

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Sale of Jr. A Raiders falls apart leaving ownership in limbo

*GM Jack Moon denies reports of his own departure from squad*

**EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

The apparent ownership exchange of the Georgetown Raiders to Campbellville resident Rick Heinz has fizzled and the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League club remains up for sale.

When contacted two weeks ago about his interest in purchasing the Raiders from Peter Friedmann and Ted Niche, Heinz said that finalizing the sale seemed to be "just a formality" and that he would soon take over operations of the team. But "financial discrepancies" led to the nixing of the deal late last week, leaving the team's operations in limbo for the time being.

"It doesn't look like it's going to go through. There were some T's to cross and I's to dot and it's become more of an issue than that," said Heinz, a former NHL goalie who runs hockey schools across North America.

"I would suspect it's (the deal) dead in the water. I don't see it happening."

Raiders' general manager Jack Moon said Monday that reports of his own departure are false and that there are currently no offers on the table to buy the team.

When Friedmann bought the Raiders from a non-profit, community-run group in 2002, a stipulation was made that any future sale of the club was to be reviewed by a locally based committee that would have the opportunity to match any offer.

*'I don't think we can agree on how to transact this thing to make it work. I would suspect it's (the deal) dead in the water.'*



**RICK HEINZ**

"The status right now is that the team is still up for sale and that we don't want to say much beyond that," said Moon, who is committed to the Raiders as the GM until the end of May, when they'll stage their rookie camp.

He added that if the club remained unsold for an extended period, the organization has identified some candidates to take over the team's currently vacant coaching-staff positions.

Heinz said he'd be willing to keep negotiations open and also entertain opportunities to buy another junior club if dealings with Georgetown can't be re-opened.

"It has to be the right opportunity - something close to home, so I can enjoy it," he said.

Former Georgetown bench boss Jay Anderson accepted the head coaching post with the Milton IceHawks—officially coming on board last Tuesday—and brought assistant Blaine McCauley with him. The longtime Western Conference skipper said he has no plans to reconsider his options because of last week's

turn of events—stating Thursday evening that, "I'm where I want to be (with Milton)."

**CRUSHERS ELEVATED:** Add another team to the OPJHL's North Conference as the Orangeville Crushers are just awaiting OHA approval for their move up from the Mid-Western Jr. B league for the 2006-07 campaign.

With Georgetown resident Robin Inscoc serving as GM, the Crushers will stage a spring training and conditioning camp at the Teen Ranch in Caledon May 5-7.

—With files from Steve LeBlanc, special (Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)



Defenceman Deron Cousens (right) of Georgetown just completed his first full year with the Penticton Vees of the British Columbia Hockey League, and while he personally had an excellent season, his team had to endure a stinging elimination from the playoffs earlier this week. Cousens had been motivated to make his return home with the Vees for the Royal Bank Cup championship tournament in Brampton in early May.

*Submitted photo*

## Cousens' bid to return home for RBC Cup dashed by OT defeat

**EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

Georgetown native Deron Cousens traveled west to play his Jr. A hockey this past year and his hopes of coming home for the 2006 Royal Bank Cup were dashed with a heartbreaking season-ending overtime loss on Monday night in Burnaby.

The 19-year-old Cousens and his Penticton Valley First Vees had home-ice advantage in their series with the Burnaby Express, but they came out on the short end in four of the six final games. The Express now moves on to play Fort McMurray, Alta., with the winner of that series qualifying for the Royal Bank Cup, to be hosted by the Streetsville Derbys at the Powerade Centre in Brampton May 6-14.

Cousens, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound defender, had hoped to return home to Ontario with the Vees for the national championship tournament, but there is still the consolation of having earned a full schol-

arship to Michigan Tech University beginning in September 2007 thanks to his exceptional play over the past couple of seasons.

"When I set out for B.C., one of the goals was to get back here to play for the Royal Bank Cup, but you know how it is, someone has to win and someone has to lose," said Cousens on Tuesday, just a few hours after the five-hour bus trip home from Burnaby. "We've got a good nucleus coming back here for my last year of junior and hopefully we can make another run at it."

The Vees ran into injury problems and some miraculous net-minding by Burnaby's Bryce Luker in losing the BCHL final.

Cousens had two goals and four assists in 15 post-season games played and notched seven goals and 24 assists in 53 regular-season contests, seeing first-line power-play duty. Penticton won the BCHL's Interior Division regular-

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## Umpires and teams needed for ball season

New and experienced umpires are needed for slo-pitch and baseball for the 2006 season in Halton Hills.

Umpires are required for local high school afternoon games and adult evening slo-pitch leagues. Training and insurance will be provided.

Professional umpire clinicians can also be made available to run clinics for baseball, fastball, modified and slo-pitch through the Ontario Umpires Association.

For more info e-mailontarioumps@aztecnet.com or call Jim Cottrell at 905-791-0280.

Team entries and individual players are being accepted for the Halton Hills Slo-Pitch League's 30 & over competitive men's modified fast-pitch division.

Games will be played Sundays at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. For more info call Ed Serjeantson at 905-873-4977.

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