

Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003

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All eyes were on Georgetown Raider Jay Sprague as he fired a shot over the shoulder of Hamilton goalie Geoff Fairbrother on a penalty shot in Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. The goal gave the Raiders a 2-0 lead but they would have to rally to win 5-4 in overtime. Photo by Stephen Uhraney

Raiders rally for overtime victory

Georgetown Raider fans can't complain that they aren't getting their money's worth.

For the second Saturday in a row, the Raiders treated their fans to some extra hockey. Though they got 22 seconds less than last week, it was a small price to pay to see the home side skate off with two points.

Given a second chance at overtime after last week's 4-4 tie with Streetsville, it was John Wheaton's second chance that gave the Raiders a 5-4 win over the newly dubbed Hamilton Red Wings.

Wheaton beat his man to create a two-on-one and get himself in position to convert Ross Smith's pass for the winner. Wheaton had nearly ended the game earlier on the same shift as he broke in alone on Hamilton goalie Geoff Fairbrother. However, the Wings' netminder got enough of Wheaton's shot to deflect it off the crossbar.

Wheaton, a Cambridge native who spent the last two seasons with the Owen Sound Attack of the Ontario Hockey League, said the decision to sign on with the Raiders this year was an easy one.

"You look at the players they've got here, they've got great coaching, I just thought this would be the best place for me."

And he has to be happy with the team's 3-0-1 start, even if the team has had to work a little harder than need be to earn those points.

Four Hamilton goals in the second period put the Raiders in a 4-2 hole. That's when Raider captain Vince Laise decided to lead by example. The Raiders' top returning scorer was held without a point in the Raiders' first two games but scored a pair of power play goals—the last with just 39 seconds to play in regulation—to force overtime.

"There's a lot more pressure to score," said Laise, who potted 20 goals last season "but that's what makes you compete."

The Raiders jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period. Matt Bacon scored 1:45 into the game and Jay Sprague wired a shot under the crossbar on a penalty shot in the final minute of the period. But Hamilton scored three times with the man-advantage in the first five minutes of the second period to take the lead.

Sunday the Raiders scored four times in a span of 3:28 early in the third to blow open a 2-1 game on their way to a 7-2 win over Wexford. Rick Varone had a goal and two assists while Wheaton, Ryan Del Monte, Phil Sbrocchi, T.J. Manastersky, Smith and Bacon also scored. Rob Sgarbossa had three assists.

RAIDER RAP: The Wings have many Raider connections. Nik Bibic and Kyle Zettler were acquired from Georgetown in off-season trades. Former Raider assistant Terry Richmond is an assistant with Hamilton and the Wings are owned by Stu Hyman, who sold his stake in the Raiders at the end of last season leaving former partner Peter Friedmann as the sole owner.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Ontario Baseball Association championships

Eagles win three straight to reach final four

The Georgetown Minor Bantam Eagles surprised their rivals at the Ontario Baseball Association championships by reaching the final four.

Georgetown was classed as a C centre but with no B or C provincial championships, the Eagles played in the A playoffs against the largest centres.

The Eagles opened the tournament with three straight wins before falling to the eventual champions from Welland and then being eliminated by Oakridge.

Matt Bourner had two hits and two runs and Matthew Scott was 2-for-4 with an RBI in a 9-1 win over Waterloo. Brett Neumann had a pair of RBIs.

David Suppa earned the win, pitching four shutout innings while striking out five and allowing just two hits. Neumann allowed two hits over the final three innings to pick up the save.

Dustin Roskam scored three times, including the winning run in the seventh inning, as the Eagles edged South London 5-4. J.D. Hartnoble was 2-for-2 and drove in two runs. Neumann pitched two no-hit innings for the win.

Bourner's two-run single in the sixth inning was the difference in an 11-9 win over West Mountain.

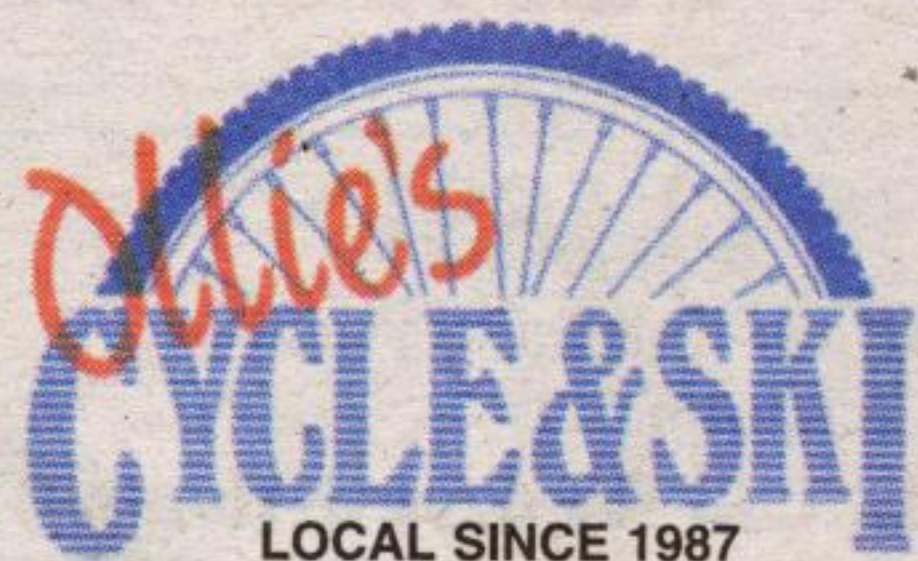
Bourner was 2-for-4 with 3 RBIs while Byron Hackett was 2-for-2 and scored three times. Jadon Veldman drove in four runs, two with a fourth-inning triple. Neumann was 2-for-2 and scored twice while again picking up the win by allowing only one hit over four innings.

Matt Bourner went 2-for-4, scored twice and drove in two as the Eagles suffered their first loss, 10-5 to Welland. Matthew Scott was 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Oakridge scored seven unanswered runs to eliminate the Eagles, handing Georgetown a 10-4 loss. Scott was 2-for-4 and scored once.

Hoops team seeks travel help

The Georgetown District High School senior boys basketball team will be traveling to Edmonton in December to play in the REB Invitational Basketball Tournament. The tournament will include teams from California, Australia, British Columbia and Alberta. To help limit traveling expenses the team is looking for donations of Air Miles or Aero Plan points. Anyone wishing to donate are asked to call coach Steve Pettit at 905-877-0402.



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