

Sports & Leisure

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Evan Lavallee shows off the puckhandling form that helped him score a goal—with the opposing goalie still in the net—in an Acton Houseleague Hockey Association game. Photo by Herb Garbutt

He shoots...he scores — and he's the goalie

Ron Hextall and Martin Brodeur have nothing on Evan Lavallee.

While the two NHL netminders took the easy route by scoring goals into an empty net, the 11-year-old Acton netminder scored a goal with the opposing goalie still in the net.

"It was amazing," said Lavallee's coach Jon Austin.

Lavallee scored his historic goal Friday while tending net for Halton Powerline in the atom division of the Acton Houseleague Hockey Association.

With the game tied 1-1 in the second period, Lavallee made several big saves as the opposition swarmed around the net. Taking matters into his own hand, Lavallee cleared the puck up the middle of the ice. It went the length of the ice and when the opposing goalie went to stop it, he caught his stick on his pad. The puck slid by him and trickled across the line.

"I was surprised," Lavallee said. "I

didn't see it go in."

"The crowd went wild," Austin said. "I'll never see that again in my life."

The goal turned out to be an important one as Halton Powerline went on to a 3-2 victory.

Austin said Lavallee works very hard on his puckhandling and he's been encouraging him to clear the puck himself and telling his other players to be ready for passes from him.

It was not the first time Lavallee has taken aim at the other team's net.

"I tried a couple times before but the other team always intercepted it," he said.

This season did not begin so well for Lavallee. After four years playing rep, he was cut at the beginning of the season. He returned to house league and was named captain of his team.

"He's a great little goalie and he's got such a great attitude," Austin said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Post 2-1 OT win

Seven Selects claim title

Georgetown's smallest players provided local hockey fans with some of the season's biggest thrills Monday.

The Georgetown Chalmers Esso Fuels Seven Select Raiders won the Tri-County championship in dramatic fashion on Ryan Langley's goal 23 seconds into overtime to edge Brampton 2-1 in the third and deciding game of the final.

However, that was only half the story. Just minutes earlier it looked like the Raiders were on their way to a 1-0 loss until Bryson Nicolucci scored with 33 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the game and force overtime.

The teams played through two scoreless periods, with the best chance coming when Georgetown's Peter Jensen was turned away on a breakaway in the second period.

In the third, Brampton took control and had the Raiders pinned in their own end for the first two minutes of the third and it eventually resulted in the game's first goal.

The Raiders came back and took charge but despite numerous chances couldn't find the mark. Cody Fry hit the post with five minutes remaining and a couple minutes after that Nicolucci was stopped at close range as was Jensen on the rebound.

With the goalie on the bench in favour of the extra attacker, the Raiders' persistence finally paid off. David Sargent dumped the puck into the Brampton end and David Jensen dug the puck out from along the boards to create a two-on-one. He got the puck to Nicolucci who moved in and slipped a shot through the legs of the Brampton netminder.

The Raiders didn't waste any time in OT. Brett Gresswell poked the puck by a Brampton defenceman at the blueline to send Langley in alone. He deked the goalie, going to his backhand to slip the winner into the Brampton net.

The Raiders won the opening game of the series 2-1 on goals by Adam MacKinnon and Fry. Jarrett Gray and Sargent assisted on the goals.

Brampton came back to edge the Raiders 2-1 to even the series. Gresswell had the lone Georgetown goal.

Other members of the Raiders' Tri-County championship team are: Marc LeBlanc, Curtis Jobin, Paul Abernethy, Scott Hait, Mitchell Muirhead, Shane Findlay, coach Jeff Sargent, assistant coaches Doug Fry and Craig Nicolucci, trainer Darren Abernethy and manager Charlene Jensen.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Ryan Langley dekes the Brampton goalie as he scores the overtime-winning goal Monday night. The Raiders tied the third and deciding game of the Tri-County final in the final minute and then won 2-1 on Langley's goal. Photo by Herb Garbutt

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