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Raiders get 6th straight win and find a sniper

Playing the role of unassuming saviour, Travis Kauffeldt rolled his eyes a little when asked if he's the answer to the Georgetown Raiders' questionable scoring situation. "Supposed to be," replied the soft-spoken Kauffeldt after making his debut Friday night in Oakville, a crucial 4-3 Georgetown victory. "But from what I've seen so far, there's a pretty good team here as it is."

Even though Kauffeldt was kept off the scoresheet in his first game, his attacking presence, especially on the power play behind the net, left Georgetown coach Jay Anderson smiling on the eve of the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's playoffs.

"You can already see he's what we need," Anderson said. "He adds that extra touch around the goal and you see the patience that he has. It's amazing when you consider he hasn't played in two months."

Kauffeldt had 96 points with Port Hope of the OPJHL last season before making the jump to Omaha of the USHL in the fall. He was also briefly a teammate of Raider goalkeeper Ryan Gibb with the OHL's Oshawa Generals. The 6-foot-1, 204-pound winger from Bancroft received medical clearance last week to return from a ruptured spleen after getting crosschecked while playing for Omaha, which later released him. The Raiders picked Kauffeldt up for nothing as Port Hope left his Canadian playing rights unprotected at the Jan. 10 roster cutdown date.

"My timing's a little off because I wasn't able to do anything physically for two months," he said. "I couldn't work out or skate so I pretty much just

vegetated. But as the game went on (Friday), it got a lot better."

The 25-15-4-2 Raiders have bolted up the league's OPJHL West Conference standings, grabbing a two-point lead over Oakville heading into the Blades' Tuesday night tilt in Streetsville. If the Raiders can win all three remaining games in the regular season—against Bramalea Friday, Streetsville here Saturday and Buffalo on Monday—they'll clinch third place in the division and likely meet Streetsville in the opening round of post-season action.



TRAVIS KAUFFELDT
Three goals so far

"This team has raised the bar," Anderson noted of his club's six-game winning run. "It doesn't matter who we play in the first round. We have to focus on getting our team ready and not worry about possible matchups."

Kauffeldt scored twice, as did Wade Finegan and Alex Paiement, in Georgetown's 8-1 trouncing of last-place Buffalo on Monday night. Jeremy Whelan and Rob Sgarbossa added single markers against the Sabres, who have lost 20 straight games.

On Friday night in Oakville, captain Frank DeAngelis tallied twice late in the second period to give the Raiders a 4-1 lead and the visitors held on for a 4-3 victory. Finegan and Marc Marchese also found net for the Raiders.



Oakville goalie David Scamurra is beaten on a weak-angle shot from the corner by Georgetown's Wade Finegan (top, in red) on Friday night during an OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League contest between the host Blades and the hard-charging Raiders. Finegan's power-play goal gave the Raiders a 2-1 lead at the time and they went on to win 4-3 at the Dominion Twin Rinks.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Mississauga again gave Georgetown a tough challenge at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex on Saturday evening, with Gibb having to make 36 saves for the home side. DeAngelis, Finegan, Matt Sitko and Kauffeldt were the Raider marksmen.

RAIDER RAP: Georgetown forward Kyle Termini missed the weekend games due to work commitments but picked up three assists in Monday's win...Finegan has now scored a goal in

five consecutive games and is now third on the team with 16...The status of Raider defender Ryan Lee for the playoffs is uncertain as he recovers from a leg injury...Georgetown's Jay Sprague, who will attend Michigan State University on a scholarship next year, has 13 goals and nine assists in 37 games with the 15-20-4 Indiana Ice of the USHL.

—By Eamonn Maher, staff writer

World Cup equestrian qualifier awarded to Halton Place

Top hunter/jumper equestrian riders from Canada and abroad are expected to come to Halton Hills late this summer for a World Cup Series Qualifier.

The 200-acre Halton Place equestrian facility located about 10 minutes west of Georgetown will play host to approximately 600 horses and 40,000 spectators over two weeks of competition.

Megan Krueger, events manager for Halton Place, said it's the first time the facility has staged an event of this stature after hosting national equestrian tournaments since the mid-1990s.

"We've always drawn a great local-area crowd to our shows, but this year we've opened things up for what should

be a pretty nice class, considering the prize money available," said Krueger of the \$150,000 purse for the fortnight of competition. "Our long-term goal is to annually attract the riders who are going to Spruce Meadows in Calgary, which is held just after our show. We're committed to growing and expanding this event and really setting the standard for others to follow."

The opening week of competition, from Aug. 23-27, has been named the Canadian Country Classic, and the World Cup qualifier follows Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

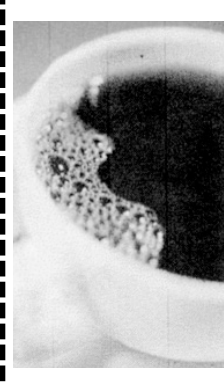
Although it is too soon to confirm which riders will attend, Krueger said an elite field would hopefully include

Canadian stars such as Ian Millar, Eric Lamaze, Beth Underhill and Mario Deslauriers.

Halton Place submitted a bid to become one of just six tournaments in Canada designated by the Federation Equestre Internationale to host a World Cup qualifier this year. Riders will vie for spots in the 2007 World Cup finals.

Krueger added that three rings of competition will be used for the events, which include Rising Star and the Canadian Jumper Development Series classes. Along with the equestrian aspect of the event, there will be automotive exhibitions and extreme sport demonstrations.

—By Eamonn Maher, staff writer



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