Raiders downplay 3-1 loss to Blades

As the only remaining member of the Georgetown Raiders' West Conference championship team, Kevin Harvey knows nothing is won in November.

So Harvey wasn't acting as if the world was coming to an end following the Raiders' 3-1 loss to the Oakville Blades Saturday.

"I think there were a lot of nerves tonight," said the Raider winger. "Everyone builds it up as the biggest game of the year but it's not. We know it's going to come down to us and them in the playoffs."

And Harvey will gladly swap egular season wins for playoff wins any day. It's a lesson the Raiders should have learned last year. They beat the Blades in four of their five regular season meeting but come playoff time Oakville turned the tables and dispatched Georgetown in five games.

So, while the victory moved the Blades, who have three games in hand, within three points of the Raiders, half a season still remains. And yes, an extra home game may come in handy in the playoffs, but as the Blades proved last year, play well enough and home-ice isn't a factor.

If there is something the Raiders should worry about it's that Oakville looked much like the team that eliminated Georgetown last year, using a strong forecheck to break up the Raiders' outlet game and preventing them from getting much flow going. Nowhere was that more apparent than on the Raider power play. Meanwhile, the Blades' took full advantage of their power plays, scoring twice and adding a third on a delayed penalty.

The third goal came shortly after Mike Gurtler gave the Raiders some hope with a goal that cut the lead to 2-1.

"I thought we were the better team five-on-five," said Harvey, who had four points in Friday's 6-2 win over Bramalea. "We need to do a little work on our power play and take advantage of those chances but five-on-five we had a lot of chances."

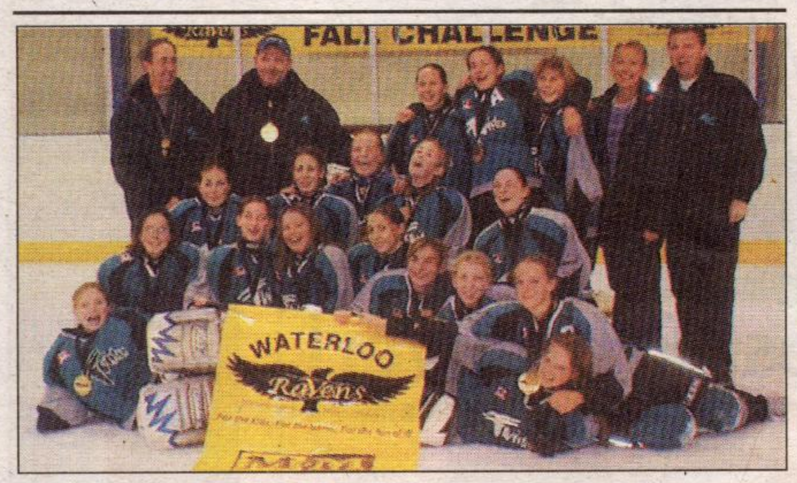
The Raiders did swarm the Oakville net for much of the third period but Oakville goalie Chris Hyk always found a way to turn the Raiders away.

Scoring was not as much of a problem the night before in Bramalea as the Raiders won 6-2. In addition to Harvey's goal and three assists, Jay Sprague and Mike Nelson each had two goals and an assist. Kyle Frieday also scored.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Georgetown's Jay Sprague tries to keep control of the puck while teammate Kevin Harvey takes out Oakville's Ryan Angelow in Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. Oakville handed the Raiders their fourth loss of the season, beating Georgetown 3-1.

Photo by Herb Garbutt



Members of the North Halton Bantam Twisters celebrate their recent victory at the Waterloo Ravens M&M Fall Challenge Tournament.

Photo submitted

Twisters take tourney title

Jess Walkey scored in double overtime to give North Halton Bantam Twisters a 3-2 victory over Guelph in the final of the Waterloo Ravens M&M Fall Challenge Tournament.

Walkey also scored the overtime winner in a 1-0 victory over Waterloo in the semifinal and was named the tournament's most valuable player.

North Halton 1, Peterborough 1; North Halton 4, St. Catharines 1; Waterloo 4, North Halton 2; North Halton 1, Waterloo 0; North Halton 3, Guelph 2: Walkey (3G, 3A); Kelsey Eady (3G); Katie Morrow (2G); Siera Pellizzari (1G, 1A); Courtney Hulme, Lana Munn (G); Jen Essiembre (2A); Sam Loeprich, Kylie McFadyen, Paige Playford, Jessica Wilton, Natalie Slack, Olivia Hack, Robyn McColl (A); Courtney Hulme, Natalie Slack (SO).

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