

# Raiders ship all-star Ford to Burlington in cash deal

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Brent Ford has suited up with the Georgetown Raiders for the last time.

Just prior to this week's January 10 cut-down deadline, the Raiders dealt Ford to the Burlington Cougars.

A 20-year-old third-year centre/left winger, Ford played his final game for the Raiders last Saturday against Brampton and was officially traded Monday night.

He said his final goodbyes to teammates and coaches at their weekly practice that same evening.

With little hope for a successful playoff run, the Raiders dealt away their top scorer in an effort to help him land an athletic scholarship to play college hockey.

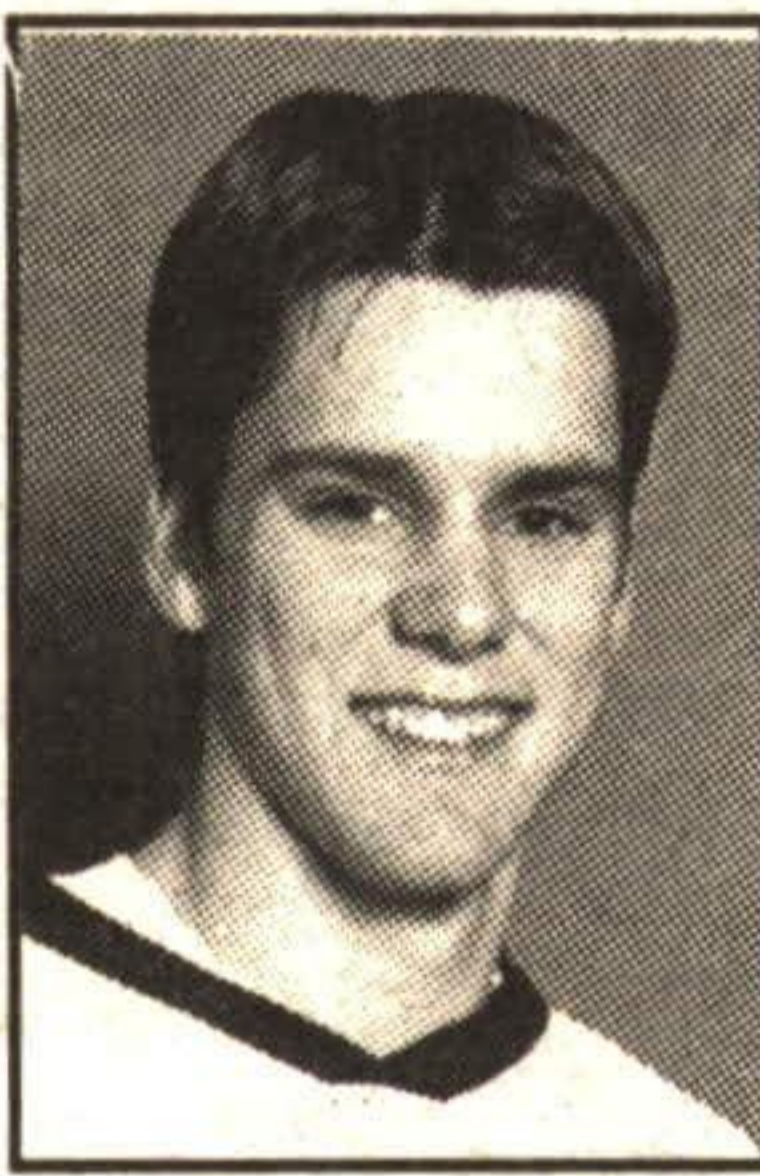
"Brent has put in nearly three solid years

in Georgetown. We felt sending him to Burlington, who have a stronger chance for advancement in next month's playoffs, would give him an opportunity to gain exposure and solidify a scholarship at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania," explained Raider GM Jules Russiani.

Brent received offers from Milton and Newmarket as well, but chose to skate for the Cougars. The deal sent Ford to Burlington for a cash settlement.

Unfortunately for Ford, his debut with the Cougars was marred by a 6-1 loss in Milton Tuesday night to the division leading Merchants. He will be sporting #16 now and will skate with fellow all-star Steve Guiney and Ryan Shaver.

