

Sports & Leisure

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Georgetown's Jordan Dance tangles with New Tecumseth's Zackary Byblow (9) during Saturday's game at the Best of the Best Hockey Challenge. New Tecumseth downed the Raiders 3-1 and went on to win the Major Peeewe championship.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

At Thanksgiving tourney Local squads claim one division crown

Although they didn't enjoy the feast they had at the inaugural Best of the Best Hockey Challenge, the Georgetown Raiders still posted some strong results at the second annual Thanksgiving Tournament.

Four Georgetown teams reached the final and two more were edged by a goal in semifinal games but only the Georgetown Sports Unlimited Minor Atom AE Raiders emerged with the championship trophy.

The Raiders got a hat-trick from Cory Highfield and Tyler Anderson posted a shutout as the Raiders blanked Waterloo 4-0 to claim the championship. The victory avenged an earlier 3-2 loss to Waterloo in round-robin play.

The Raiders opened the tournament with Joe Wallace blanking Whitby 3-0 in the opener. In their second game, Dane Firhoj broke a 1-1 tie with 5:33 to play as the Raiders edged Aurora 2-1.

After dropping their final game 3-2 to Waterloo, the Raiders got a second chance in the final, however, they went into that game missing three players due to one-game suspensions for checking from behind.

But it was the short-staffed Raiders that opened the scoring late in the first when Highfield scored his first of the game. The Raiders held that lead until Brad Ranson provided a bit of breathing room 1:34 into the third. Highfield put the game away with two goals in less than two minutes midway through the period.

Georgetown 3, Whitby 0; Georgetown 2, Aurora 1; Waterloo 3, Georgetown 2; Georgetown 4, Waterloo 0: Cory Highfield (3G, 3A); Matthew Hopson (3G); Callum Biehn, Adam Charalambides (2G, 1A); Dane Firhoj (G); Jake Spence (3A); Brad Ranson, Kevan Hadad (2A); Nicolas Hale, Blair Davies (A), Tyler Anderson (2W, SO); Joe Wallace (W, SO).

Minor Bantam AE Raiders

The Georgetown Toppers Pizza Minor Bantam AE Raiders pushed Barrie to the limit but their rivals held them off for a 5-4 victory in the championship game.

Barrie has been Georgetown's nemesis the past two seasons. The teams have met several times in tournament finals and each time Barrie has escaped with a one-goal victory.

That's what Barrie did in the round-robin. After Georgetown won its first two games, the rivals were deadlocked 1-1 until Barrie scored with 4:22 to play and held on for a 2-1 victory.

Georgetown got a second chance against the Colts in the final but Barrie jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead. The Raiders battled back to tie the game 2-2. The teams traded goals but with time winding down, the Raiders were trailing 5-4. With the goalie out for the extra attacker, the Raiders applied pressure and were rewarded when Brandon Hood's shot hit the Barrie goalie in the shoulder, fell behind him and trickled across the line with one minute remaining.

However, Barrie would win the game six minutes into overtime when they converted a pass from behind the net.

Georgetown 4, Orangeville 1; Georgetown 2, Georgina 1; Barrie 2, Georgetown 1; Barrie 5, Georgetown 4 (OT): Brent Jones (4G, 1A); Ben Carpenter (3G, 2A); Gary Scullion (2G, 3A); Brandon Hood (2G); Colin Hardcastle (G); Steven Damphousse (2A); Adam Putnam (A).

Minor Atom

After scoring 14 goals in their previous two games, the well ran dry for the Georgetown End Zone Sports Exchange Minor Atom Raiders.

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Sprague lands scholarship

Jay Sprague will have one less thing to worry about this season.

While many junior hockey players spend the year wondering if they will be able to land a college scholarship, Sprague has his next four years planned out before this one even begins.

The Georgetown winger has accepted a scholarship and will suit up with the Michigan State Spartans of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association next season.

"It's very exciting," Sprague said from Indianapolis, where he is playing with the Indiana Ice of the United States Hockey League. "I knew they were interested. I've been talking to them for a while, even back to last year. But I really wasn't expecting it at all."

Sprague's 65 points last season with the Georgetown Raiders tied him for the team lead as he helped his hometown Jr. A team reach the Royal Bank Cup, the national championship. However, this season he decided to return to the USHL, where he had previously played with the Chicago Steel for half a season. He made the move in hopes of getting more exposure to college scouts.

Michigan State contacted him following the Buc Bowl, a pre-season USHL tournament.

"I talked to a few other schools but Michigan State was always at the top of the list," Sprague said. "It's close to home. I always watched them on TV and it's just such a great program."

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