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Losses continue to mount Raiders drop into division cellar

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders have dipped as low as they can go.

The Raiders lost both of their games this weekend, dropping Georgetown into last spot overall in the seven-team Central Ontario Junior Hockey League East Division. With only the top six advancing to the playoffs, the Raiders are in serious jeopardy of missing the post season.

Of course, a 24-game losing streak doesn't help either. The weekend defeats leave Georgetown winless since opening the season

with three straight wins. One of those losses was reversed by the Ontario Hockey Association after Caledon was found to have played an illegal player, giving the Raiders a 4-23 record.

On Thursday, the Raiders and the Caledon Canadians went on the offensive, combining for 12 power-play goals and two short-handed tallies as Caledon claimed an 11-9 victory.

But the worst news was yet to come. On Saturday at the Alcott Arena, Georgetown dropped an 8-5 decision to the North York

Rangers. Not only did that extend the Raiders' losing ways, but it also dropped the local side into last overall in the seven-team Central Ontario Junior Hockey League East Division standings.

While there was always a sense of urgency for the Raiders to turn things around, having Royal York close by ensured Georgetown of at least being in the hunt for a playoff spot.

But now, not only do the Raiders have to catch the Rangers, but they must pass them if they want to qualify for post-season play.

Finishing in a tie would accomplish nothing because currently Royal York has won all three of the head-to-head matchups involving the two teams.

The weekend losses also leave new coach Gary Ford still searching for his first win. Ford, who has been behind the bench for four games, replaced Charlie Hanman last weekend after Hanman, who guided the Raiders to a fourth-place finish last year and a berth in the division semifinal against eventual Sutherland Cup-finalist Milton but stepped down almost three weeks

ago.

On Friday night, the two teams were tied 2-2 heading into the second period. The good news was that the Raiders scored four times, but the bad news was that the home-town Canadians turned on the red light behind Georgetown goaltender Jamie Szyk seven times, scoring four times in the final five minutes.

Still, Georgetown managed to outscore the home side 3-2 in the third.

Ian Ellis held the hot hand for the Raiders, who scored six power-plays and another while killing off a Caledon man advantage, with two goals and three assists.

Trevor Brandt and Bryan Gendron, before being ejected courtesy of two match penalties late in the second, both had two goals as well. Jonathan McKee, Brent Ford and Trevor Elineksy had the others.

Szyk stopped 28 shots, with the Raiders directing 27 shots on the Canadians' goal.

On Saturday, the Raiders were 20 minutes away from halting their losing streak, taking a 5-4 lead into the third period against Royal York. However, the Rangers scored four times on goaltender Jason Sirota to take the win and move into sole possession of sixth place.

The two teams finished the first tied 3-3, then the Raiders outscored their opponents 2-1 in the second for their slim advantage.

Jonathan Levack, Dean Roberts, Ante Galic, Dean Doner and Jeff Churney scored for the Raiders. Brandt and Elineksy both chipped in with three assists apiece.

Sirota was in goal for the entire contest, but shots on goal weren't officially kept.



Notre Dame's Scott March (28) tries to poke-check the puck away from a Georgetown District High School defenceman during a Halton high school hockey game Monday at Memorial Arena. Further details on the result of the game were not available at press time.

OTHO JUNIOR HOCKEY

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders
vs.
Milton

Saturday,
Game Time 7:30 p.m.
Alcott Arena
Guelph St., Georgetown
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