

Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2004

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Raider captain helps team rebound from its first loss

If the Georgetown Raiders didn't already know what they had with John Wheaton last year, they certainly found out when the games mattered most.

Wheaton had a solid season ranking sixth on the team with 51 points but it was the playoffs where he delivered his best hockey. He scored clutch goals and racked up 18 points in 13 games to earn the team's playoff MVP award.

While that demonstrated his ability to lead on the ice, Wheaton infectious enthusiasm off the ice was every bit as important in him being named team captain this year.

"There's more responsibility but I like representing our team," Wheaton said. "Everybody here wants to win and prove what kind of team we have."

After winning their first five games, the Cambridge native got his first taste of adversity in his new role when the Raiders surrendered a 3-1 lead in a 4-3 in overtime to Milton on Friday.

"It's better to happen now than later," Wheaton said. "It won't happen again. We needed a big rebound after that and we came

back did everything perfect."

And Wheaton led the charge with a two-goal, five-point night as the Raiders pasted the Bramalea Blues 9-0 at home Saturday. Skating on Wheaton's line was sort-of newcomer Matt Sweazy.

Sweazy played exhibition games with the Raiders and has been skating with the team but missed the first five games while the Raiders worked to secure his release from Bramalea. Sweazy didn't take it easy on his former team, scoring once and setting up two more.

The Mississauga resident's release was complicated because he played out of the country last season with the St. Louis Heartland Eagles of the USHL. But the Raiders are happy to finally have him in the lineup. And Sweazy is glad to see the end of a long travel schedule.

"Down there the closest game was five hours away. Here the furthest is two hours. This is like a bicycle league."

One thing Sweazy will miss is the atmosphere of the USHL games where teams like Green Bay regularly drew 6,000 fans and tail-gate parties started outside the

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On the prowl

Elyse Perron, left, of the Christ the King Jaguars, tries to ward off a Nelson player in the Halton senior girls field hockey season opener. Despite some good scoring chances by the Jaguars, Nelson held on for a 1-0 victory. Photo by Herb Garbutt



Things get crowded as three drivers, including Georgetown's Alex Penfold (8) try to squeeze their cars through a corner at the Honda/Michelin Challenge Series race in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec on Sunday. Penfold worked his way up from six to finish second. Photo by Paul Strak

Penfold's early charge earns podium finish in Mont-Tremblant race

Normand Boyer held off Georgetown's Alex Penfold by two-tenths of a second to win the Honda/Michelin Challenge Series race at Le Circuit Mont-Tremblant on Sunday.

Penfold started sixth on the grid but worked his way up to second by the fourth lap of the 15-lap race. Penfold chased the race leader the rest of the way but Boyer held off Penfold's challenges to win his third race of the year.

It was the fourth podium finish of the season for Penfold, who has a win, two seconds and a third in eight starts this year. The 19-year-old circuit rookie continues to hold his own against veteran drivers and now sits sixth in the point standings heading into the season's final race at Mosport International Speedway October 3.

Through nine races, Steven Laporte still leads the championship with 204 points, three points ahead of Didier Schraenen. Boyer is third with 197 points. Penfold is sixth and first among rookies with 175 points.


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