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No sweeping changes planned

Raiders' new owner vows to make club a winner

BY HERB GARBUTT
Staff Writer

The Georgetown Raiders' new owner says he's in the business of hockey, not construction.

"I'm not coming in with a bulldozer," said Stuart Hyman, the Forest Hill businessman who has purchased the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League team. "The people who are there have done a good job. I'm going to bring some of my talents to the organization."

After 25 years of community ownership, Hyman will be the Raiders' first private owner. But he's not looking to make sweeping changes. The 37-year-old said he recognizes and respects the tradition associated with the hockey team.

Hyman was a late entry into the Raider ownership picture. He was very close to a deal to buy the Streetsville Derbys, but, when Derbys owner Stan Kalapaca began to have second thoughts, Hyman looked elsewhere.

Through the Ontario Hockey Association, he found out Georgetown was available.

"Sometimes things happen for a reason," Hyman said of the failed Streetsville bid. "The vibes I had when I came to Georgetown were great. As soon as I walked into the building, I knew it was the right place. It's a community I can put my roots into. I'm committed to making Georgetown a winner on and off the ice."

Hyman has managed to do just that with the North York Jr. Canadiens minor hockey program of the Greater Toronto Hockey League. The Jr. Canadiens peewee team won the all-Ontario peewee championship in Thunder Bay on the weekend.

The new owner should be able to level the playing field in terms of finances. The Raiders have run on budgets that were at least half of the top

teams in the conference. Hyman, who owns the North York Jr. Canadiens minor hockey program, had a budget of \$150,000 for his novice team last season—slightly more than what

the Raiders operated on. One of his first orders of business will be to buy new equipment for the team.

Hyman said his motivation for getting involved in hockey was to help players realize their dreams of playing pro hockey or getting an education through a scholarship.

"It all comes down to having a dream and having someone who can help you along the way," he said. "I'm in it to make a difference for kids."

As far as local content is concerned, Hyman said fans shouldn't be concerned. He said heart and desire are the most important characteristics in a player and the will to play for the

hometown team should give local players an edge in that regard.

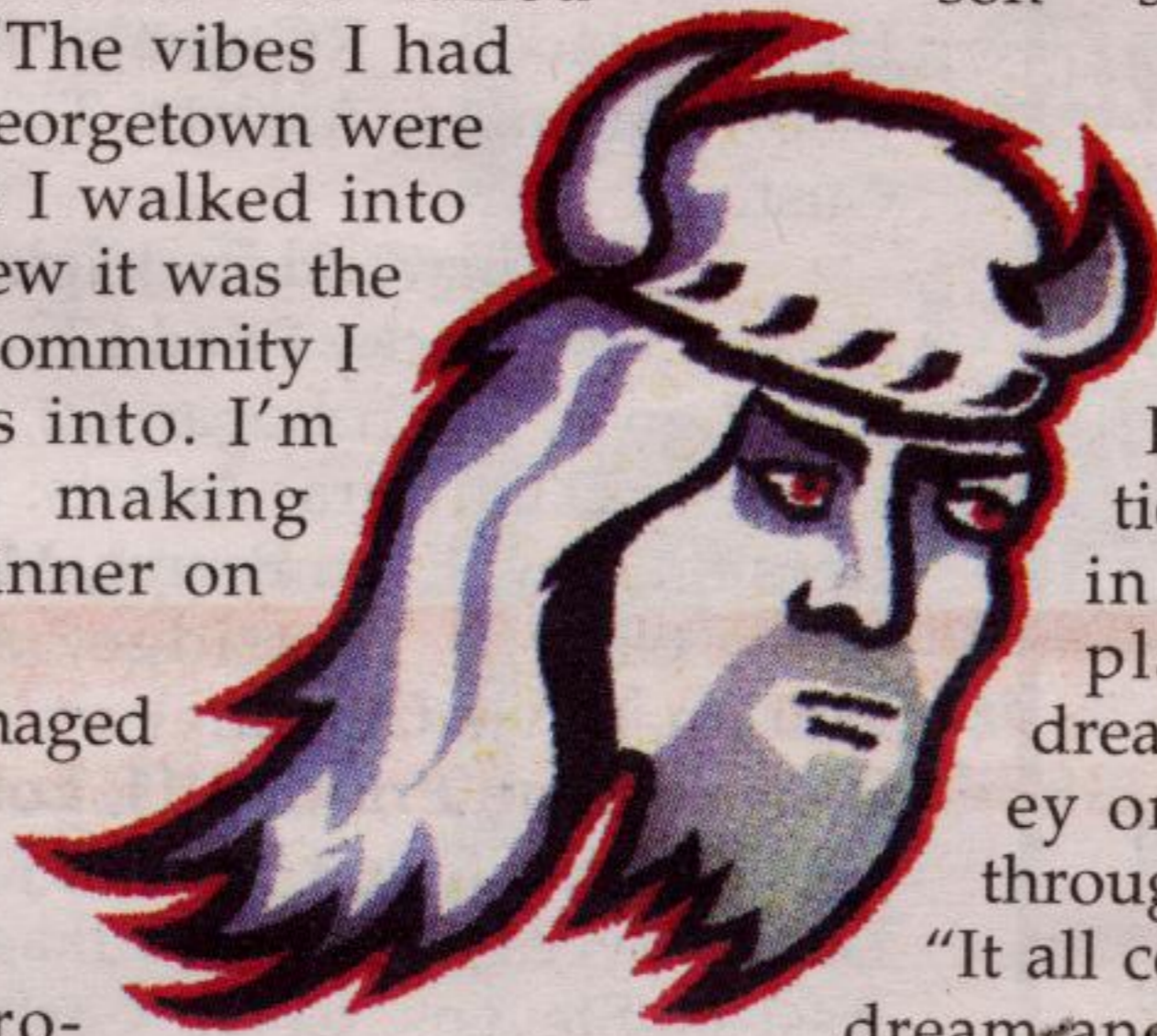
"Who else would want to wear the uniform more than a player from Georgetown?" Hyman said. "The more kids we have from Georgetown, the more people will be able to identify with who we are."

