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Late game heroics give Rebs win

By Mike Zrostek

Three fourth quarter touch-downs by the Georgetown District High School junior Rebels football team led them to their first win of the season as they came back to defeat Oakville's Blakelock Tigers 18-7, Wednesday on their home field.

For the first three quarters it appeared the Rebels weren't going to get the ball past Blakelock's goal line. Two fumbles inside the Tigers five-yard line cost the Rebels a couple scoring opportunities.

Both teams had problems with turnovers during the game but Blakelock's would prove more costly.

The first quarter finished scoreless thanks in part to the Rebs Jamie Bottomley's fumble recovery inside the Rebel 10-yard-line that stopped a Tigers drive dead.

However, Blakelock got on the board on their second play of the second quarter, a 30-yard pass play that gave the visitors a 7-0 lead. The slim lead appeared, at first, to be enough.

Quarterback Geoff Wilson and the rest of the Rebels offense had no problem moving the ball until they got inside the Tigers 10-yard-line. That's where the problems started.

Following the Tiger touchdown, the Rebels marched right down the field – thanks in part to a strong running game, that pounded Blakelock's defensive line all game. Backs Paul Ruttiman and Scott Teeter led the drive as did a 20-yard catch by Ruttiman. A failed fourth down conversion stalled the Rebels offense at that point.

With 2:30 left in the first half, the Rebels marched down the field once again only to see Wilson fumble the snap inside the Tigers five-yard-line.

Seven plays into the third quarter Rebels linebacker Paul Sandifier recovered a fumble deep in the Tigers end, giving the Rebels the ball once again deep in Blakelock territory.

Another Sandifier defensive gem would be a key later in the game.

However, at this point, the Rebels would again fumble inside Blakelock's five on a run to the right side.

On their next drive, the Rebs took the ball right down the field and attempted a field goal.

The snap was botched and the kick never got off.

At this point, you felt you were watching Bill Murray's Groundhog Day. But GDHS would own the fourth quarter.

Bottomley, who had earlier recovered a fumble, intercepted a Tigers pass and ran it back deep into Blakelock's end.

GDHS capitalized on the first play from scrimmage opting for the pass instead of the run and it worked.

Wilson and Pete Mashinter combined on a 20-yard pass play as the Rebels got on the board and never looked back. Even though the extra point was missed.

Mashinter would make it 12-6 Rebels on a beautiful 50-yard interception return with just over three minutes left in the game that all but finished Blakelock.GDHS missed the extra point attempt – again.

After getting the ball back Blakelock failed on a fourth down fake punt attempt as the Rebels defense stuffed a Tiger drive once again.

Ruttiman iced it for the Rebels late in the fourth with a 30-yard touchdown run that capped an 18-point fourth quarter comeback win.

Coach Fred Kotani was delighted with the comeback win as the Rebels finally pumped in a couple of TD's.

"We had about 300 yards offense again. They (the offense) drove the ball well but I think the turning point was Sandifier's interception," said Kotani.

Kotani also pointed out a couple of great individual performances as well as another strong game by the defense.

"Defensively they were good, Chris Howell was strong and offensively Rudiman ran the ball well. So did Jeff Pringle who had a couple of nice runs."

With the win, the juniors are now 1-2 and offensively may have turned the corner after struggling in their first two outings.

The Rebels are now preparing for playoff action.



Georgetown Chrysler Raiders goalie Paul Stinnett was on the losing end of a 7-2 score last weekend against Milton, but couldn't really be faulted as he made some stellar saves. He could get the nod in goal tonight, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena when the Raiders face Oakville Blades.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Raiders face struggling Blades squad

By Mike Zrostek

Going into tonight's game at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders will be looking for a much needed win to get them back in the thick of things in the Provincial Junior A West Division standings. The Oakville Blades just might be ripe for the picking.

Both teams are going into tonight's clash struggling near the middle of the West Division pack along with Streetsville and Brampton.

Like all teams, the Blades were optimistic at the beginning of the season but a tough schedule against the tougher teams in the West have hindered Oakville's start.

At 1-4 the Blades who have a good mix of returning players and 10 new players are hoping to improve on last year's finish.

Head coach Greg Ireland, who took over the sinking Blades at mid-season last yerar and guided them to a 24-23-2 record, thinks Oakville is headed in the right direction.

"Pound for pound we're as good as any team in the league," he said.

With new players on the squad it will take awhile for the veterans and rookies to mesh and that's all right with Ireland, as he is counting on the new guys to help out.

"We're right back to square one, which is a good thing, because some of the

veterans didn't really grasp the system (last year),"Ireland said.

Offensively the Blades are looking for Matt Interbartolo, who finished second in team scoring last year with 33 goals and 30 assists in 45 games, to lead a balanced attack.

Also being counted on for some goal scoring and physical play will be Matt Swain (last year with Oakville midgets), Paul Kauc (who played with Mississauga reps last year) and John Slaney, a late cut by the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the OHL.

It will have to be balanced after the loss of top scorer Dan Delmoore, but Mike Roberts and captain Kent Williams should help fill the net.

Both Slaney and Williams are off to quick starts offensively for Oakville with nine and eight points respectively.

Ireland thinks his defense is one of the best in the West describing it as "smart and aggressive" even though it has given up 29 goals in it's first five games.

Justin Ball and Rick McDonald are the two returnees from last year's defense but the Raiders are high on 14-year-old Ben Van Deeper who has been wowing coaches and OHL scouts.

Dave Dolecki who finished last year with a 3.95 goals against in 25 games last year gets the nod as the number one goalie early in the season.

Meanwhile the Raiders will attempt to halt a three-game losing skid (Friday the Raiders were in Burlington, results weren't available at press time).

They may be ready to get back on the winning track starting with tonight's game against Oakville, as the Raiders get a bit of a break in the schedule.

The Raiders will play Streetsville twice, Milton and Oakville again in a two week stretch following Saturday's game.

Trevor Brandt is back following a short suspension and the Raiders will be looking to play a full 60 minutes after dismal third period efforts against Milton and Hamilton.

Both Paul Stinnett and Nick Montessano have played outstanding lately and with any help from the young Raiders defense the squad should start to win some games.

Doug Sheppard and Ian Ellis are leading the Raiders with seven points but output from Trevor Elinesky, Will North and Trevor Brandt will be needed.

The Raiders have only managed five goals in the past three games but look for them to bust out this upcoming week starting tonight, 7:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Athletes of the Week





Mike Andrews and Jenny Goy have been chosen Acton High School Athletes of the Week. Andrews finished 47th out of 330 competitors at a cross-country meet at Chickapee Ski-Resort in the midget division. He also placed 26th out of 137 at the High Park Invitational cross country meet in Toronto in the midget boys race. Goy scored 11 points for both the junior and senior girls basketball team in recent action.





Randy Bond and Jill McMenemy have been chosen Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week. Bond plays wide receiver for the senior football team. McMenemy finished 19th out of 250 competitors in the 3900-metre cross country meet in Kitchener.

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Len Walker

Hockey draw tickets available

The Georgetown Beaver Lumber Major Novice hockey team is selling fundraising tickets with the winner latching on to a pair of Gold rail seats at Maple Leaf Gardens for

the Feb. 5 game between the Detroit Red Wings and the Leafs.

For further information on the sale of the lucky draw tickets telephone 877-8091.