

# Georgetown hockey squads to battle 'AA' competition

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Georgetown's rep hockey teams will be moving up to "AA" competition for the 1995/96 season.

While Georgetown has always been considered a "AA" centre, the GMHA has been losing a number of players to "AAA" teams like the Halton Hurricanes for a number of years now — which has kept them with an "A" classification.

"With the inception of the "AAA" division a few years ago, and the strong player development in Georgetown — particularly with the younger players — it was inevitable that we would move up

to double A competition sooner or later," said GMHA president Hal Pells.

All 13 minor league Raider squads, from the 7-year-old Selects to the Midgets, were officially moved up to "AA" competition last month during a meeting with Tri-County representatives and OMHA regional director Ed Brown.

Georgetown's success over the past few years was also a contributing factor in the move. A number of Raider squads have excelled in the past few years, including the minor novices — who under head coach Dave Krause reached the Ontario Minor Hockey Association zone finals last season.

"I think it's an excellent move for

Georgetown. It will provide us with more competition and will mean less traveling," said Krause, who will coach the major novices this season.

Prior to the change, the Raiders were traveling to centres like Brantford and Woolwich for competition. This season, they will face teams in surrounding communities like Milton, Oakville, Chinguacousy, Brampton, Burlington and Orangeville. Their only lengthy journey will be a one-time road trip to St. Catharines.

"I'm sure we will still be competitive in the "AA" loop. Many of the top "A" teams are more than capable of beating "AA" squads," added Krause.

However, Pells realizes that not all GMHA rep teams are likely to excel at "AA" division play, and that some may drop back to "A" for the OMHA playdowns.

"The move up to "AA" is good for Georgetown, but I still have some reservations. Of course some of our teams will now do a lot better than others. We'll just have to wait and see how things go this first year," Pells explained.

GMHA registrations will continue Wednesday, August 30 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Alcott Arena and Saturday, September 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Alcott Arena.

HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

## SPORTS

Soccer Corner

ALEX TOUGH

### Down to the wire

Inter County results from last week did not do much to settle some of the standings issues, with Wednesday night's action deciding several spots.

One exception is the first place for the first division. Caledon needed only one point from their home game with PRPA on Wednesday to clinch the league title before going on to the playoffs.

The leaders came back from a two goal deficit against Meadowvale to win by 3-2 in the end. Second place Eagles won at Winchester by the odd goal in three to stay 3 points behind Caledon. Eagles played Meadowvale at Cedarvale in their final outing.

If Eagles won and Caledon lost, Caledon will win the title by virtue of their inter-game result earlier in the season. The same situations applies with PRPA.

If PRPA won at Caledon and Eagles lost, the title still goes to Caledon.

Discipline on the field of play appears to have gone out the window in Mariners play these days. Four cautions and two ejections came in the match with Forrest, who won 2-1 in the end. The loss puts some distance between Forest and Mariners, Mariners dropping to second last place. Mariners were faced with a must win situation at Winchester on Wednesday, a decider for last place.

Blazers gave Meteor a hard time at Meadowglen before going down by 0-3 as PRPA were defeating Merseyside by 4-2.

In the second division Lions held a three point lead over Villa heading into final week action, but Villa have a game in hand. Villa's make up game is with Britannia, who were in third place four points adrift of the lead.

It all depends upon the last matches of the three clubs which determines the winner of the lower division. Britannia visited Alcott on Wednesday with Ajax providing the opposition. Lions hosted Villa and if they prevailed, will have taken the second division title.



A touring English rugby side totally dominated the North Halton under-17 squad at Neilson's Field last Sunday, scoring a 49-0 win.

## English rugby side dominates North Halton

By HERB GARBUTT

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Talk about taking advantage of hospitality.

The North Halton under 17 rugby team hosted an English side on Sunday at Neilson's Field and its overseas opponents handed it a lopsided 49-0 defeat. The English side built a 17 point advantage in the opening half and then turned it up in the second half for 32 more points.