"I'm going to miss Georgetown. Charlie Hanman gave me a chance three years ago, and along the way Jules (Russiani) and Finn (Poulstrup) have treated me very well," said Ford, following Tuesday night's game in Milton, "I lost a lot of sleep for a few nights contemplating my options. It was hard to go to the arena Monday night and say goodbye to guys like Bouskill, Beauparlant and Cripps.



BRENT FORD

"I didn't want them to think I was running out on them, but this is a big opportunity for me."

Following his rookie season with the Raiders, Brent's steady development as a sophomore saw him earn first-line status as well as the team's Most Improvement Player award.

This season, Brent was Georgetown's top

scorer with 25 goals and 18 assists. His consistently solid play also earned him a trip to last weekend's Central Ontario All-Star game - where he skated with Burlington's Luigi Calce and Steve Guiney.

And with a high level of hockey skills and just 12 penalties this season, he could also be a contender for the West's Most Gentlemanly Player award - an honor he took during Georgetown's recent meeting with the Russian Central Red Army.

And while his chances for a scholarship and a West Division title have shot up dramatically, it is clear that Brent's fondest hockey memories are of times at Alcott Arena and with Raiders.

"I would like to thank everyone in Georgetown who helped me out over the past three years. I met a lot of great people and I really appreciated their support."

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##### Split decisions

The Acton Proplastex Atom II Sabres played two games last week and came out with a split.

In the first game they lost their second of the season by a score of 3-2 to a determined Elora team. The teams traded goals in the first period with Brian Field scoring for the home side assisted by Sean Kirk and Adam Brouliard. Elora scored one in the second period and one midway through the third to take a two goal lead, before Acton tried to mount a rally with a goal from Nick Mastro, assisted by Matt Wolfer and Brouliard.

In their second game of the week, the Sabres played the Arthur squad at the Acton Community Centre and came out the winning side of a 7-2 game. Scoring for the Sabres was Jason McGuire with two, Sean Kirk with two, and singles to Andrew Fores, Thomas Mahon and Brian Field. Assists went to Mahon with three, Field with three, Kirk with two and single to Justin Lockerbie, Brouliard and Wolfer. The Sabres have four games left in regular season and have a record of 22-2-0.



### Double trouble

The Georgetown Rebels senior girls volleyball squad provided double trouble on defence for the E.C. Drury Spartans during Halton high school volleyball action this week. The Rebels walked off with a 15-5, 15-5 victory.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## Rebels hit top ten

The Georgetown District High School Rebels' hockey team had their nine game unbeaten streak snapped Tuesday afternoon in Oakville with a 3-2 loss to the Oakville Trafalgar Devils.

Paul Sandifer and Steve Onoprijenko scored for the Rebels while Josh Barber was between the pipes and took the loss.

Georgetown hosted the Milton District Mustangs Monday at Alcott Arena and recorded a 4-1 victory.

Mike Bahr potted a pair for the home team, with teammates Mark Aldridge and Sandifer chipping in

with singles.

Drawing the assists were Aldridge, Dave Doole and Darin Finlayson with two each and Sandifer and Onoprijenko with single helpers. Puckstopper John Waller earned the win.

The Rebels now hold a 16-4-2 season record, with an 8-1-1 showing in Halton league play.

Following two previous honorable mentions in the Ontario Provincial High School rankings, Georgetown finally broke the top 10 earlier this week - with a 10th place ranking.

## Derbys shut down Raider attack

The Georgetown Raiders' Tuesday found a different way to lose at the Vic Johnston Arena in Streetsville on Tuesday night.

A 5-0 loss to the Derbys marked the first time this season the Raiders have been shutout.

Streetsville had held the Raiders to just one goal in an outing back in October, while they managed only a single marker in games against Oakville and Brampton this season as well.

Without the help of former captain Brent Ford, dealt to Burlington Monday night for a cash settlement, Georgetown was blanked through all 60 minutes of play.

This allowed rookie netminder Paul Desrochers his first shutout as a Derby, and allowed his crew to stay just one point behind the second place Hamilton Kilty Bees.

Meanwhile, the Raiders fell to 3-33-2 with just 11 games remaining in the regular season. And with a tough schedule ahead, including three meetings with the division leading Milton Merchants, the road doesn't get much smoother for the

local Junior A squad.

"I thought we should have been the ones up 2-0 after the first period, not Streetsville. We were all over them, we just missed on our chances," said Raider General Manager Jules Russiani.

