

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Red-hot Raiders looking for depth

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Staff Writer

Heading into tomorrow's (Thursday's) OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League roster cutdown deadline, the Georgetown Raiders will have some interesting decisions to make with the post-season just one month away.

The 23-10-4 Raiders, who have won seven of their past eight starts, recorded a pair of weekend victories, including a 4-3 decision over Brampton that bumped Georgetown past the Capitals into second place in the West Division standings.

Usually a buyer when OPJHL teams must trim their rosters to 23 players at the Jan. 10 deadline, the Raiders are already under that limit and will likely add some depth prior to their rematch with Brampton at the Alcott Arena on Saturday evening.

With key forwards Andrew Ella (broken hand) and Anthony Luciani (broken ankle) probably a month away from returning to the lineup, director of hockey operations Lonnie Freeman was working on a number of deals this week to try to bolster the forward units.

As well, 17-year-old defender Spencer Metcalfe signed with the Ontario Hockey League's Owen Sound Attack last week, possibly making way for the return of OHLers Peter Mrksic or John Quarrie to the Georgetown lineup.

Head coach James Richmond said Tuesday that whatever transpires, he is leery of bringing in players who may upset the dressing room's pecking order on a team that wasn't expected to be a contender after returning just a couple of players from last season.

"We've got a mostly young team complemented with some veterans and I think we're okay, but we're not as healthy as we'd like to be," said the second-year Raider coach.

"People talk about us like we're a fifth- or sixth-place team in our division, but the last time I checked, only Oakville is ahead of us and they're so good I don't think anybody's going to catch them. At the same time, if you start looking at the standings too much right now it's foolish because you want to be ready and healthy and playing your best when the playoffs start, not a month before then. We've got a whole bunch of games coming up with not many days in between for practice and there's a lot of the regular season left, so it will be interesting to see how it all turns out."

How the Raiders finish up will probably be determined within the next couple of weeks as they face Oakville and fourth-place Hamilton twice each during that span. While the defending West champion Red Wings have sputtered recently, falling 10-7 at home Monday to Mississauga, the front-running Blades continue to get stronger as they steam along on their 17-game win streak.

Georgetown improved to 3-2 this season against Brampton thanks to Thursday's closely-contested win, although the Capitals nearly rallied back to tie on a late power-play advantage. Trevor Branning, former Cap Chris Borges, Scott Levitt and Mark McGowan tallied for the visitors while Marc Stuart made 34 stops for the win in goal. The Raiders are now two points ahead of



Brampton's Chris Muise (26) tries to shake a check by Georgetown Raider blueliner Scott Levitt on Thursday night at Memorial Arena. The visiting Raiders received a big goal from the 20-year-old Levitt in the third period and hung on for a crucial 4-3 win to surpass Brampton for second place in the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Division standings.

*Photo by George Beshiri*

Brampton with a game in hand and are up by three on Hamilton.

In Saturday's 5-2 home triumph over the Buffalo Jr. Sabres, Raider centre Andy Bathgate was named first star for his one-goal, three-assist effort. Marcus Pryde, Mark McGowan, Borges and Jeremy Wick rounded out the scoring.

**NOTES:** Former Hamilton Red Wings' head coach John McDonald has now taken over the bench duties for the Burlington Cougars...Metcalf, a 6-foot-1 195-pound

Oakville resident, registered his first OHL point Saturday with an assist on a goal by his former Raider teammate, Matt Carter. As an overage rookie with Owen Sound, Carter has been a revelation with 23 goals in 41 games. Richmond said neither player will likely return to Georgetown this season as part of the affiliation agreement between the clubs.

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

### Rep hockey roundup

## Stechly's shutout powers minor peewee selects to 2-0 victory

Goalie Joshua Stechly helped improve the Shoppers Drug Mart Georgetown South Raiders' record to 11-1-1 in minor peewee select action.

**Georgetown 2, Kitchener 0:** Carlos Preza, Blair Davies (G); Travis Hatcher, Joshua Bugden (A); Stechly (SO).

### Bantam AA Raiders

Georgetown's Wild Wing bantam AA Raiders have completed the regu-

lar season and will play a round-robin series in the Tri-County league.

**Georgetown 7, Milton 0:** Nic Pierog (2G, 2A); Tyler Nieuwendyk (G, 2A); Andrew Moffatt, Brendan Krivec, Derek Kessel, Dylan Auty (G, A); Andrew Smith (3A); Dalton Pearce, Chris Guerette, Tyler Shippel (A); Cameron Jenkins (SO).

**Georgetown 6, Dundas 2:** Moffatt, Kessel (G, 2A); Smith, Nieuwendyk (G, A); Pierog, Shippel (G); Pearce,

Jake Tousignant, Troy Noakes, Krivec (A); Joey Ragone (W).

**Georgetown 3, Oakville 1:** Krivec (G); Kessel, Pierog (A).

**Georgetown 4, Burlington 1:** Smith (2G); Auty, Hayden Mancini (G); Tousignant (3A); Shippel, (2A); Pierog (A); Ragone (W).

**Georgetown 6, St. Catharines 4:** Tousignant, Pierog (2G); Kyle Kutlesa, Noakes (G); Mancini, Smith, Shippel, Nieuwendyk (2A); Kessel, Smith (A); Jenkins (W).



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