

# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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Minor bantams tops in Ontario

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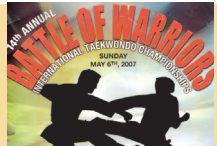


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Battle of Warriors set for this weekend

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Special pullout section

## Raiders shake up management team

EAMONN MAHER  
Staff Writer

The coaching staff for next year's Georgetown Jr. A Raiders' hockey club will remain the same, but some new members have been added to the management team that has a lot of recruiting to do during the off-season.

Raiders' owner Ted Nishi announced the hirings last week of three additions to the team's braintrust, who have already scouted several tournaments province-wide in search of replacements for a roster that may have fewer than a half-dozen returnees for 2007-08.

"I feel we've really put a solid management foundation in place, and with the same coaching staff coming back, there's a great core of hockey minds to build another championship team with in Georgetown," said Etobicoke resident Nishi, who also served as the club GM for the remainder of last season in his first year of majority ownership of the Raiders.

"It's going to be a bit of a rebuilding year with all of the players who have moved on, but that's not to say that our team next year isn't going to be competitive with the top teams in our division. We've been looking at kids in this area and scouting the other big minor hockey tournaments and I'm very confident in our scouting staff. The other positive for us is that the word is out there that Georgetown is a great place to play."

Assuming the GM's role is 30-year-old Kevin Lachance, the scouting director for the past two years with the Hamilton Red

Wings, who eliminated the Raiders in the playoffs in both of those seasons.

Lonnie Freeman is the new director of hockey operations, while Bill MacIntyre will head up the scouting staff. Head coach James Richmond, along with assistants Lucky DeGrazia and Craig Teeple, will be back behind the Raider bench after taking over the duties halfway through last season.

"We're going to lose nine 20-year-olds this year and you don't have the young kids ready yet to move into those spots, so one of the priorities for myself and the scouting staff is to establish a nucleus," said Lachance, who scouted and was assistant GM in Milton before joining the Red Wings.

"We want to bring in players who will be here for the next two or three years and you want to have maybe four or five impact 20-year-olds. I don't think there's such a thing as rebuilding in this league. Everyone loses at least 10 players every year and you're always looking for new ones. It comes down to who can recruit and who can make the shrewdest trades. I see no reason why we can't finish in the top half of the division and I'd be very disappointed in anything else."

After making the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Division final in March before bowing out in four games to Hamilton, the Raiders were faced with losing two-thirds of their roster and the resources of director of hockey operations Peter Mavroudis, who could be headed for the same job with the Brampton Capitals.

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KEVIN LACHANCE



Jump ball

Georgetown Rebels' goalkeeper Erik Franke fends off a challenge from Christ the King's Adam Dunn during their Halton Secondary School Athletic Association senior boys' soccer matchup on Wednesday. Justin Mota scored midway through the second half to give the visiting Jaguars a 1-0 victory and a 2-0-1 record so far in league play. CtK goalie Matt George has recorded three consecutive shutouts for the squad. In Acton on Wednesday, the host Bearcats throttled Aldershot 7-1 as T.J. Fry and Josh Essiembre scored twice each. Spencer Morrison, Matt Angel and Luke Van Dinther added single strikes. Photo by Eamonn Maher



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