

Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

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Raiders tops in national Jr. A rankings



Jay Sprague notched the winning goal Saturday as he beat Oakville Blades' goalie Chris Hyk to give the Raiders a 3-2 overtime win in Provincial Jr. A Hockey League action at Alcott Arena. Photo by Yves Desjardins

That was it for the scoring as Raider goalie John Barrow and Oakville's Chris Hyk took over until Jay Sprague connected with 18 seconds left in overtime on passes from Frank DeAngelis and Mike Nelson.

In Burlington, Barrow earned the shutout while Matt Sitko, Sprague and Gimblett scored.

RAIDER RAP: The Raiders will retire Ryan Busby's number 19 before Saturday's game against Buffalo. Busby is playing for Plattsburgh University in New York. The Georgetown forward played three years with the Raiders...Friday Georgetown travels to Oakville for a rematch.

The Georgetown Raiders are not only the top team in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Conference, they're the best in Canada.

According to the newly-released Canadian Junior A Hockey League rankings, the Raiders are the top-ranked club in the country.

That ranking was certainly boosted by this past weekend's action when the Raiders blanked the Cougars 3-0 Friday in Burlington before nipping Oakville Blades 3-2 in overtime at Alcott Arena.

The Raiders' win over Oakville was likely the determining factor in the ranking as the Blades came into the match with a 6-0 won-lost mark while the Raiders' lone blemish in eight matches was an overtime loss to Milton. Oakville is ranked fifth nationally.

The Raiders opened the scoring Saturday while playing two men short as John Wheaton scored on passes from Dan Rogers and Matt Sweazey.

After the visitors took the lead on two power play goals, Sweazey rapped home a relay from Tyson Gimblett to knot the score.

North Halton to host golf seminar

The Golf Association of Ontario will be hosting a Going After a Golf Scholarship seminar on Thursday Oct. 16 at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The seminar is open to all junior golfers and their parents who are interested in the opportunities associated with golf scholarships. It is a process families must understand at least two years before a junior golfer graduates from high school.

Among the topics that will be discussed are the importance of good grades, the costs associated with schooling in the U.S., how good you have to be to get a scholarship, how to sell your accomplishments to college coaches and how to do your research using the Internet.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast will be available. The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until noon.

The seminar fee is \$40 per family with proceeds going to the GAO Junior Scholarship Fund.

For further information on the seminar, please contact Trish Rivers at 905-852-1101 ext. 222 or trish_rivers@gao.ca.

Parks department leaves soccer club in the dark for final

A local soccer team says the Town of Halton Hills left them in the dark.

Bryan Turner and Haddy Smedema, coaches for the S.C. United ladies soccer team, said their team was denied a chance to play for the Ladies Intercounty Soccer title because the town failed to turn on the lights for their playoff game.

"It's very, very disappointing," Turner said. "The girls played their butts off all year for this."

Barb Anger, the facility permits coordinator for the Town of Halton Hills, said the team did have a request for the lights but the timers that control them can be reset by electrical storms, which had occurred that week.

S.C. United was hosting the league's year-end tournament during the last

weekend of August. The team was to play its first game Friday at Alcott Field at 8:30 p.m. Because of past troubles with the lights, Smedema said he called the town during the day Friday as a reminder. The team attempted to turn the lights on at 8 p.m. but they did not come on. Smedema called the answering service set up by the town for such cases. After waiting for an hour and 15 minutes, the game was called.

S.C. United went on to win its next two games on Saturday but there was no time to make up the Friday game. As a result, the team missed out on qualifying for the championship by one point. That point could have been earned by winning even one half of the Friday game.

Susan Wilson, the parks and cemeteries supervisor for the Town of

Halton Hills, said calls to the answering service are relayed to an on-call works employee. That person is on call to handle road or other works emergencies. When a call comes in for recreational fields or lights, the on-call works employee then tries to contact one of the six full-time parks employees. The employees are not on-call but will respond if needed. On that night, Wilson said two of the six parks employees were on holidays and the other four could not be reached.

"An emergency number is great but if there's nobody there, it's not much good," Smedema said. "I'm definitely not very satisfied. Year after year we have the same problems."

"Unfortunately that night, there were no parks employees available," Wilson said. "They're not on stand-by.


After 4 p.m. they're on their own time."

Turner said for the opening game of the season, the lights were not turned on and they had to call the answering service. The lights were eventually turned on but the game started 45 minutes late.

"It's embarrassing when you have a team coming from out of town and then you have to wait 45 minutes to start," Turner said. "We pay good money and every year at the facilities meeting we ask to get something done about the lights."

An on-call parks worker has been considered for past budgets but Wilson said there are not enough calls to warrant the cost. It costs approximately \$40 per day to have a person on call.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer


GEORGETOWN TOYOTA
GAMES OF THE WEEK

GEORGETOWN JR. A RAIDERS
 vs
BUFFALO LIGHTNING
 Saturday, October 9, 2004
 7:30 pm
 Gordon Alcott Arena

GEORGETOWN JR. A RAIDERS
 vs
MISSISSAUGA CHARGERS
 Tuesday, October 12, 2004
 8:00 pm
 Gordon Alcott Arena

GEORGETOWN JR. A RAIDERS

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