

SPORTS & LEISURE



Georgetown Raiders' forward Jeremy Whelan thought he might get a penalty shot after getting tripped up on his way to the net during the second period of Tuesday's game two of the OPJHL West Division championship series at Alcott Arena. Whelan scored

on the following power play but goalie Cam Talbot and the Hamilton Red Wings were a step ahead all night and won 5-1, grabbing a 2-0 series lead.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Raiders turn in 'worst effort'

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

A season-best crowd of over 800 spectators was rendered relatively quiet for a big playoff game at the Alcott Arena Tuesday evening as the visiting Hamilton Red Wings were in control from the start, posting a 5-1 victory over the Georgetown Raiders to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League West Division final series.

Game three of the matchup was played last night (Thursday) in Hamilton, with game four back in Georgetown Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

After a well-played double overtime-loss in the series opener, the Raiders looked out of sorts from the drop of the puck in game two and were fortunate to get out of the first period scoreless, thanks to some Marc Stuart saves. But the Red Wings were in full flight and broke through with a pair of goals 2:46 into the middle period.

They outshot the Raiders 33-23 in total and were 3 for 12 on the power play, forcing many more Georgetown turnovers than they made themselves. "The only times we've lost in the

playoffs this year are when we lacked discipline and we haven't done that a lot. For the most part the guys have been disciplined and stuck with the systems we put in for the playoffs," said Raiders' coach James Richmond, frustrated by some of his players' needless penalties.

"(Tuesday's game) was probably the worst game we've played so far. Our guys were working hard but we were working stupid hard, making wrong reads, the passes were off, things like that. It's not a surprise we're down 2-0 because the first game could have gone either way."

The Raiders were presented with a lengthy two-man advantage early in the second period of game two when they trailed 2-0, coming away with just one goal from Jeremy Whelan. First-star Mike Galbraith restored Hamilton's 3-1 lead later in the period and Georgetown mustered just three shots in the final frame on Cameron Talbot, considered one of the best Tier II goalies in Canada.

By that stage, Raider supporters who had been straining to hear the arena's inaudible sound system while waving White Towel Power cloths,

were mostly stuffing the latter in their pockets as keepsakes, not wanting to show any signs of surrender.

The enigmatic Whelan tried to ruffle the Red Wings by running into Talbot behind the net late in game two with the outcome already decided, causing Chris Dunsmuir to come to his netminder's aid. Whelan was expected to play in game three as his suspension could be swapped for a fine.

Richmond gave his team Wednesday night off from practice in hopes of getting a crisper effort for game three at Mountain Arena, where the Raiders hope to be for game five on Monday night. Should the series be stretched to the limit, the teams will play on three consecutive days to declare a champ, with the winner likely moving on to face Aurora in the OPJHL semifinals.

NOTES: Raider forward Greg Lever left Tuesday's contest with an arm injury and his status was uncertain Thursday...Fans can purchase a commemorative St. Patrick's Day/Raiders t-shirt for \$5 at Saturday's game four.

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

Nomination deadline extended

The deadline has been extended for nominations for inaugural inductees into the new Halton Hills Sports Museum.

Museum officials are looking for athletes, teams or builders worthy of being inducted into the Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 26.

The museum, located at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex, is seeking nominees for the Museum's first gala induction ceremony set for Thursday, June 21 at the John Elliott Theatre. Tickets are \$30 each and the evening starts at 6 p.m.

Any person who is, or has been distinguished as an athlete, an executive member or coach, or who has brought honour to Halton Hills shall be eligible for election provided he or she was a resident of the Town of Halton Hills at the time of the achievement which is the basis for his or her consideration. Builder candidates may be either active or inactive at the time of their consideration.

Full nomination criteria and forms are available at *The Independent & Free Press* office and at Johnson Associates or on the Museum's website, www.haltonhillssportsmuseum.com.

Forms can be dropped off or mailed to *The Independent & Free Press* (280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, L7G 4B1) or Johnson Associates (247 Guelph St., Georgetown, L7G 4A8). For more information contact Steve Foreman at 905-873-0301. For gala ticket info contact Finn Poulstrup at 905-877-5165.



OFSAA relay swimmers named

In last week's article in *The Independent & Free Press* about the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association Swim 2007 championships at the Etobicoke Olympium, some names of Georgetown Rebel relay team members who earned medals weren't available at press time.

Georgetown's senior boys earned two gold medals at the two-day event, helping the Rebels place third out of the 266 teams from around the province that entered.

James Bramley, junior Justin Bravo, Ricky Davids and Gareth Viray-Cox finished first in the 200m medley relay race in a time of 1:57.28, nearly two seconds faster than the runners-up. Kris Niemier was substituted in for Bravo in the senior boys' 200m freestyle event to complete the double gold medal performance for the seniors.

The Rebels' junior boys were also golden at the provincial meet, taking top spot in the 200m medley relay, with the team consisting of Rob Stuart, Kyle Creswicke, Kyle Hansen and Chris Bellman. Bellman, Hansen, Creswicke and Justin Bravo finished just out of the medals in the 200m freestyle relay.

In the very first race of the competition, Georgetown's junior girls' relay squad missed a gold medal by just two one-hundredths of a second, settling for silver. Rebekka Bond, Jen Ormiston, Laura Evans and Deneka Bodrug were also nipped at the finish line for bronze medals in the junior girls' 200m freestyle.

Placing sixth in the province was Georgetown's senior girls' 200m medley relay foursome, made up of Melissa Ott, Romana Matthews, Jessica Stuart and Katherine McDonald.

Ricky Davids finished runner-up and was off the OFSAA record by only half a second in the senior boys' 100m IM (not the 200m IM as was reported in Friday's paper).

Juniors Bravo and Creswicke advanced to the final for the 50m breaststroke.



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