

Sharpshooter Ian Ellis enjoying his final year with Raiders

By Mike Zrostek

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders may not be ripping up the league but forward Ian Ellis is enjoying his final year with the club - in more ways than one - as they head into the second half of the season.

Ellis, 20, is tearing up the Ontario Hockey Association's Provincial Junior A League's West division with 44 points (24 goals and 20 assists) in 20 games, despite the Raiders struggling 5-16 start.

The 5'10" 185-pound gunner was born in Brampton, later moving to Milton at the age of five where he lived for 12 years, before moving to Georgetown.

He has lived in Georgetown for the past

three years and is happy to be playing for the Raiders, contrary to what people may think.

"People think I want to get traded but I don't," said Ellis. "I enjoy playing here. The guys are great and you can joke around with the coaches."

This should squelch the rumors that he wants to move elsewhere.

"Last year I asked for a trade when I quit for three weeks, but that was out of frustration. This year's my last and I want to have fun. This is the closest team I've been on yet."

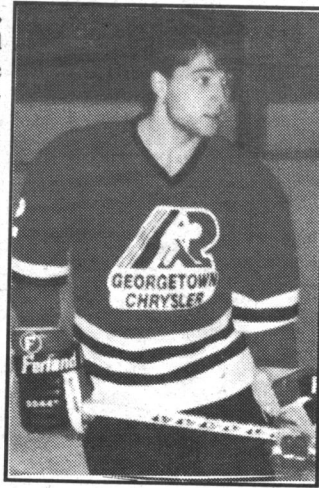
Ellis started skating at a young age, like most Canadian youngsters at the age of five, in Milton, where he played house league to bantam. As a

youngster, Ellis followed his favorite player Guy Lafleur and the Montreal Canadiens.

At 15, Ellis played one year with the Acton Sabres and then went up and down with the Milton Merchants for a year.

In 90-91 he played for the Jr. B London Diamonds (now Nationals) before joining the Raiders the following year.

Ellis has been in on just under 40 per cent of the Raiders goals this season and obviously gets some



Ian Ellis

extra attention. But says it doesn't bother him.

"When we were down in Burlington I only scored one goal but my teammates were telling me that they (Burlington players) were going after me. In fact, they were going after

(Will) North and (Trevor) Brandt too, but it makes me feel good. I won't retaliate, it just makes me want to score a goal," said Ellis.

If you've ever seen Ellis play you quickly notice how smooth he is with the puck as he rushes from end to end. He admits he enjoys this aspect of his game as well.

"The coaches probably don't like it, but I love going end to end and wheel-

ing it out. I get it down there but don't score too much."

"I don't take too many slap shots either once I get down there. If I do, Jay (Anderson, Raiders assistant coach) tells me to use my wrist shot," says a smirking Ellis.

Ellis says backchecking in the defensive zone and concentrating are aspects of his game he must work on.

Even though Ellis enjoys his coaches and teammates, he does admit that playing for Georgetown effects the attention that the players get from scouts - but not really his personal stats.

In fact, Ellis is the only player in the league who is in the top 25 scoring and doesn't play for a .500 team.

"You do benefit playing for a better team. No one's (scouts) come up to us yet this year. It could (affect point total) but we have players here I love playing with." Ellis emphasizes he really enjoys playing with

Georgetown's Doug Sheppard, who is himself having a spectacular year.

"I don't like passing, but with Dougie, I know what he's doing with the puck and where he's going to be. We play well together. I think we have 15 points playing together. However, our backchecking isn't great and Jay's noticed that, so we don't play much together."

"In my five years of playing minor hockey I've never played with anybody like Dougie. It's too bad it's my last year," said Ellis.

As far as the Raiders' slow start, Ellis points to a few reasons.

"Dumb penalties. It's been said in the dressing room if you're hit don't retaliate. We've got to learn not to take penalties."

"The defense is having problems, probably because we (forwards) aren't coming back fast enough and because the Brandt (Show) is finished," a joking reference to teammate Trevor Brandt.

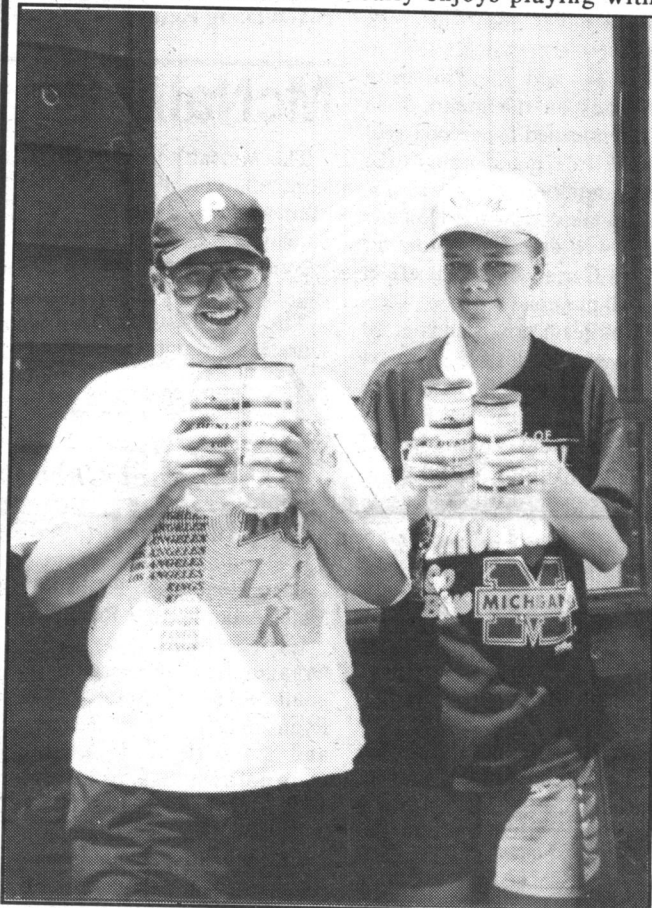
Ellis says the team will turn it around in the second half.

"When Gary came in last year, we turned it on and I predict the same thing will happen this year."

As for Ellis and his hockey future after this year with the Raiders, he says it's wide open.

"I would love to go down to the States if I had the chance or possibly play in the Colonial or East Coast Leagues. The OHL is out, there are just too many restrictions. Europe would be interesting. I'll be sending out my player profiles soon, Brandt (Show) and I would like to go together as a package," said Ellis.

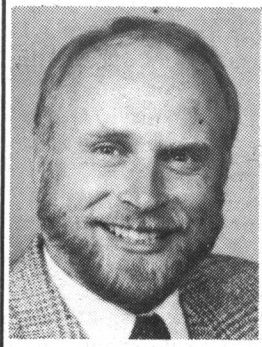
No matter what the future holds for Ellis he has been a standout on a struggling Georgetown team that is trying to move up in their division.



Kyle Hancock (left) and Allan Cater were the 1993 Gordon Alcott Tennis Club's Junior Boys Consolation champions. photo by Norma Maynard

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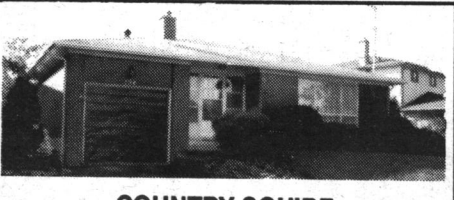
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