

SPORTS & LEISURE

Georgetown coaching staff, GM Jack Moon not returning next season

Major facelift in store for Jr. A Raiders

The new ownership of the Georgetown Jr. A Raiders' hockey club will be working with a clean slate with next season's coaching and management staff.

When Campbellville resident and long-time successful hockey school operator Rick Heinz purchased the Raiders from Peter Friedmann earlier this month, the former NHL netminder said he would discuss with general manager Jack Moon and the coaching staff of Jay Anderson and associate Blaine McCauley about a possible return for 2006-07.

Anderson, who has had six different stints behind the Georgetown bench as either a head coach or an assistant, initially agreed to return for another campaign after meeting with Heinz last Tuesday. But after being informed that Moon's role as the team's manager would be changed, Moon, Anderson and McCauley declined the invitation to return for next season.

"One of the sole reasons I agreed to come back was the opportunity to work with Jack and when I was told otherwise I decided I wasn't interested in coming

back," said Anderson, who has interviewed for the vacant Milton IceHawks' head coaching position.



JACK MOON



JAY ANDERSON

"Jack and I have a vision about what junior hockey in Georgetown can be and used to be and the whole setup was looking good for what we wanted to accomplish. It's disappointing because it's my hometown and there's a storied past with this team. To me this represents a lost opportunity. But Rick's the owner and he can obviously do what he wants. He's got a lot of good ideas about getting the community involved."

Heinz, a former NHL netminder with St. Louis and Vancouver, was in meetings on Tuesday and couldn't be reached for comment.

In an article in The Independent last week, Heinz said that he and friend Keith Pandovski would oversee the recruiting of players for next season and that he would speak to members of last year's staff about the possibility of returning for the 2006-07 campaign.

HANG UP THE BLADES: The miraculous playoff run of the Oakville Blades and three former Georgetown Raiders came to a painful end late last week in the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League semifinals.

The Blades, who finished fourth in the division, one point behind Georgetown, led Stouffville three games to one in their best-of-7 series before dropping three straight matches to end their season. Stouffville and St. Mike's were tied 1-1 in their OPJHL championship series heading into game three Tuesday night.

Ex-Raider defender Paul Conter and forward Joey Piccone were key performers for Oakville throughout the playoffs, which included a shocking upset of top-ranked Milton and a West Conference title. Surprisingly, winger Kyle Frieday was used sparingly in the post-season by Blades' coach Don Edwards.

CAMPING OUT: Georgetown's Mold-Masters SportsPlex is one of five sites for the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's Mission Hockey under-17 evaluation program, which takes place this weekend.

Sixty-eight minor midget-aged players will play scrimmage games on Saturday and Sunday at the Georgetown camp and several players from the Halton Hills Hurricanes have been selected to take part. (For full rosters, visit omha.net). From there, 17 players will be chosen to take part in the OMHA under-17 final camp May 12-14 at the University of Guelph.

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com.)



Harris leaving North Halton club

North Halton Golf & Country Club director of golf and Canada's men's curling team skip at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan, Mike Harris, has accepted the head pro's position at the Banff Springs Golf Club.



MIKE HARRIS

A Georgetown native, Harris earned a silver medal at the Nagano Games and currently works as a commentator on the CBC's curling coverage. The 38-year-old Harris starts his new job in early May.

"Yes, it was a difficult decision to move because I do have roots here in town," Harris said on Tuesday. "It's a big move with the family and yet it's an opportunity that I just couldn't pass up."

Harris's wife Beth, also a competitive curler, is a teacher at Limehouse Public School and will likely take a year's sabbatical. The couple has three children. Harris added that the move won't affect his television commitments with the CBC, although he will opt not to curl competitively next winter.

Gymnast Davis just beaming

Georgetown resident and rookie gymnast Bailey Davis has qualified for the provincial championships later this month in St. Catharines after a couple of recent fine performances.

Nine-year-old Davis earned a gold medal in her speciality, the balance beam, at the Le Classique Gymnix 2006 meet in Montreal, boosting her to an all-around bronze out of the 39 competitors in the Argo 1 division.

Davis, who trains at All-Star Gymnastics in Brampton, made the provincials thanks to another gold-medal-winning beam routine at the qualifying meet in Oshawa. She was fourth with her floor routine, sixth on bars and seventh on the vault.

Twisters celebrate a Day of Champs

Katie Godfrey and Michelle Grills scored first-period goals for MoneyConnect (wearing red jerseys) and Jessica Marsland posted the shutout in a 2-0 victory over Ergo Solutions on Sunday as the North Halton Twisters Girls' Hockey Association held its Day of Champs final games at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex. For full results from the Day of Champs, check Friday's Independent & Free Press.

Photo by Sabrina Byrnes

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