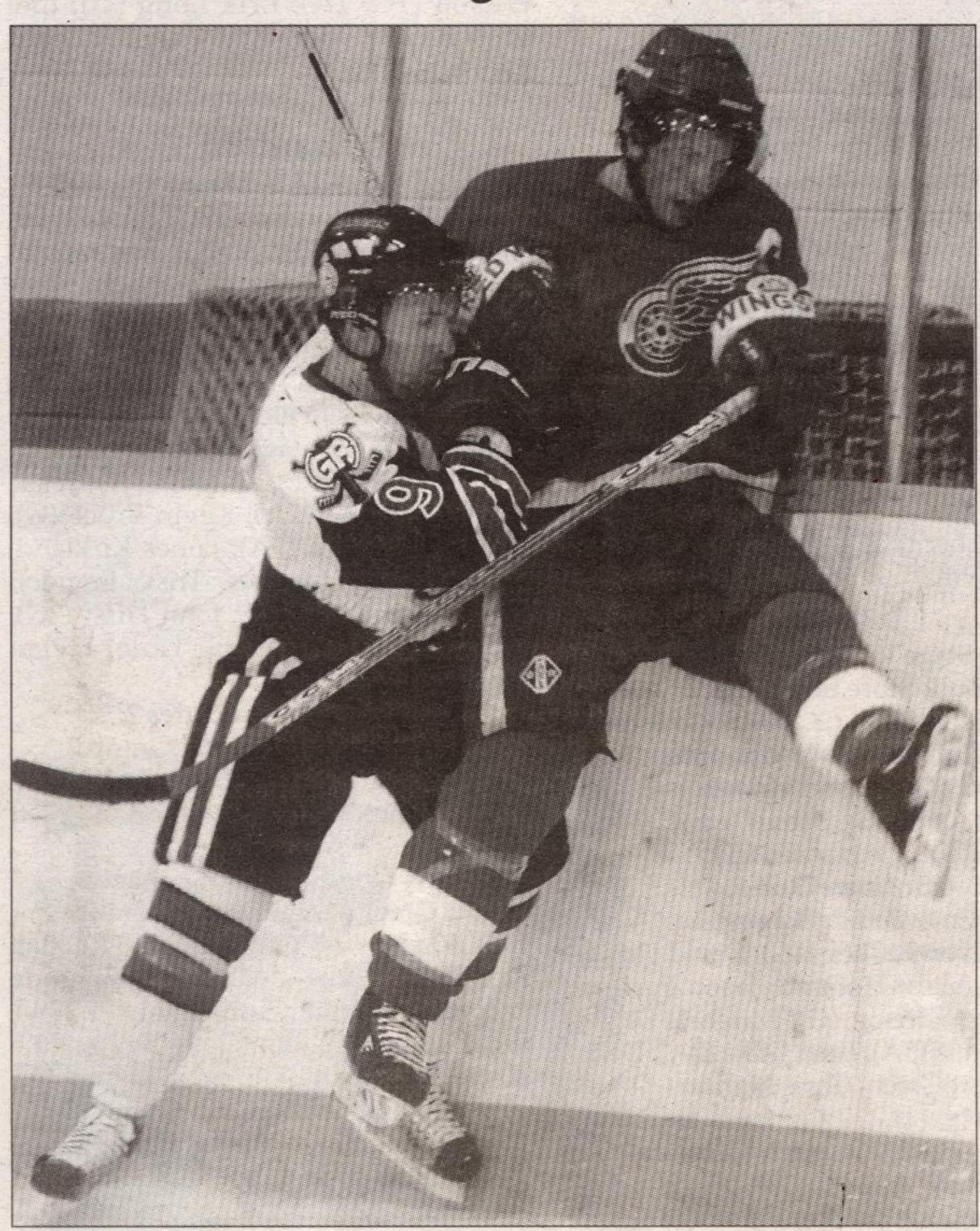


Sports & Lesuite

Wednesday, October 5, 2005



Two out of three ain't bad as Raiders move up



Georgetown's Glen Hartwell takes out Hamilton's Justin Merritt along the boards in Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. The Raiders won their sixth straight, 5-4 on a late goal. Hamilton edged the Raiders 2-1 in overtime Monday. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Tow that the Georgetown Raiders have climbed their way back to the upper reaches of the Provincial Junior Hockey League standings, they will face their biggest challenge in their ascent to the top.

Although the Raiders' six-game winning streak was snapped Monday in Hamilton, they still managed to earn a point for the seventh game in a row after a 2-1 overtime loss. That moved them within two points of the front-running Milton IceHawks, pending the outcome of Milton's game last night (Tuesday) in Bramalea.

The Raiders got a good dose of intensity with a home-and-home series with Hamilton that wrapped up on Monday. After two scoreless periods the teams exchanged goals 31 seconds apart midway through the third, with Wade Finegan's second goal in as many games countering Hamilton's Peter LeBlanc. It remained that way until LeBlanc beat Ryan Gibb on Hamilton's 46th shot of the game 1:46 into overtime.

It was the Raiders that pulled out the late heroics two nights earlier when Andrew Dennis scored with 1:34 to play to give them a 5-4 victory in the opening game of the home-and-home series. The Raiders were on a two-man advantage after Hamilton had been called for too many men on the ice and then a minute later compounded the problem by taking a slashing call.

"I just wanted to get everything to the net and keep my shot low," said Dennis. "My did a great job in front of the net. I don't think the goalie even saw it."

Dennis, in his first game back since a

four-game suspension, didn't want to see the Raiders' winning ways end with his return to the lineup. The 20-year-old defenceman hopes to help Georgetown build on last season's success.

