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Down 3? No biggie. Raiders rally to knock out North York in Game 7 OT



For the third year in a row, the Georgetown Raiders have reached the Ontario Junior Hockey League's South/West Conference final after a remarkable 4-3 comeback overtime win at the Alcott Arena Monday evening.

Rookie Justin Paul, a 17-year-old from Mississauga, netted the winner just over seven minutes into the first overtime for his second

goal of the post-season to eliminate the North York Rangers in Game 7 of the best-of-seven semifinal.

The Raiders now move on to face the top-ranked Toronto Patriots in the conference final with the dates yet to be announced.

After battling back from a 3-1 series deficit, the Raiders looked to be in dire straits Monday, trailing by three goals at one stage, al-

though persistence paid off as they generated 41 shots on the North York goal.

Heading into Game 7, the Raiders tried to stem their opponent's momentum by turning to backup and former Raider goalie Jett Alexander for the deciding contest over all-star Colby Muise and the switch seemed to work as the visitors took a 3-0 lead midway through the middle frame.

But the Raiders stormed back with late second-period markers by Jordan Crocker and Bailey Molella, followed by the equalizer with just 1:36 left in regulation by blueliner Zac Elson, who scored twice in Sunday's crucial 4-3 triumph at North York.

There was only one minor penalty called during the entire game and it resulted in a short-handed

marker for Rangers' leading scorer Nick Campoli at the 6:19 mark of the opening period.

Georgetown netminder Troy Timpano was named second star, blocking 31 shots in front of about 600 spectators at the Alcott. Five of the seven games in the series were decided by one goal and another involved an empty-netter, unsurprising since the teams

finished just two points apart in the standings, with the Raiders getting home ice advantage as West Division champs.

The Patriots were also pushed to the limit in their semifinal series with Oakville, skating to an 8-3 victory Sunday night in Game 7.

Georgetown and Toronto split the regular-season series with a win apiece and two 3-3 ties.



Photo by Kevin Light

Former Canadian Olympians Curt Harnett and Karina LeBlanc congratulate local resident Je'Land Sydney as he earned the Best Male Performance in the Speed category at the RBC Training Ground sport-specific testing combine in Toronto this past fall. The 19-year-old fared well in testing for other sports other than his speciality, track cycling, but he said he's sticking with the sport he took up at age six his native Trinidad & Tobago.

Do you have what it takes to be an Olympian?

RBC Training Ground gives local athletes - no matter what sport they are involved in - the chance to test their strength, speed, power and endurance in front of officials from 14 Olympic sports looking for new talent.

On Saturday, April 7, Olympic officials will be bringing the search for uncovered athletic gems to Milton.

This Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and RBC initiative to bring new athletes into Canada's Olympic talent pool is an open talent discovery event. There is no charge to participate. The Milton event is one of more than 30 local combines happening across the country in

2018.

Top performers in Milton (any athletes deemed to have Olympic potential) will advance to an Ontario regional final in Toronto on June 2 or begin further testing (one-on-one) with specific sports.

In addition to training support from a national sport organization the athlete may not have considered, top performers also earn "Future Olympian" financial support from RBC to help them on their Olympic journey.

Any athletes from the region (between the ages of 14 and 25) curious about whether they might be suited to an Olympic sport are encouraged to sign up in advance at rbctrainingground.ca.

.ca.

At the event, they will be measured for anthropometric suitability (things like wingspan and body type) and perform speed, power, strength and endurance benchmark tests in front of officials from the COC and 14 national sport organizations in hopes of re-energizing a dream or being discovered and directed toward an Olympic sport.

Overall, the program is designed to help fill a hole in Canada's amateur sport system (talent identification in a country as big as Canada) and to then provide the uncovered talent with the high-performance sport resources they need to achieve their podium dreams.

Saturday Mar 31st, 2018
Georgetown Raiders vs. Toronto Patriots
Games are 7:30pm, Mold-Masters SportsPlex
Wednesday Apr 4th, 2018
Georgetown Raiders vs. Toronto Patriots

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