

Sports & Leisure

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M&M PRO SPORTS

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At Oldtimers tourney Netminders steal the show as shutouts dominate finals

Goalies took centre stage at the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council's Oldtimers tournament this past weekend.

Netminders posted shutouts in four of the six championship games, with the best duel waged in the 35F finale.

The Thursday Thunder's Steve Gray needed to stop everything that came his way as he backstopped his team to a 1-0 victory over the Ice Caps. The Thunder's Dave Lee was the only player to beat the Caps' Bob Duke.

Brian Hooper's shutout gave Mississauga's Last Call a 5-0 triumph over Dusty Styx. John Winstanley paced Mississauga with two goals. Hooper also posted a shutout in Last Call's 3-0 semifinal victory.

Both 50-and-over divisions featured shutout wins. The Brampton Falcons got three first period goals and Rick Tomkinson was unbeatable in net in a 3-0 triumph over the Waterloo Wackers in the 50C final.

The Milton Old Wings' Gary Wedgewood and Jim Wedgewood combined to blank the K-W Dutchies 3-0 in the 50D championship.

Dave Decaire's hat-trick led the Huronia A's to a 5-3 win over Honeywell in the 35C championship. Kevin McAllister scored twice for Honeywell, including a goal with 3:26 to play that pulled his team within one.

Chris Mound scored three times as the Oakville Old Pistons doubled the Logel Old Wrecks 6-3 in the 35E title game.



Georgetown's T.J. Manastersky and Brampton's Brad Efthimiou battle for position in front of Raider goalie David Wilson during Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. The Raiders won 6-2.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Red-hot Raiders enjoy winning weekend

The Georgetown Raiders have one mountain left to climb—and it's a big one.

The Raiders capped off an impressive run of three wins in four nights with a convincing 7-3 road victory over the Burlington Cougars Sunday. That moved Georgetown into second place in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Conference. The Raiders are a distant nine points back of Hamilton in the chase for first and, while that's where their focus is, they still have to be aware that one misstep could send them sliding down a slippery standings slope.

Four teams remain within four points of the Raiders, the closest being Milton, which began a home-and-home series with the Raiders last night (Tuesday).

The Raiders got a big confidence boost with Sunday's win—their first in five tries against a top-four opponent.

"The biggest thing was that we capitalized on our chances," said Brent Hughes, who has 11 goals during his current five-game scoring streak. "We outshot them in the other games but this time we scored on our chances and didn't let them get back in the game."

The Raiders learned the danger of leaving the door open. Thursday in Brampton they jumped out to a 6-2 lead only to have Brampton rally. That made for a nerve-wracking third as the Raiders clung to a one-goal lead for the final 20 minutes. The Raiders won

7-5 with an empty-net goal.

Georgetown again jumped on the Capitals quick in Saturday's rematch when Hughes' first-period hat-trick paved the way to 6-2 victory.

"We've seen a lot of progress," Raider coach Bill Purcell said. "We, as coaches, wanted to cut the goals against down. (The goalies) are playing well and the guys are playing very well in front of them."

The Raiders will be tested in the back-to-back games against Milton, who have scored six or more goals in all but one of their last seven games. The Merchants also sport the best goals-against average in the conference. And while Milton had a six-game winning streak snapped Saturday, the Raiders are also rolling lately with an 8-1-2 mark since the beginning of October.

"Everyone is finally clicking and committing to their roles," said Ryan Busby, who had a hat-trick Sunday to cap a nine-point weekend. "Special teams have come up big, too."

The Raiders scored three power play goals Sunday and added another, plus a pair of shorthanded goals by Shane Remenda, on Saturday. Meanwhile, the opposition has just one power play goal in its last 17 chances.

RAIDER RAP: David Wilson stopped 23 shots Saturday to run his personal unbeaten streak to five games (4-0-1)...The Raiders play in Milton Friday and host Streetsville Saturday.



Goalie Mike Jest and Erin Ancients teammate Vern Pellizzari keep their eyes on a rebound in front of the Erin net in Saturday night's 35C game at the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council's Oldtimers Tournament. Brantford scored with 41 seconds to play to edge Erin 3-2 but neither team was around for the final, which was won by Huronia.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

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