The English squad struck for a pair of quick tries in the opening half, however it failed to convert either and had to settle for a 10-0 lead.

North Halton's best scoring opportunity came midway through the half as they pushed into their opponents territory to set up a penalty kick from about 25 yards out. The kick sailed wide, though, preserving the shutout.

The visiting side displayed great speed in the opening half. This was used to their advantage as they were quick to get down field to pressure Halton's kick receivers. On a couple of occasions this led to Halton to misplay balls. One mishandled ball was

scooped up and run in from 30 yards out for the English side's third try. The convert upped the lead to 17-0.

A nearly identical play almost gave the visitors another try but Halton stopped them short of the goal line. Even after the English team won a lineout deep in Halton territory, the home side held strong, eventually stripping the ball from an English player near the goal line and touching it down to provide some breathing room.

There would be little time to even catch their breath, though, in the second half. The English side struck for a try in the opening minute to take a 22-0 lead. Within five minutes they had used their tremendous speed and great forward support for a couple more tries and a 32-0 advantage.

The English side continued to dominate, rarely letting Halton out of its own end. Although its kicking game was used sparingly it was effective when utilized. For the most part, though, the visitors relied on their speed, turning in several long runs from midfield to set up three more tries, one converted, for a 49-0 final.

### Acton lacrosse

## Rams nipped at provincials

The Acton McIntyre Fuels Peeewe Rams played in their provincial tournament recently in Owen Sound.

The Peeewe Rams started quickly winning both their games on Friday.

Ryan Weatherall scored three goals and added an assist in their 7-3 win over Oakville.

Brandon Valente, Matt Wolfer, Jason McGuire and Michael McDonald scored singles in the Acton win. Assists went to Adam Lindsay 2, Nick Mastro, Wolfer, McGuire, Weatherall and Michel Dube.

The Peeewe Rams rolled over Midland 10-6 in their second game with Weatherall grabbing four goals and an assist.

Wolfer added a pair of goals while Steve Atkinson, McDonald, Lindsay and McGuire netted singles in the game. Mastro, Valente, Wolfer and McDonald recorded assists in the win.

Acton ran into stiffer competition on Saturday and dropped a close game to Gloucester 8-7.

The Rams fell behind 4-2 after the first period with Dube and Adam Tyler scoring for Acton.

Gloucester made the score 5-2 early in the second before Acton rallied to tie the game at 5 with goals by Wolfer, McGuire and Weatherall.

Gloucester took control early in the third with two goals to go up 7-5.

Lindsay potted a goal to bring Acton within one but Gloucester added an insurance goal less than a minute later.

Valente scored Acton seventh goal with two minutes to go but the Rams

failed to tie the game at 8. Acton assists in the game went to David Lyons 2, Lindsay 2, Jon Newby, McGuire, Mastro and Dube.

Gloucester went on to win the "C" Division Provincial Championship.

Huntsville defeated Acton 7-5 to eliminate the Rams from the tourney.

The Rams fell behind 3-1 early in the game but rallied to tie the game at 3 before the end of the second period.

Three quick Huntsville goals in the final 5 minutes of the second period gave e Huntsville a 6-3 lead. Acton tried to regroup but ran out of time. Acton goalscorers were Lindsay 2, Wolfer, Weatherall and McDonald. Assists went to Weatherall 2, Wolfer and Lindsay.

The Acton Lions Club Novice Rams lacrosse season ended last Saturday at the Provincials in Hamilton.

The Novice Rams played two games on Friday and two games on Saturday before being eliminated from the tourney.

Acton narrowly defeated Six Nations II 5-4, Friday afternoon. Then the Novice Rams overpowered Nepean 3-1 on Friday night.

Owen Sound brought the Rams down to earth with an easy 6-1 win Saturday morning.

The Novice Rams never recovered and allowed Bolton to take a 4-0 lead in their Saturday night game.

Acton rallied late in the game but came up on the losing end of a 5-3 loss.

Scoring details were not available at press time.