

# Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2000

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## Raiders look shaky in earning split to open new season

The Georgetown Raiders are a young team and on the first weekend of the regular season, it showed.

Whether it was the reality that the games are now for keeps or just opening night jitters, the Raiders did not show the same poise they did in the exhibition season. A pair of disjointed efforts led to a 5-2 loss to Milton before the Raiders rebounded for a 9-6 win over Streetsville in their home debut on Saturday.

"We made a lot of mental mistakes," said Raider coach Simon Couture. "The veteran players are going to have to take care of the team until Christmas. They're going to have to really step up and do an amazing job until the younger guys start playing with more confidence."

That's exactly what hap-

pened Saturday. Stace Page had a goal and five assists, Tristan Fairbarn had a hat-trick, Mike Knoepfli scored twice and Billy Fetherston set up three goals.

The team's exhibition success, including a win and a tie against Milton, may have given the team too much confidence heading into Friday's season opener. The Merchants, who were scrambling just to get players signed and put a team on the ice, dropped the Raiders 5-2.

"We were a bit nervous for the first game and opening in Milton," said Fairbarn. "It's always hard to win there and we came out flat. They finished their checks and they finished their scoring chances. We didn't."

The Raider power play, which clicked in its first two opportunities against Streetsville, struggled in Milton.

"It's going to take time for



Georgetown Raider Ryan Busby is turned away by Streetsville goalie Terry Lenyk in Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. The Raiders scored a 9-6 win in their home opener after falling 5-2 to Milton in Friday's season opener.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

us to build a good system and work everyone into it," Couture said. "With seven rookies and a couple of players from other organizations we'll need time to practice together."

**RAIDER RAP:** Brandon Valente, David Lajeunesse and

Darryl Knowles scored on Saturday...Newcomer Adam Russell had three assists on the weekend...Fairbarn and Knowles scored against Milton....The Raiders have four games in five days beginning Thursday in Brampton.

They host Hamilton Saturday (7:30 p.m. at Alcott) play Collingwood in Mississauga Sunday as part of the college weekend and play in Hamilton Monday.

—By Herb Garbutt,

## Pearson boys eye World BMX titles



KYLE PEARSON

The Pearson brothers are getting ready to take on the world. Both Kyle and Brady Pearson have qualified for the World BMX Championships in Louisville, Kentucky next July.

It's the second time they have qualified for the event but it will be their first time competing in it. Last year's event in Argentina was a little too far for the family to travel.

Kyle qualified by winning his second straight Eastern Canadian title in the nine-year-old expert division in Crabtree, Quebec. He also took top honors in the nine-year-old cruiser division. Younger

brother Brady, a six-year-old rookie rider, raced one age group and two skill levels above himself because of a lack of riders in his division but still finished third in Eastern Canada. By the time Kyle won his three motos (heats), he had already wrapped up the title. That turned out to be important because in the main (final) he finished fifth, largely because getting stuck on the outside of the track forced him to go over the pro jumps, which are two or three feet higher than those his rivals had to contend with.

Brady turned in two second-place finishes and a third in his motos and was fifth in the main. The highlight though was the trophy he won. Following through on a promise he made if he won a trophy, he ate his Cheerios from it the next morning.

While his parents Nicky and Dean felt it was his best race ever, Brady wasn't so sure.

"I think I can do better," he said.

The two have done well enough to continue drawing attention in BMX circles. Kyle has earned sponsorships from T.H.E. Products, KMC Chains, Hanebrink Forks, Demon Claws, VANS Shoes and Bell Helmets. Next up for the brothers is the provincial championships on Saturday, which will be held on their home course, Track 2000 in Milton.



BRADY PEARSON

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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