

# Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2004

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## At world amateur team championship 'Exhilarated' Lapointe leads Canada to second-place finish

**M**ary Ann Lapointe and her Canadian teammates got a good luck message from someone who knows what it's like to carry a nation's hopes on their shoulders.

Mike Weir, the 2003 Masters champion, was among those who e-mailed a message to the Canadian team as they prepared for the final round of the World Women's Amateur Team Championship on Saturday. Vying for Canada's first-ever win at the event, Lapointe and Canadian teammates, Laura Matthews and Lindsay Knowlton, had a two-stroke lead.

However, Sweden, led by two of the top-ranked U.S. college golfers, rallied to win while Canada matched its best-ever finish by tying the United States for second.

"It was the most exhilarating round of golf I've ever played," Lapointe said of the chance to bring home a world championship. "I knew we had to take it one shot at a time but



(Top) Mary Ann Lapointe chips to the first green during the third round of the 2004 Women's World Amateur Team Championship at Rio Mar Country Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. (Left) Lapointe is congratulated by team captain Jackie Little after finishing her second round.

(Photos courtesy USGA)

at the same time you're jumping out of your body saying 'If we win this, we're making history.' It hurt to come up short but the way it happened, it was easier to swallow."

The way it happened was Karin Sjodin making five putts of 30 feet or more and Sweden posting the second-lowest team score in the tournament's 40-year history. Lapointe birdied the third hole but Sjodin topped her with an eagle. Matthews birdied the fifth hole but Sweden still managed to pull even when Sjodin and Louise Stahle both birdied. Sweden's lead would increase to as much as five when Matthews struggled with three bogeys and a double bogey over five holes. But she rebounded to birdie three of the next four holes and narrow the gap back to three.

Lapointe played consistently, with two birdies and two bogeys in an even-par round of 72.

"I was happy to play well all day under those kind of conditions," she said. "It's tough to feel down when you've played your best."

Lapointe, a four-time Canadian amateur champion, said the Swedes had a definite advantage on the Rio Mar Country Club's Ocean Course, where rounds two and four were played.

"You could hit driver all day long there," she said. "At the Canadian amateur I'm usually the longest hitter but every group I played in I was the shortest hitter. They were hitting 275 yards and it was all carry."

On the River Course, which played 200 yards shorter, Canada was able to nullify that advantage. Named the country's top player by the Canadian Ladies Amateur Golf Association the day before the tournament opened, Lapointe got Canada off to a great start with a five-under-par 67—a tournament record for an opening round.

"There have been friendly games at North Halton that I've played like that and I always said, 'I wish I could have a round like that when it really matters.' After 44 years, I finally had one."

See LAPOINTE, pg. 18

## Raiders' sophomores shine in back-to-back victories

**W**hile the Georgetown Raider philosophy last season focused on winning now, they didn't totally ignore the future.

Amongst the team of OHL and Provincial League veterans were a couple of rookies who are paying dividends this year.

Rob Sgarbossa scored twice and set up Frank DeAngelis' winning goal in Saturday's 4-3 win over the Burlington Cougars and Mike Gurtler had three points in Thursday's 6-2

victory over Brampton.

Sgarbossa's solid rookie season of 11 goals and 32 points in 43 games was mostly overshadowed on a team that had nine players averaging a point a game. But instead of worrying what line he was playing on, Sgarbossa soaked in the experience, making note of both the good and the bad.

"I learned some stuff from those guys," the 18-year-old said. "but for the team we want to try not to repeat what happened last year."

See RAIDER, pg. 18



Kevin Harvey of the Georgetown Raiders crashes into to Burlington goalie Chris Rowan during Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. Georgetown overcame a 3-2 deficit to edge the Cougars 4-3. Photo by Yves Desjardins

  
**GEORGETOWN  
 TOYOTA**  
**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**GEORGETOWN JR. A  
 RAIDERS**  
 vs  
**BUFFALO LIGHTNING**  
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 7:30 pm  
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GEORGETOWN JUNIOR "A"



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