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Rebels roll into OFSAA tourney

With only one obstacle standing in the way of a return trip to the provincial championships, the Georgetown District High School Rebels steamrolled their opponents in Friday's Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference final.

Unlike the previous week where the Rebels struggled early before defeating Pearson in the Halton senior boys volleyball final at Sheridan College in Oakville, Georgetown left no doubt in defeating Hamilton's Cardinal Newman 25-10, 25-10, 25-11.

"At Haltons there was a bit of tension. We felt a bit antsy," said Chris Campbell. "We shook that off and we came out and played like we can."

With the Rebels carving apart the opposition with a razor sharp attack, Cardinal Newman stood as much chance as a turkey on Thanksgiving.

The Rebels hardly broke a sweat, needing only 25 minutes to win the first two games. Campbell was setting the ball on T and the Rebels' big hitters, Taylor Hall, Sean MacArthur, Tom Cook and Scott Allison were taking turns driving the ball into the floor.

The third game was the only time the Rebels showed any hint of vulnerability. Cardinal Newman kept close in the early stages, staying with the Rebels until it was 11-9 GDHS. Then as if the Rebels remembered they had a bus to catch, they took command.

See REBELS, pg. 25

Sniper collects 10 points in pair of wins

Raiders turn over a new Page at home

After losing last year's West Conference final, the Georgetown Raiders don't want to be bridesmaids again.

So it shouldn't come as a surprise that they've used a bride's tradition to put together their first winning streak of the season. Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue played key roles in the Raiders' weekend victories.

While Stace Page is hardly old at 20, he is the longest serving Raider. And it was the captain's back-to-back five-point performances that led the team to Friday's 6-2 win over Hamilton and Saturday's 7-5 victory over Oakville.

Page scored four times on Friday, the second marking his 300th career point with the Raiders. He followed it up Saturday with three goals and two assists to help down his former bantam and junior coach Jay Anderson, now behind the Oakville bench.

The scoring spree has Page sitting atop the entire Provincial Jr. A League leaderboard in goals (32) and points (65).

"It just seemed like every time I touched the puck something good happened," Page said. "We've got a good streak going, so we'll just ride it and hope it lasts."

It was some new line combinations that seemed to spark the Raider offence. Page and Mike Knoepfli, the team's top two scorers, were split for a significant stretch for the first time this year. Page teamed with Tristan Fairbairn and T.J. Trevelyan while Knoepfli was matched with Scott MacDonald and Ryan Busby.

Meanwhile, goalie Kyle Rogers is settling in and providing the Raiders with some consistent goaltending. Rogers, on loan from the Brampton Battalion who drafted him in the seventh round in 1999, has posted a 2.95 average in his last five starts. That has lowered his season mark to 3.29, fourth best in the conference. He stopped 20 shots in the win over Hamilton.

"I think we're just starting to gel," the 17-year-old netminder said. "The goals are starting to come and we're getting some breaks."

And the Raiders did need some breaks Saturday. Tristan Fairbairn scored the go-ahead goal by banking a centering pass off an Oakville defence-



Raider defenceman Billy Fetherston battles a pair of Oakville opponents as he digs the puck out along the boards in Saturday's provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. Fetherston had four assists as the Raiders won 7-5 to extend their winning streak to three games.

man from behind the net after he was stopped on a breakaway.

Springing Fairbairn on the breakaway was Billy Fetherston. Fetherston has become an indispensable part of the Raider blueline. Always a dependable, physical force in his own end, Fetherston has added an offensive dimension to his game.

At the midway mark of the season, the third-year Raider has already established a career high in points. With four assists on Saturday, he has 27 points. Fetherston credits a promotion to the first power play unit for his increased

production. In the end, though, he says the Raiders' success will depend upon what they do in their own zone.

"I think we can keep playing better defensively," he said. "The offence is working now so we just have to keep the defensive zone clear."

RAIDER RAP: MacDonald had five points on the weekend....The Raiders picked up goalie Jeff Battah. The 20-year-old played with Ajax last year and had been playing Jr. A in Moncton this season. He earned the win Saturday.

See standings pg. 26.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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