

Sports & Leisure

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Raiders get fill of international play

The Georgetown Raiders set their sights on the Canadian championship this season and are no doubt glad to see the last of their international opponents.

After three losses to American opponents in the Detroit Compuware Jr. A Tournament, the Raiders returned home to post a 9-4 win over the Oakville Blades Tuesday. Just a night later, it was back to international competition as Georgetown survived a third-period rally to edge the Slovenian national junior team 6-5.

The Raiders built a 5-2 lead before Slovenia rallied with three goals in five minutes to tie the game midway through the third. And although it was just an exhibition game, the Raiders still felt as though there was national pride on the line.

"We did take it seriously," said Vince Laise, who scored the winner to cap a four-point night. "We want to keep it rolling so you don't want to let up. And it is our game and you want to play like you're playing for Canada."

With national pride successfully defended, the Raiders can now focus their attention back on the Provincial Jr. Hockey League. They really don't have a choice in the matter with three games in three nights, beginning Friday in Oakville.

The good news for the Raiders is that for the first time in a month, the team is almost back at full strength. Laise and Ryan Angelow, who were both out of commission for two weeks, each scored a pair of goals against Oakville while Shane Remenda had his third straight two-goal game.

Defenceman Paul Scapicchio, who chipped in a goal and three assists, said the injuries have set the team back in terms of playing as a cohesive unit but isn't overly concerned about the team's ability to pull it all together.

"The hard part is constantly adjusting to new linemates or new partners, especially when you have players coming from as many different teams as we do," said the former Brampton Capital. "Last year's team didn't come together until after the Christmas tournament."

Still, the Raiders don't want to wait too long in the highly competitive Western Conference.

"We want to finish first but we've given away so many points already," Laise said. "Some games we've been playing with half a squad but that's no excuse."

RAIDER RAP: Kevin Amborski had his suspension reduced from nine games to two after the Raiders got a copy of a videotape that showed the goalie did not headbutt a linesman in a game in Buffalo....The Raiders lost 4-0 to the Texas Tornadoes in the Compuware Tournament. Texas, which scored three of its goals in the final seven minutes, went on to win the tournament....Ryan Busby had three assists against Oakville, giving him 10 in his last three games....Two returnees from the injury list had big nights against Slovenia. Rick Varone had a goal and three assists and Brent Hughes scored once and set up two more....Prior to playing the Raiders, Slovenia tied the University of Waterloo 3-3.....The Raiders host Burlington Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Slovenia's Rok Pajic takes out Georgetown's T.J. Manastersky along the boards in Wednesday's exhibition game. Pajic led a third-period comeback, scoring twice as Slovenia rallied from a 5-2 deficit but Vince Laise scored to give Georgetown a 6-5 victory.

Photo by Herb Garbutt



Jean-Phillipe Villeneuve finds the mark as he scores one of the two Raider goals in a 2-0 win over Ancaster during the Georgetown Earlybird Hockey Tournament Saturday. Photo by Stephen Uhraney

At Earlybird tournament Raider clubs come up short

The home teams provided fans with thrills but in the end one goal separated Georgetown from claiming victory at its own tournament.

The Georgetown Major Pee wee Raiders went to a fifth overtime period before Aurora's Jamie Tuck scored to spoil the party for the home team Monday at the Georgetown Earlybird Hockey Tournament. The Major Atom Raiders also advanced to the final but met a similar fate when Sault Ste. Marie scored with 1:32 to play in the third to edge the Raiders 3-2 for the title.

The Pee wee Raiders' multiple overtime final was typical of the close games they played throughout the weekend. With the exception of a 3-1 win over Aurora earlier in the tournament, all their games were decided by a goal or tied.

In the final, the Raiders erased a two-goal deficit on goals by Russ Peacock and Andrew Berlingieri to force overtime.

The Raiders had opened the tournament with a 2-2 tie against Orangeville. This time it was Cody McCulloch and Lucas Ovenden putting the home side in front 2-0 only to have the opposition rally. In their first meeting with Aurora, the Raiders got three third-period goals—two of them from Peacock and another from Michael Parsons—to win 3-1. J.J. Laforet and Jeremy Klein each had a pair of assists.

Georgetown again came up with some third-period magic, this time scoring three times in the final 10 minutes to earn a 3-3 tie with Pickering. It took just 3:21 for Darcy Cook, Peacock and Laforet to pull the Georgetown even. Mac Doell had two assists.

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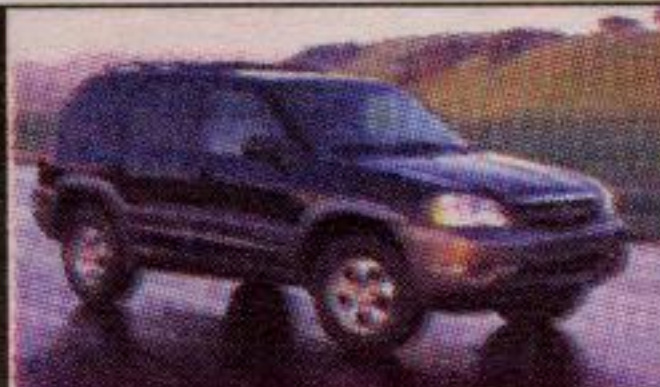


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