

Raiders to tangle with Russians on New Year's Day

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The Russians are armed and ready for another invasion, and once more Georgetown will be one of their prime targets. Now don't get excited, too excited anyway, we're talking hockey here.

Gordon Alcott Arena will be the site of Invasion Two, as the Junior A Raiders take on some of the top Russian juniors in an exhibition tilt on Monday, January 1 (New Year's Day), beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The match will be stop number 20 on the Central Red Army Junior A squad's tour through southern Ontario, which will include a 29-game schedule over 49 days.

The Russian under-18 squad, which will include six players from September's World Under-17 Championships in Moncton, New Brunswick, will face teams from both the Provincial Junior A and Mid-Western

Junior B leagues. Their first game is set for Saturday, December 2 against the Trenton Sting. Along the way, they'll take on 21 of the 22 Provincial Junior A squads, finishing in Milton on Jan. 13.

This year's tour is been arranged by Moore Sports Tours. "This team is made up of the best junior players from the Central Red Army and Moscow Dynamo junior programs," said tour organizer Mike Moore, during a press conference last Thursday.

This combination will see 42 players from the two clubs on this year's tour.

With only about half that number last time around, the visiting Russians were prone to fatigue and injury during their gruelling 30-game schedule — playing as

many as five games a week.

This year's tour also features a bigger and better cast of players.

While 16-year-old Sergei Samsonov was the talk around Ontario hockey arenas last season, this year's stars include Oleg Kvasha - a huge 6'5", 205 lbs. 17-year-old left winger who is slated to go in the first round of the next NHL Entry Draft.

The blueline corp includes 16-year-old Maxim Solovye, dubbed Mad Max, who scored 40 goals and 100 points total in 80 games last season. Other players to watch are Alexei Cheburak, Sergei Kormakov and Vadim Veresokin - who collectively form the 'Big Line'.

Leading the team is head coach Boris

Sthanko, who has trained Vancouver Canuck star Pavel Bure, as well as New York Rangers Sergi Zubov and Alexei Karpotvsev.

Along with Moore Sports Tours, sponsors include The Fan, 590, Kobe sportswear, Dodge Suites Hotel and Can-ar Coach Service.

Raider president Finn Poulstrup sees no reason why this year's game can't be another sellout.

"With players from the Dynamo team as well as the Central Red Army, this year's team will be stronger than ever. We expect a sell out crowd. Fans should get their tickets early, they make great stocking stuffers for Christmas," said Poulstrup.

All tickets for the event are \$7 and are now on sale. They are available at Johnson and Associates, the Lotto Centre in the Mall, Feminine Way or at Raider home games.



HALTON HILLS WEEKEND SPORTS

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Darts

ALEX TOUGH

Surprise endings

Halton league results from last week brought a couple of surprise endings.

Bracky Brew Crew came through to defeat Charleys #2 by 8-6 and Brackys Fat Bunch (#2) handed out a loss to Legion #2 by 11-3. Meantime Brackys #2, Tapsters, went down 5-9 to Legion #1. Legion #3 roll along with 10-4 over Charleys #1. The Time Outs both won their matches, #1 by 11-3 over the no-wins Royal Pizza and #2 by 10-4 over no-wins McGibbon.

Legion #3 remain in first place with Time Out #1 moving into second spot. Charleys #1 & #2 follow with Legion #1 and Fat Bunch rounding out the top half of the standings. McGibbon hold on to last place, 17 points behind Tapsters. The leaders have a comfortable lead of 14 points at this stage.

Legion #1 took the opening teams sets with the Tapsters operating with a dummy player. The first and third singles sets were won by the visitors with the home, Legion, team winning the other six. Tapsters came back to win three of four doubles to make a respectable result at the close. Denise Vallance and Chris Hildebrand both shot three bonus scores, including a 140.

The Industrial league has settled into eight teams at the McGibbon with Gasketman enjoying the lead of 8 points over New Dream Team. Woodchuckers are a further 6 points adrift with Teddy Bears, Bossman, Panthers, Bullsitters and Independents way down the line. Mike Pepper shot high with 160, Terry Hancock took over the high finish lead with 157 and Glen X scored the maximum. Gasketman fired their usual efficient darts to defeat Independents 10-1. Dream Team notched a 9-2 win over Bullsitters. Teddy Bears and Woodchuckers fought a close match before Chuckers scored the single point win in eleven. Bossman defeated Panthers 8-3.

Gasketman have won nine of ten matches to date, New Dream Team also, Woodchuckers have won eight and Teddy Bears are five/five.



In the swim

Halton Hills Blue Fin swimmer Vicki Hardstaff gasps for air as she works on her backstroke during the Milton Marlin Invitational Swim Meet last Sunday. The Blue Fins amassed 52 personal best marks at the meet, including a club record from Alex Main in the 100 metre butterfly. The Blue Fins host a meet at the Georgetown Indoor Pool next weekend.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Ice Rebels rout rivals

The Georgetown Rebels' hockey team could do no wrong Wednesday afternoon in Oakville, as they dropped a 12-0 bomb on the Iroquois Ridge Raiders.

