

Recreation and Sports

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Raiders red-hot to begin 1993-94 Jr. A season

By Colin Gibson
 With Halton Hills and environs sweltering in the midst of a heat and humidity wave, you couldn't blame those whose first love is hockey from gloating a bit about the cool confines of arenas.

I mean, when you get someone calling in to report two trees fighting over a dog, then you know we mean hot.

But back to the shinny boys.

Unfortunately, no solace here from the heat. Those those involved in the newly-created Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) Provincial Junior Hockey League, playing under Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) auspices as certified Junior A teams competing on a national basis for the Centennial Cup, are hot-to-trot for the 1993-94 season to get underway.

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders general manager Finn Poulstrup, is no exception and the team's summer skate program officially got off the blades last Thursday night at the Terry Miller Arena in Brampton. An estimated mixture of 40-50 veterans and Raider hopefuls took to the ice to escape from the summer heat and acclimatize themselves to the expected upcoming hockey heat.

The Raiders will be skating every Thursday, from 6:30 p.m. at the Terry Miller Arena until the ice goes in at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena at the end of August.

Poulstrup is not only naturally excited about the Raiders (formerly a Junior B designated club) now qualifying to compete on the national scene, but also with the new league's acceptance of the Hamilton Kilty B's into the



Finn Poulstrup

fold.

The Kiltys will play in the league's Western Division along with the Raiders, replacing Caledon Canadians (a new league entry last season) which jumped to the Metropolitan Toronto Jr. A Hockey League.

Rounding out the eight-team Western Division will be Burlington Cougars, Oakville Blades, Milton

Merchants, Mississauga Derbys, Royal York Rangers and the Brampton Capitals.

The league's nine-team Eastern Division includes Sutherland Cup Champion Barrie Colts, Peterborough, Ajax, Collingwood, Orillia, Markham, Newmarket, Cobourg and Lindsay.

According to Poulstrup, the national Centennial Cup competition means that league playoffs must be completed by April 8.

The Western Division regular season schedule has been reduced to 42 games and the Eastern Division's regular season schedule to 40 games. There will be no division crossover games during the regular season and the playoff format has also been changed.

In the West Division, all teams qualify for the playoffs, but the top four teams (in descending order) get to pick

their first round opponent from the bottom four finishers.

In the East Division, the ninth-place team is out and the same formula is followed.

All playoff series will be best-of-seven affairs, with the two division champions clashing for the league championship and the right to trek-on down the Centennial Cup road.

The Ontario Centennial Cup playdown tournament will feature a Northern Ontario Jr. A representative a MTJHL representative and the OHA Provincial Junior Hockey League champion.

The next step is then the Central Canadian championship round with the winner advancing to challenge a Western Canada team for the Centennial Cup.

Being able to compete for a Canadian championship excites Poulstrup and the addition of the Hamilton Kiltys just tops things off.

"Having the Kiltys join our new league is one of the best things I feel has happened to us in years," the Raider GM emphasized.

"The Kilty B's have a long hockey history and will bring added recognition to the new league. Also, having a large centre like Hamilton want to join our league really legitimizes us as we challenge for

the Centennial Cup."

Poulstrup described the Kiltys organization as "a very good group of people" who will "bring an exciting hockey product to Georgetown and the new league.

"We've gone up against the Kiltys in exhibition games, so we know them and respect them."

The Kilty B's emerged as champions of the Golden Horseshoe Jr. B league last season but lost out to eventual champion Barrie Colts in Sutherland Cup play.

With the pace picking up as the new league sets to debut, the Raiders most definitely aren't skating in place.

The Raiders are entered in the NHL's Fall Classic Junior Tournament scheduled for Aug. 27, 28 and 29 at Etobicoke's Centennial Arena, regarded by the Raider brass as a nice top-off to the summer skating program.

The Raiders are already booked into the 2nd Annual Newmarket Tournament over the Christmas Holidays - Dec.-27-31 - and last year this tourney attracted over 120 scouts from U.S. colleges and Canadian universities.

The new league's premier All-Star game has been scheduled for Jan. 8, 1:30 in the afternoon, at Markham arena.

