

# Burlington edges Raiders to win novice playoff set

By Mara Fantegrossi

On Tuesday night at Memorial Arena the Beaver Lumber Major Novice Raiders were edged by Burlington, 6-4 in the fifth and final game of the OMHA opening playoff round. It was a heartbreaking finish to an exciting down-to-the-wire 2-week series that saw both Georgetown and Burlington earn two wins apiece before Tuesday's game in the best-of-five series.

The Raiders dropped game one in Burlington, 2-1. Georgetown's only goal came on the powerplay in the second period by Kyle Hotham

from Brandon Valente and Ryan Busby.

After a hard-fought game two, Burlington came out ahead, 6-3. Raider goal scorers were Valente, Brad Snow and Hotham. Assists were drawn by Ryan Field, Chris Henderson, Chase Trull, Graham McCulloch and Corey Forbes.

With the pressure on, in a do-or-die situation, the Raiders looked sharp in game three and trampled their visitors, 6-1. McCulloch led the way with a hat trick, while Marty Lefebvre, Valente and Hotham scored a goal apiece.

Assisting on the plays were Mark Fantegrossi (2), Field (2), Forbes, Henderson and Snow. Ryan LaRose did an outstanding job in goal, consistently denying Burlington with spectacular saves and collecting a well-earned shutout.

The momentum continued in game four when Georgetown beat their hosts, 3-1. Scoring for Georgetown were Valente, Busby and Snow, assisted by Ronny Larocque (2), Hotham, Valente, Henderson and McCulloch. A solid defensive effort was put in by Tim Mansfield, Alex Durham, Field, Busby and Lefebvre.

In game five, Georgetown took the lead in the first period with Hotham's shot from Valente. Burlington, though, responded with five goals, capitalizing on both Raider penalties. Snow kept Raider hopes alive with a goal in the third, assisted by Fantegrossi and Valente. Burlington added another, before McCulloch shot in two goals in the dying seconds of the game,

helped out by Henderson (2), and Larocque, to make it a 6-4 final.

The Major Novices will now continue play at the Tri-County playoff level.

## Playoffs on line for locals

Continued from page 17

push coach Gary Ford, assistant Jay Anderson and the Raiders are performing.

"I can't really say there has been a specific thing for the turnaround, but I can say a lot of the credit has to go to the coaches and the players," Poulstrup said. "They've refused to quit."

Any run towards a playoff spot will have to be made mostly without forward Bryan Gendron. Gendron, the former Raider who returned to the club after a four-year stint in the Ontario Hockey League with both the Peterborough Petes and the Owen Sound Plater, was handed a five-game suspension for a spearing incident in the 9-3 loss to Burlington last Friday.

But one player who has made a big contribution to the Raiders' swing has been forward Ian Ellis, and the veteran's play hasn't slipped the eye of the Raiders' brass.

"He has definitely become a legitimate talent," Poulstrup said. "He has been awesome the last three games and if he continues to play like that I feel he has a future in hockey."

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The doubles bowling tournament at Acton Lanes was a great success! Congratulations go out to the winners from Orangeville - Lyle Secord and Cathy Taylor with 2885 for 5 games. Winners in our A.F.P.B.A. Draw were:

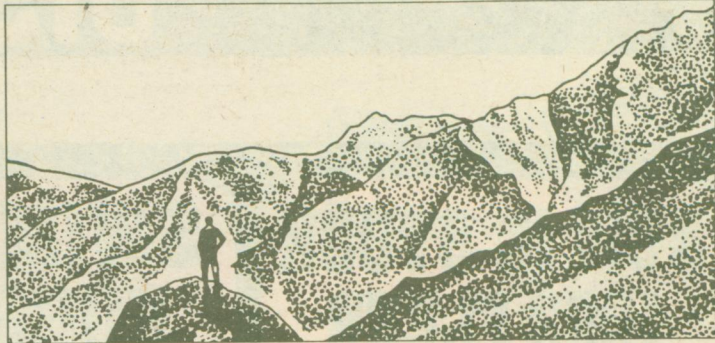
1st Prize - Steerhide Rug - Jerry Buchanan

2nd Prize - Set of Bowling Balls (or equivalent monetary value of \$100.00) - Karen Brading

3rd Prize - Bowling Bag - Gord Stokes

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