Working a flawless game between the pipes was goalie Joe Barber. Leading the attack were Paul Sandifer and Chris Goodhew, who each turned a hat-trick. Tim Diardichuk tallied twice and singles went to Andrew Elinesky, Brad Davidson, Darin Finlayson and Trevor Crane.

The lopsided victory followed their home opener Monday at Alcott, where they beat the Queen Elizabeth Park Eagles of Oakville 3-1. Andrew Craig had a shutout going into the final seconds of play.

Scoring for Georgetown were Sandifer, Goodhew and Sandy Davidson.

The Rebels are now 9-0 this season, which includes exhibition and tournament play.

Pewee Sabres split

The Acton Galvcast Pewee Sabres split a pair last week, falling 5-3 in Elora and downing Orangeville 9-1.

David Iaccoca, Chris Stanhope and Joey Thompson tallied goals for Acton in the Elora contest. Ben Williams, Greg Barens, Steve Barens and Stanhope had assists.

The Sabres were flying against Orangeville. Stanhope had a pair as did Joe Fields. Jeff Payne, Williams, Jason McGuire, Tom Mahon and David Iaccoca notched singles. Assisting on two were Mitchell Moore, Greg Barens, Steve Barens and Tom Mahon. Payne also chipped in with three assists.

Athletes of the Week

The Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Kristin Finley and Sandy Chapman. Kristin was chosen for her hustle on the floor for Redmen junior girls basketball team. Sandy was selected for his setting on the Redmen midget volleyball team at the Halton championships.

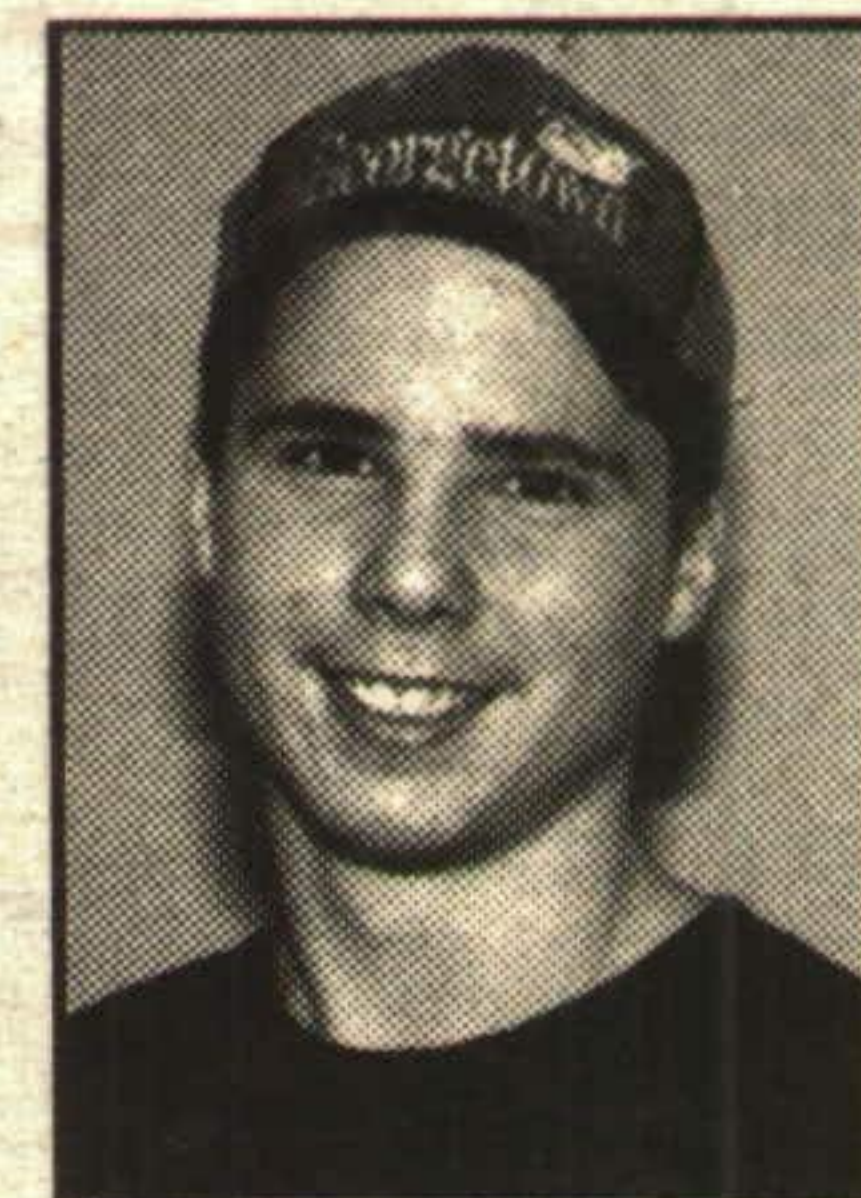
Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Jason Armstrong and Shantelle Hemphill. Jason, captain of the Rebels Halton midget volleyball championship team. Shantelle was chosen for her performance on the Rebels midget basketball team at a St. Thomas tourney and the Halton championships.



KRISTIN FINLEY



SANDY CHAPMAN



JASON ARMSTRONG



SHANTELE HEMPHILL