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Georgetown, Royal York meet tonight

Raiders heading to showdown

What a difference 10 days make. Back on Jan. 27, the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders were languishing in a winless streak that dated back to October. Now, thanks to wins over the Royal York Rangers and the Burlington Cougars, Georgetown is only two points out of a playoff spot in the Central

Ontario Junior Hockey League East Division. Georgetown was in Burlington Thursday night (results of that encounter weren't available), and tonight the Raiders meet Royal York with a chance to move into a seventh-place tie with the Rangers. The Raiders got the ball rolling

Jan. 27 with a 7-2 win over the Rangers, then split a weekend set with the Cougars, claiming a win at home after losing 9-3 in Burlington. Raiders' general manager Finn Poulstrup said he can't exactly put his finger on a reason for the turnaround, but the finality of the game

with the Rangers on Jan. 27 probably played a role he added. "We have been playing all of the top teams to a goal over the prior four weeks and I think the point was finally brought home that we needed to beat Royal York or else we could say good-bye to the playoffs," Poulstrup said.

"Funny thing was, I remember telling the guys that there was no way Royal York should be able to skate with us and that we should be able to beat them by five goals. Then they go out and beat them by five goals."

After such a big win, turning around and losing two nights later in Burlington could've been a turning point as well had the Raiders not come back with a strong performance at home the following night.

"With such a young team you know there is going to be some inconsistency," Poulstrup said. "Playing them Saturday night, it was important that we stayed within a goal of them, but the guys went out and got the win."

So now, instead of merely playing out the string on the regular season, coach Gary Ford and the Raiders are close to a post-season berth. That makes tonight's game with the Rangers a huge one.

In order to advance to the playoffs, the Raiders will have to finish ahead of Royal York in the regular-season standings. A tie does nothing because the Rangers have a better head-to-head record in games played with Georgetown, meaning the Raiders would still need help to reach the playoffs.

However, a win would at least keep the Raiders' playoff chances alive. A loss would be a four-point turnaround because a Royal York victory would move the Rangers four points ahead of the Raiders, with Georgetown only having six regular-season games left to play.

"This game (Saturday's contest with Royal York) is very important," Poulstrup said. "If we don't win it probably means we're finished."

"But we all know now that it's all personal character right now. What stands between the winning and not is personal character."

"And to be honest with you, I'm betting on the players. I believe they'll come through."

However, win or lose, Poulstrup has nothing but praise for the final

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The Wm. McNally Construction minor novice Raiders enjoyed first-round success last week, defeating Flamborough in their Ontario Minor Hockey Association set. Team members include from left front row: Donnie Lane, Vince Burke, Brent Beaumont, Thomas Stokes, Andy Burns and Al Humberstone. Middle row: Jason Forbes, Brett Velten, Adam Kemp, Billy McDonald and Graham Ovenden. Third row: Ed Pearce, Scott Rostrup, Brendon Pearce, Andrew McGourty, Rusty Parsons, Byron Jacome and Jeff Sargent. Absent is Robbie Ogle. (Photo submitted)

Raiders win opening-round playoff set

On Jan 29 the minor novice Raider squad travelled to Flamboro to take the series lead two games to one.

The victory was well earned with again, strong defense and offense. Great goaltending earned Donnie Lane the shutout with his partner, Al Humberstone cheering him on. With consistent playing, the Jr. Raiders kept the score 0-0.

The entire minor novice squad kept their fans on the edge of their seats until the end of the third period. Still no score, the game goes into an extra 10 minute overtime period.

The minor novice squad went into the fourth period determined to win. Just 16 seconds into the period, Rusty Parsons nets the winner for the Jr. Raiders, unassisted. The excitement continued throughout the period with Flamboro pulling their netminder for the extra man, but the raider squad played strong and hard to claim the victory.

The minor novice Raiders claimed the first series round of the playoffs against Flamboro on home ice January 31. All pumped up and ready to take the series, the Jr. Raiders came out with excellent defense and their offense playing strong. Donnie Lane kept the score low allowing only one goal and making some fantastic saves.

The Jr. Raiders opened the scoring with Rusty Parsons scoring from centre ice at 7:23, unassisted. Flamboro came right back with a goal to tie the game. In the first period, the score was kept at 1-1 until 7:25 into the third period with Billy McDonald claiming the winner on a pass from Andy Burns.

Once again, Flamboro pulls their goaltender for the extra man. The fast paced game ended with a score of 3-1 with Adam Kemp dumping it into the empty Flamboro net on a pass from Andrew McGourty.

Great teamwork and passing nets the Minor Novice Raiders their victory in the first series.

Congratulations and good luck to the Jr. Raiders in your next series against Dundas.

Monday Night Men's League	
Team Standings	
LJB Contractors	62
Countrywide Real Estate	59
Acid Rainbow	55
Sam's Service Centre	48
Custom Car & Sound	48
Los Amigos	45
Arnies Auto body	43
Top Averages	
Bryan Creasey	226
Gord Lane	224
Paul Chaplin	220
Brinley Hole	219
Bruce Clarke	215
Top Scores	
Brinley Hole	759 (268)
Tom Goss	736 (279)
Wayne Norton	682 (243)
Gord Lane	674 (240)
Andre Boisvenue	654 (254)

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