

Recreation and Sports



Raiders facing tired Merchants

By Mike Zrostek

This weekend offers the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders a great opportunity to collect four points and make up some ground in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League West Division.

Friday the Raiders played the winless Royal York Rangers at home, (results weren't available at press time) and tonight the struggling Milton Merchants are at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena for a 7:30 p.m. tilt.

The Raiders will probably be facing a tired Merchants team who will be playing their fourth game in four nights, having competed this past week in the Metro Junior A Classic International Tournament.

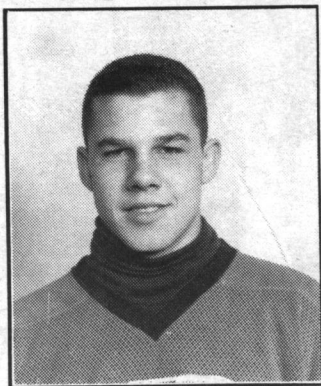
Georgetown, 5-18 heading into Friday's game, have added winger Dan LeClair to the lineup with another player addition imminent.

To make room for LeClair, the Raiders cut defenseman Colin Hooper and winger Chris Logue.

Both Logue and Hooper did not dress for last weekend's games against Oakville and Burlington.

Logue had two goals and six assists in 19 games and obviously didn't do the job that was expected around the net.

Hooper, who appeared in 15 games for the Raiders, scoring a goal and two assists, was replaced by winger Dean Roberts on the blueline this past weekend and Roberts' strong play may have resulted in Hooper's release.



Nick Montessano

Defenseman Andy Pazaver is still out with a hand injury; Barry Parsons is gone with a separated shoulder and Ryan Brown is questionable for tonight's game, nursing a sore shoulder.

After a quick start to the season, Milton now sits fifth in the West at 10-11-1. Raiders rookie goalie Nick Montessano should get the call between the pipes against Milton.

Raiders need billets

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders of the Ontario Hockey Association's Junior A League, West Division, need billets for two new players who have joined the Raiders.

The Raiders will pay \$325 a month for anyone willing to provide room and board for the players.

For further information contact Raiders General Manager Finn Poulstrup, at 877-5165 or 873-2855.

Oakville Blades join Oaks minor hockey group

By Tony Maraschiello Special to HHTW

Oakville's junior A hockey team, suffering from poor attendance and slumping sponsorship revenues, got a major boost last week from the town's minor hockey league system.

After 28 years as an independent, the Oakville Blades were purchased by the Minor Oaks Hockey Association for an undisclosed amount.

While all administrative duties will be transferred to the MOHA, including marketing, the on-ice operation of the Blades will remain with long-time general manager Murray Walker.

"We felt it was time to join forces with somebody with the expertise to enhance our club," said Walker at a press conference last week. "We're looking to form a greater network and we're looking to reduce overall expenses."

Murray, principal owner of the Blades, said there has only been a handful of people running his club over the years and that has hurt him in many ways.

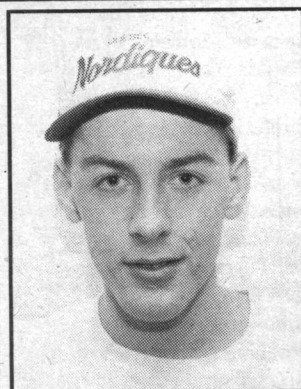
"The four people we had running the Blades weren't enough to operate the club. There are a lot of people in minor hockey, with the time and expertise to properly market this team," he said. "We don't have a large enough base of people with expertise to keep the Blades a viable organization."

The deal will allow the MOHA to assume the name, all assets and the franchise license under a new organization called The Oakville Blades Junior Hockey Club Inc.

Although there were several reasons for joining, including being able to purchase equipment at bulk prices with the MOHA, Murray said one of the main reasons is to put more people in the stands.

To that end, the MOHA is planning several theme nights and special prize giveaways for minor hockey players in hopes of getting them and their families to come out to the games.

Athletes of the Week



Steve Turkosz and Emily Savage are this week's Acton High School Athletes of the Week. Steve is a member of the Redmen curling team. Emily is a member of the Redmen swim team.



Jason MacArthur and Kathy Shier are this week's Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week. Jason plays on the Rebels midget boys volleyball team. Kathy plays on the Rebels junior girls field hockey team.



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The rookie cards of hockey stars Dennis Savard, Wayne Gretzky and Glenn Anderson (now of the Toronto Maple Leafs) can represent a valuable investment to the serious collector. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW.

