.

And while some tweeted their support of the new moniker, others were troubled by the name's violent and sexist connotation.

After decades of operating as separate entities, the Georgetown Raiders and Acton Tanners minor hockey groups are in the final stages of an amalgamation process that is expected to receive final approval at an Ontario

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Flint looking forward to life as a pro

By **EAMONN MAHER**
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For Georgetown's Cameron Flint, 2013 is shaping up to be a big year as the field lacrosse captain for the University of Denver will soon join the professional ranks.

The 22-year-old senior midfielder and marketing major has already attained one of his career goals after being selected in the first round, sixth overall, in last month's Major League Lacrosse's Collegiate Draft by the Boston Cannons' field organization.

There's a good chance that Flint will also be amongst the first few box players taken in the 2013 National Lacrosse League draft in September; and while he'd prefer to concentrate on helping Denver win its first NCAA field championship in his final year with the Pioneers, the thought of playing the sport he loves year-round is enticing.

"I've always wanted to play in the MLL, since I was in Halton Hills minor lacrosse, and to play in the big leagues for a well-respected organization like Boston is an honour," said Flint, who attended Salisbury prep school in Connecticut prior to receiving a scholarship to Denver.

"The best part of it is the opportunity to play alongside a guy like Paul Rabil, who is considered like a god to a lot of little kids in the U.S. and some of the things he can do are unbelievable. It's humbling and inspiring to think about playing at that level, but I'm really just focused on what I'm doing now at school. I don't think we've reached our full potential as a team yet and with the core guys we have returning, it should be a great year."

In 2011, the Pioneers became the first school west of the Mississippi River to advance to the NCAA Final Four in Baltimore, where Flint and his teammates played in front of 45,000 spectators before falling to Virginia 14-8 in the semifinal.

Last year, Flint was hobbled by swelling and soreness in his right knee that was surgically repaired after his sophomore season and although he endured the campaign, the



Local native Cameron Flint has just begun his final season with the University of Denver Pioneers and looks to put an exclamation point on a standout career in the Rockies after hopefully putting some nagging injuries behind him.

Submitted photo

Pioneers struggled at times— even with the now-graduated 47-goal man Mark Matthews of Oshawa in the lineup— losing in the national quarterfinals to eventual champion Loyola by one goal.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Flint had 16 goals in 2012, down from 27 in 18 games two years ago, and yet he's been named USILA All-America Honorable Mention two straight seasons.

"Cam had a great year last year, and if he was just another midfielder, we'd look upon his year last year as a phenomenal year," Tierney said on the school's athletics website.

"But he knows and we know that, because of his injury, there were a few games he didn't play at all and some other games where he wasn't at full strength, so we're expecting even better things out of him this season."

So far, so good, as the eighth-ranked Pioneers upset #4 Duke 14-12 in the season opener last Saturday in North Carolina, with the fully healed Flint scoring once in the victory.

Upon graduation in late May, Flint won't have much time to decompress. He has remained in Denver the past two summers serving as an instructor at Pioneer coach Bill Tierney's lacrosse camps and last year worked as a legislative liaison intern for the office of Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.

Leaning towards a career in commercial real estate, Flint has already had employment offers and been interviewed for corporate positions and hopes to catch on with a company that will sponsor his work visa for a year, allowing him to travel freely for lacrosse and his day job.

"It's always been my dream to play lacrosse professionally and forge ahead with my business career at the same time, and I'm fully prepared to do that," he added.

"I've really missed playing box over the last two years because I've been so focused on my education and with my injuries, so I had to put it on the back burner for a while. Hopefully I'll be able to play a few games with the Brampton Excelsiors when I get home."

As well, Flint will be vying for a spot on the Canadian roster for next year's Federation of International Lacrosse World Championship, which, strangely enough, will take place in Denver. Tryouts for the Canuck squad will take place in Toronto this September.

The former Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldog star scored a goal in a tune-up event for next year's worlds last September called the Duel in Denver, pitting the top U.S. players against Canada's best, with the latter prevailing 11-9.

"You get a call and find out you're playing for your country, and then you realize who's going to be out there with you— John Grant Jr., Brodie Merrill for Canada, Kyle Harrison, Paul Rabil and a whole bunch of superstars for the U.S.— and it's a good feeling, to know you have the potential to play with the best in the world."



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