Seniors Fun Day set for Burlington

The Ontario Senior Games, Halton District #21, is holding the Halton Fun Day this Wednesday at the Central Park Senior Centre, 2285 New Street in Burlington. Return bus transportation is being provided

by the Town of Halton Hills to this event. However, seating is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Even if you've never tried before, come on out and try your hand at Bridge,

Cribbage, Euchre, Carpet Bowling, Lawn Bowls, Snooker, Tennis, Swimming, Walking, Horseshoes, Shuffleboard and the Softball Throw. Try it, you may like it! Make new friends or renew old acquaintances.

Your admission to the day is only \$3 and a contribution to the Pot Luck lunch!

Also, the Ontario Senior Games, Halton District #21, is pleased to announce the OSG Golf Fun Day Tournament to be held at Acton Meadows Golf Course Monday with tee-offs starting at 9 a.m. The Tournament Fee is \$20 and includes Green Fees, prizes and coffee and muffins at the halfway break.

For further information or to register for any of these fun events, please call Joanne Russell, Supervisor of Community Programs, at the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department 873-2600, ext. 267. Don't miss out!

Turner enjoys big day at plate

Jonathan Turner turned in a strong performance in Junior T-Ball action belting two home runs and driving in six runs as the Halton Credit Union A's defeated the Nature Scene Dodgers 26-19.

Shawn Kitto also hit a home run while Blake Hamilton had a great game collecting a double and triple as well as making a great catch in the field. Jeff

Junior T-Ball

Campbell also delivered a double while Kelly Quinn and Robert Damphouse made strong defensive plays.

In other games, Kendale Mechanical Limited Yankees edged the Terra Cotta Cookies Angels 19-16 thanks to home runs by Kevin Greer and Adam Castle.

Shoppers Drug Mart Expos were on the winning side of a 22-21 game against the Outdoor Power Equipment Tigers. David Robinson and Spencer Brown each hit home runs in the contest.

Ryan Kemshead, Geoffery Zeni and Michael McCallum all hit triples Geoffery Zeni also helped his team in the field thanks to three beautiful catches.

The mysterious white ball

By Rod Beaumont

What is it about white ball sports that make you go Hmmm?

Golf, with one of the largest followings in the world, falls into this category. You take a long, thin stick and propel a small WHITE orb around a partially manicured acreage, subjecting yourself to various inclement and stressful conditions.

Excruciating heat, torrential downpours, freak snow showers and high blood pressure, to name a few, and, oh yes, did I mention loving every minute?

With apologies to soccer buff, Alex Tough, soccer is another WHITE ball sport (although the sphere in question masquerades as a Dalmatian), one has to ask why.

Once again braving the elements to run around a farmer's field to kick the elusive ball in a net.

With most of the play in this game at mid-field, it gives credence to why soccer fans have, on occasion, found questionable activities to amuse themselves.

Water polo? WHITE ball, pool, drown the opponent, throw ball in net - need I say more?

This brings me, finally, to Murder ball.

For those who don't know, this is a game played in school gymnasiums

Rodent's Racket

everywhere. The object of the game is to have students run for their lives while an elected one is given the opportunity to hurl a WHITE volleyball at high velocities, trying to hit the scurrying masses.

This exciting activity has, on occasion, caused welts and bruising to various body parts.

What sadistic gym instructor came up with this beauty?

Although I chose WHITE ball sports to critique, I'm sure to the non-sports fanatic, similar critiques can be made of every activity. But one has to wonder why we endure such precarious conditions for the love our sports.

Is it the challenge, the competition, the friendships made, or what the television show used to say, "The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat?"

Myself, I feel this next phrase best exemplifies the feelings of most weekend sportsmen "Beats the heck out of yard work!"

Do you have a topic for discussion or an opinion on the past week in sports? Write me care of Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown or phone 873-2254. If it makes me go Hmmm, I'll include it in my column.



Georgetown Eagles winger Jeremy Baker (13) kicked the ball just over the Milton crossbar during one of his many breakaways Thursday at Alcott soccer field. The Eagle's remained in first place in Division II of the Inter-County Soccer League with a 7-0 win over Milton. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW