

Sports & Leisure

Raiders lock up spot in RBC semifinal

Thursday's loss at the Royal Bank Cup did very little to hurt the Georgetown Raiders but it just may provide them with the fuel they need for Saturday's semifinal.

The pre-tournament favourite Camrose Kodiaks rallied for a pair of goals, the last with 1:51 to play in the game to edge the Raiders 2-1. Both teams already knew they would be meeting Saturday (9:30 p.m. EDT) so all that was at stake was second place and last change in the semifinal game.

"We wanted to win it. We wanted to finish 3-1," said defenceman Nick Harloff. "And any time you get a team down and they come back it's disappointing. We want to even the score."

With little on the line, both teams took the opportunity to rest their best players. The Raiders sat their top scorers Jay Sprague and Kevin Harvey and captain

and leading playoff scorer John Wheaton, goalie John Barrow and defenceman Dan Rogers.

That gave the Raiders the opportunity to dress Kyle Termini, Jon Southgate and Joey Piccone and Dustin Howard. In net, Chris Hyk started, backed up by Jesse Zimmerman.

"The guys played great," said Hyk, who stopped 34 shots to earn player of the game honours. "It's tough for them to jump in. It would have been nice to win but the guys still got the job done."

Camrose also rested three of its top four scorers and played backup goalie Kirk Irving.

Georgetown had the only goal of the first two periods. Charles Amodeo banged in the rebound of Tyson Gimblett's point shot six minutes into the



By HERB GARBUTT
...in Weyburn

second period. And it looked like that might hold up the rest of the way.

"I thought it was (enough)," Amodeo said. "It was that type of game. Both goalies were playing well but then they got a couple of breaks."

The first break was a four-minute power play when Howard took a four-minute high sticking penalty. Howard was attempting to lift a rushing forward's stick but missed and caught him in the face.

Scott Dafoe capitalized on the back end of the penalty on a play that started when Todd Steil batted down a clearing attempt with his stick at the blueline.

The winning goal came when Dafoe sprung Stiel on a breakaway late in the third. The Raiders protested that an inter-

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ference non-call set up the play but all it earned them was a bench minor that ended any chance of them getting the tying goal. Or at least it should have. Irving robbed Piccone on the doorstep as he attempted to bang in a rebound in the final seconds.

So for now, the Raiders will prepare for Saturday's semifinal, a rematch with the Kodiaks.

"It should be a lot higher tempo," Hyk said. "Especially when we get guys like Harv and Wheaty back in there."

That tempo was certainly evident in Wednesday's 6-3 win over Portage, a win that secured the Raiders a playoff berth.

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Matt Sitko (centre) battles with Camrose's MacGregor Sharp in front of Georgetown goalie Chris Hyk during Thursday's preliminary round game at the Royal Bank Cup in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. The teams played what turned out to be a meaningless game as both qualified for Saturday's semifinals where they will meet again to determine who plays in Sunday's final.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Royal Bank Cup standings

	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Weyburn	3	1	0	12	9	6
Camrose	2	2	0	12	8	4
Georgetown	2	2	0	13	9	4
Portage	1	2	0	7	13	2
Hawkesbury	0	3	0	5	10	0

Thursday's results

Camrose 2, Georgetown 1
Hawkesbury vs. Portage, 9:30 p.m. (EDT)

Wednesday's results

Georgetown 6, Portage 3
Weyburn 4, Hawkesbury 3 (OT)

Tuesday's results

Weyburn 3, Camrose 1

Monday's results

Georgetown 3, Hawkesbury 0
Camrose 6, Portage 2

Sunday's results

Weyburn 4, Georgetown 3
Camrose 3, Hawkesbury 2

Saturday's games (semifinals)

Weyburn vs. winner of Portage/Hawkesbury, 4 p.m. (EDT)

Georgetown vs. Camrose, 9:30 p.m. (EDT)

Sunday's game (final)

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (EDT) on TSN

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