"Georgetown has a great history and if I was going back to play Jr. A, I wasn't going to just throw away my last year of junior," said the former Barrie Colt. "I want to go to the RBC (Royal Bank Cup)."

Also returning after missing a game was George Lovatsis. Lovatsis, who won't turn 16 until next month, had a goal and an assist. His goal late in the second pulled the Raiders within one after they spotted Hamilton a 2-0 lead in the opening period.

Another rookie, Adam Campbell, then pulled the Raiders even at three 38 seconds into the final and Joey Piccone's power-play goal gave the Raiders their first lead. Though Hamilton tied the game, Dennis' goal gave them their sixth straight win.

Win number five came Friday with a 4-1 victory in Burlington. Campbell's shorthanded goal held up until the final period. But after the Cougars tied the game, Mike Gurtler scored twice and Paul Conter added another in the final 11 minutes. Glen Hartwell picked up a pair of assists and duplicated that effort Saturday.

Hartwell has continued to supply physical play while increasing his point production with an increased offensive role this season. He said last season's playoff experience is benefiting him this year.

"I think it's helped me become more of a luck, it went right in but (Paul) Marchese leader," he said. "It was a good team to learn from so now I'm just trying to help the young kids as much as possible."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Jags tame Lions

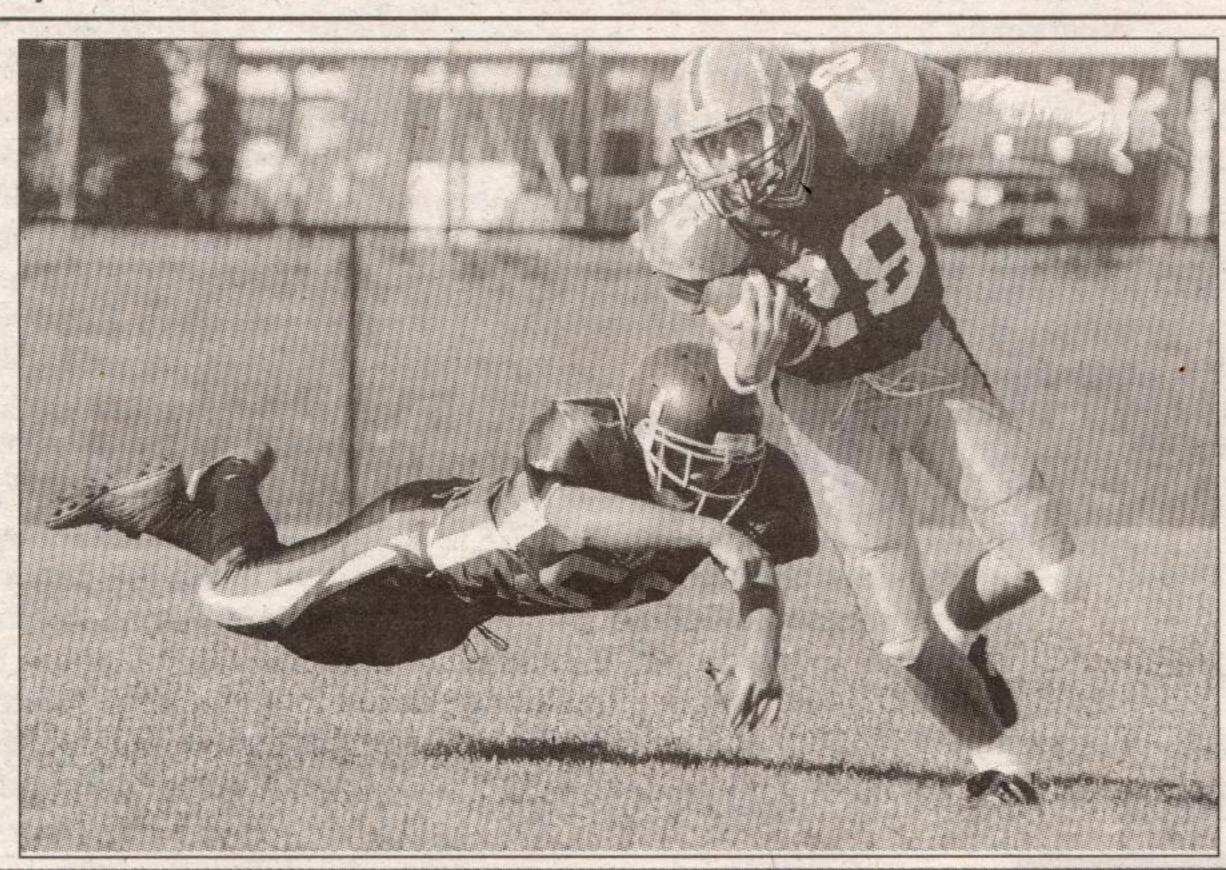
hristian Litimco and Coulton Vetro each had a touchdown as the Christ the King Jaguars improved to a 2-0 with a 14-7 victory over the Aldershot Lions.

Leading 7-0 at the half, Litimco ran the ball out of his own end zone and bounced off a few tackles to return the ball into Aldershot territory. Then on the first play, quarterback Alex Dezan handed the ball to Litimco, who burst through the line and went 48 yards for a touchdown.

Aldershot cut the lead in half when the Lions' Taylor Van Beek ran 28 yards for a major.

With three minutes to play, Litimco's 10-yard run on third-and-three kept the Jaguars drive alive. Christ the King worked the ball down to the Aldershot 20

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Christ the King's Justin Lim goes vertical in an attempt to bring down Aldershot's Taylor Van Beek in Friday's Halton senior football game. Van Beek ran for one touchdown but that was all Aldershot could manage as Christ the King won 14-7 to improve to 2-0.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

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