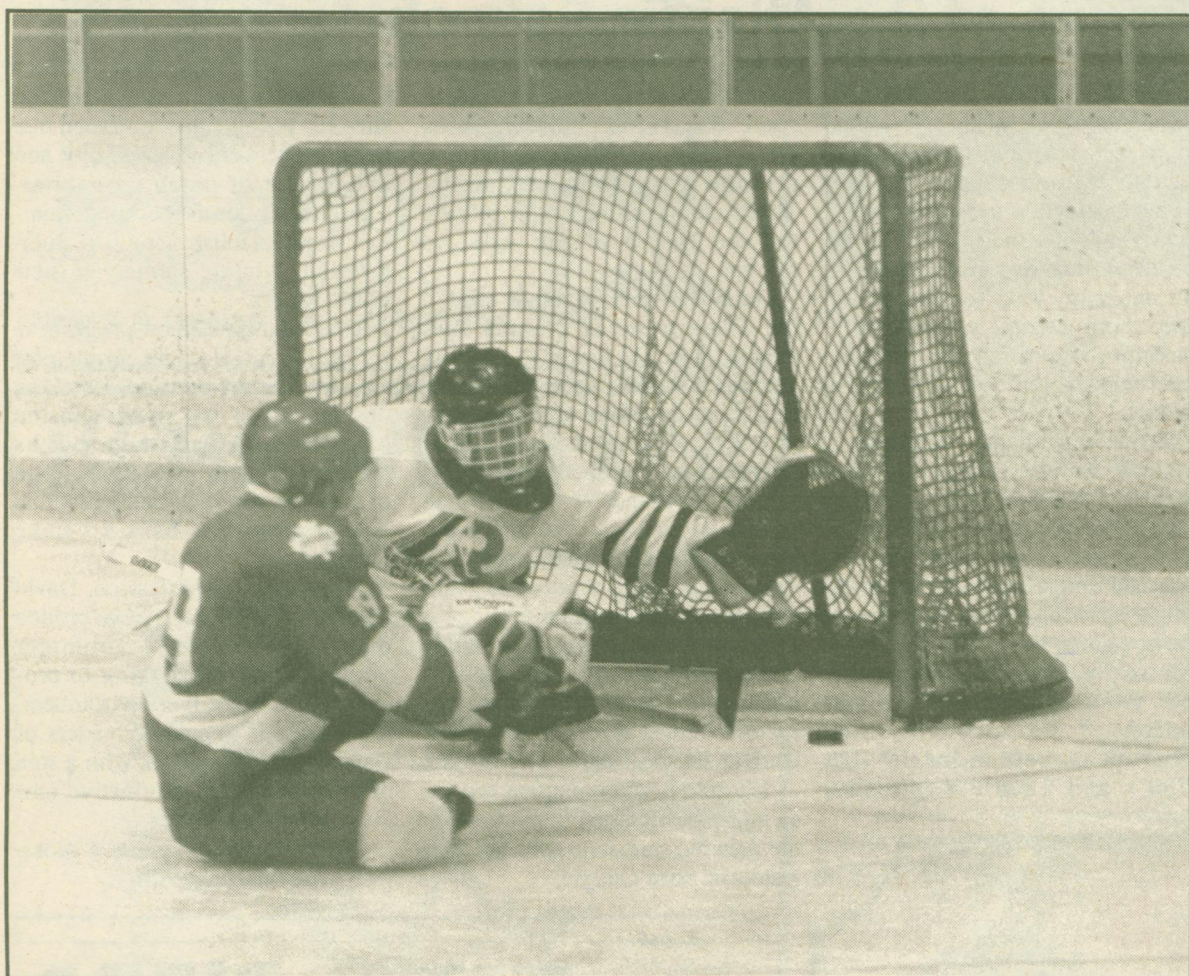


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Goaltender Jamie Szyc of the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders gets ready to cover a loose puck with Markham's Jason Pain, literally and figuratively, sitting all alone in front. Szyc played well enough in Saturday's 6-4 exhibition win over the Waxers to earn a roster spot with the Raiders, who were benefitted by Jim English's four-goal performance.

Jim English paces Raiders to split of exhibition games

Jim English didn't waste much time making coach Charlie Hanman of the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders look like a genius Saturday.

The Georgetown native, signed to a card late last week, scored four second-period goals to erase a 2-0 first-period deficit and power the Raiders to a 6-4 exhibition win over the Markham Waxers at the Alcott Arena. Saturday's outcome was a far cry from the 12-3 defeat the Raiders suffered in Markham the night before.

"What can I say about Jim," Hanman said after Saturday's contest. "He obviously showed he was worth signing."

Now, all Hanman needs is to find three or four impact defencemen. However, that prospect figures to be a little more difficult. The Raiders entered the weekend contests with only Steve Weishar as the lone returning blueliner, but the Central Ontario Junior A club did sign Erin rookie Kevin Moxey before Saturday's game.

The Raiders defence prospects were dealt a blow last week when

the team learned promising rookie Ante Galic, who was signed earlier this summer, was property of the Mississauga Derbys after the Derbys signed an affiliation deal with the Mississauga Reps midget squad, which Galic played for last year. The Derbys thus have first crack at him and the Raiders can approach Galic only if the Derbys release him.

"Steve really carried the load for us in both games and I've felt right from the start Kevin has all the tools to be a player," Hanman said. "What we do need are some more veterans who can settle the younger players down."

Georgetown native Showie Toley didn't hurt his chances for a roster spot on defence, scoring a goal Saturday, as did forward Randy Bond. However Bond, a GMHA product, has already signed.

On Friday, the Raiders only trailed 4-2 when rookie Ryan Grinnell relieved starter Stefan Miffen in goal midway through the second period. Trevor Brandt, Ken Koszwika, who had four assists Saturday, and Todd McKee scored for Georgetown.

"After we made the goaltending switch Markham scored two quick goals and then the doors fell off," Hanman said. "We couldn't get it going after that."

The Raiders did get their goaltending situation sorted out after the weekend, opting to keep 20-year-old Jamie Szyc, who was steady in the final 30 minutes against Markham on Saturday.

However Miffen, the 15-year-old Newfoundland native, made a strong case to be starter Jason Sirota's backup with fine play in both weekend contests.

"Years from now when Miffen is playing in the NHL Georgetown will be remembered as the place that didn't want him," Hanman said with a chuckle. "The question was whether we go with an unknown entity in goal with perhaps an unknown defence or go with a veteran."

"We decided to go with the veteran."

The Raiders are in Guelph for an exhibition game, then return to the Alcott Arena on Saturday to host the Hamilton Kilty Bs.

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