Raider GM Jack Moon and assistant GM Robin Incoe will remain with the team and Hyman has met with Moon to begin plotting a course for the team. He also plans to meet with the Raider coaching staff in the next week. Hyman will institute conditioning and nutritional programs for players and give them access to top instructors from around the world.

One change Hyman said he will make is a redesign of the Raider logo, although he intends to keep the black, red and white colours.

As for the fans, Hyman has started formulating ideas to make Raider games an event.

"We want to make it a lot of fun to come to a game," he said.



The Acton Minor Bantam Tanners won the gold medal at a tournament in Lake Placid, N.Y. Team members are: (back, from left) Kyle McDonald, Tyler Holmes, Brady Masters, Neil Armstrong, Cody Mercer, Jim Berry, Greg Black, Brandon Pezzack, Nick Ridler, Ches Zaborowski, Kyle Marshall, Derek Burton, (front, from left) Simon Sharples, Brandon Cecciotti and C.J. Carr. The coaching staff is Steve Marshall, Pat McDonald, Adam Lindsay, trainer Gary Masters and manager Joyce Marshall.

Submitted photo

At Lake Placid

McDonald leads Tanners to bantam tournament title

Kyle McDonald scored twice to lead the Acton Rotary Club/Acton Firefighters Minor Bantam Tanners to a 3-1 victory in the championship of a tournament in Lake Placid, N.Y.

The Tanners went 5-0 in the tournament, capping their championship drive with a victory over Havertown, Pennsylvania.

Neil Armstrong also scored in the final. C.J. Carr stopped 18 shots for the victory.

The Tanners opened the tournament with a 2-0 win over Haverford. Armstrong scored a pair of shorthanded goals and Carr stopped 15 shots for the shutout. Derek Burton drew an assist.

Acton defeated Gibbsboro, New Jersey 7-1 in its next game.

Kyle Marshall scored twice while Nick Ridler and Armstrong each had a goal and two assists. Jim Berry, McDonald and Tyler Holmes also scored while Brandon Cecciotti, Nick Ridler and Armstrong each had two assists.

Simon Sharples stopped 18 shots for the victory.

Carr made 19 saves and Holmes, Ridler and Cecciotti scored in a 3-1 win over Voorhees, New Jersey.

The Tanners earned a spot in the final with a 5-3 win over West Chester, Pennsylvania. Tyler Holmes scored three times and set up another and Sharples turned aside 43 shots. Cody Mercer had a goal and three assists and Brendan Pezzack also scored.

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