After opening up a two-goal lead through the first period, the Derbys fired two more past goalie Jim Hibbert in the middle frame and potted one more in the last 20 minutes.

Once again Hibbert didn't receive sufficient assistance from his defensive squad, who were joined by Royal York's Matt Cardwell this past week.

With this January 10th cutdown deadline Tuesday, the Raiders have turned in goalie Paul Stinnett's card as well as forward Shane O'Connor's - who has gone to attend school in New Brunswick.

The Raiders were in Milton Friday evening and hosted Hamilton last night (Saturday).

Next Friday they do battle with Royal York while the following night they take on the Oakville Blades.

### High school

## Athletes of the Week

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Jackie Brady and Mike Roe. Jackie was selected for her contribution as a setter on the midget Rebels girls volleyball team, while Mike was recognized for his prowess on the wrestling mat, remaining undefeated in the past three tournaments.

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Andre Savard and Vicki White. Andre was selected for his contribution to the midget Redmen volleyball team during the past season, while Vicki was honored for her performance on the midget girls volleyball team.



JACKIE BRADY



MIKE ROE



VICKI WHITE



ANDRE SAVARD

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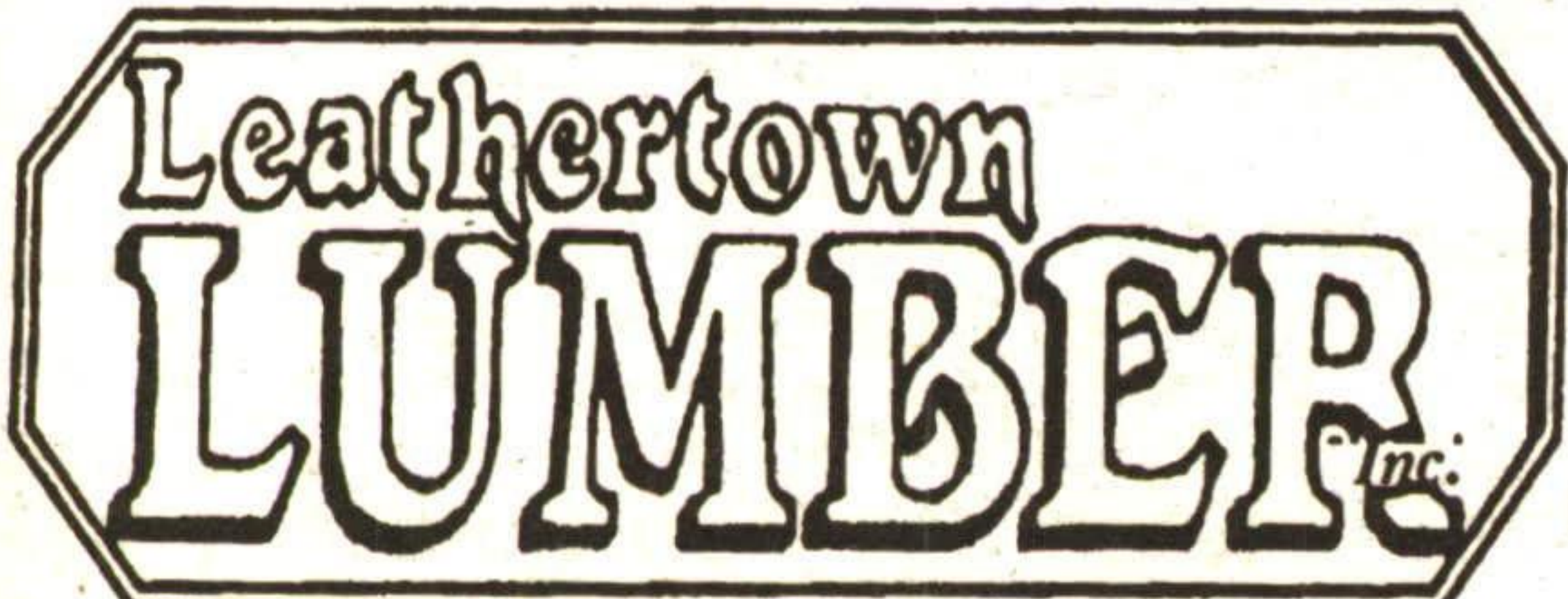
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