Hockey card collecting has changed

By Mike Zrostek

As a youngster you would trek to the local store with your pocket full of change and purchase as many 15-cent packs of hockey cards as you could, hoping you would end up with that treasured Guy Lafleur or Darryl Sittler card. More often than not, you usually got stuck with a Darcy Rota card for the eighth time.

Collecting trading cards was a fun hobby that would fill a whole winter day. Trading your doubles, putting them in your bicycle spokes, filling your checklist and at the end of the hockey year, frenzied scrambles at school lunch hour.

Those times have changed when it comes to collecting hockey cards. The former hobby is now a multi-million dollar business for store owners and collectors who grace shopping centers and arenas.

It is no longer all about trying to collect a whole team or fill the checklist, but rather, what cards you can purchase, keep awhile, turn-around and then sell for a profit.

With five different companies (Topps, Fleer, Leaf, O-Pee-Chee and Upper Deck) producing hockey cards each year, it can be very hard for collectors to decide the type to buy and which players are big sellers.

"It depends on the collector," says Paul Kato, who works at Sports Cards Headquarters, located on Main St. in Georgetown. "Some collect goalies or rookie cards. It really depends on how much they have to spend."

Upper Deck has been a top seller for years, but the 220 card premier edition series of Leaf is the biggest moving set this year, outselling the other four 10-to-1. One of the main reasons is that Leaf includes insert cards which are valued at \$30 - if you're lucky to get one.

All sets on the market include insert cards, however, the Leaf ones are the flashier looking cards and

there aren't as many available as in other packs.

The odds of getting one are 1-in-8 packs so collectors are willing to spend \$2.75 a pack.

Years ago, O-Pee-Chee packs went for 15 cents and you got six or seven cards and that delicious powdered gum that lost its flavor the minute it hit your mouth. Now people spend between \$1.50 to \$2.75 for 12 or 14 cards in a pack (no gum), with the hope of getting insert cards or a treasured rookie card.

"Rookie cards are the biggest sellers," said Kato. "It depends where the player is playing and how he is doing at the time. Someone in Toronto, Chicago, New York or Los Angeles is obviously going to sell more than a player in Hartford."

Cards people always look for are, obviously, the Gretzky and Lemieux ones but lately, players such as Alexandre Daigle, Doug Gilmour and Felix Potvin cards are now big sellers.

How are cards priced? Prices of cards in various magazines and stores are determined in many ways.

1) People from the various card magazines attend numerous shows around North America and average out the prices.

2) Condition of the card. There are three classifications; Mint, Excellent/Mint and Very Good/Excellent.

3) Scarcity. In terms of how many were printed of the particular card. The more that are made, the less the value.

4) General Appeal. Star players obviously get more attention.

5) Location. Here in Southern Ontario, obviously Toronto Maple Leaf players such as Gilmour and Potvin are hot. Gilmour's rookie card that was \$7 before he arrived in Toronto, now runs from \$55 to \$65 in Ontario. If you wanted to buy that same card in the United States, it would be significantly cheaper; probably closer to \$20.

Anybody who collects cards knows a player's rookie card is the most expensive card to purchase at a store or card show.

One of the most expensive rookie cards is Gordie Howe's 1951-52 card that goes for \$4,000. Wayne Gretzky's 1979-80 rookie card price fluctuates on how well the Great One plays. Right now the price is anywhere from \$500 to \$850.

The last couple of years have produced some up and coming NHL players and their rookie cards are in high demand. Players such as Eric Lindros, Tony Amonte, Alex Daigle, Pat Falloon, Teemu Selanne, Geoff Sanderson and Joe Juneau.

The collecting of cards is changing rapidly included is the age group that collect hockey cards.

Years ago youngsters dominated in the purchase of cards, now many stores say that the age group of people collecting hockey cards are boys and men between the ages of 17-50 and not the kids.

A new trend on the rise is collecting non-sports cards. Everything people listen to watch or play with are all made into cards. Movies, Barbie dolls and musical groups all can be collected. Hockey card companies see this trend developing and are constantly coming up with new ideas to entice collectors.

Series such as Gretzky's Great ones where he talks about the great moments covering the NHL's stars are in a special set. Award Winners, and the NHL's Best, where today's star players who excel at a certain skill are featured with a rising star who displays the same level at that particular skill.

Yes with the world changing rapidly everybody has to improve their product to keep up with the times. If I were collecting today, a trek to the corner store in the snow beats a bidding war at the mall and paying more.