

CONTEST FOR KIDS

What does playing fair and clean hockey mean to you?

Your chance to win a trip to Halifax to see a World Hockey Tournament game in May 2008

A new national contest is asking Canadian children and their parents what they think playing strong, clean and fair hockey means. And your answer could mean a trip to the 2008 IIHF World Championship being held in Canada for the first time ever.

"We feel that Canada's national pastime could benefit from the country's youngest citizens explaining what it means to play hockey strongly, yet cleanly and fairly, both on and off the ice," said John Schofield, VP & Country Manager Henkel Consumer Goods Canada Inc. "As supporters of hockey at many skill levels, we believe their input could provide

important and insightful learning that we should all embrace."

The **Henkel Play Fair, Play Clean Contest** runs until March 31, 2008. Canadians six to 16 years of age can team up with their parents or legal guardians, log onto www.henkelpowerplayers.ca and follow the on-screen instructions to submit an original essay of 250-500 words. The essay should simply and concisely outline what playing fair and clean hockey means to them. Each month, a winner will be selected randomly from all entries to receive an MP3 Player. **One grand prize winning team will receive a trip to Halifax to see a World Hockey**

Tournament game in May 2008.

Your entry can also help another child get to play hockey. Recognizing that many Canadian children just can't afford to play the sport, Henkel will donate \$5 through their corporate philanthropy program, Henkel Smile, to KidSport for every essay entry that is received. KidSport is a national children's charitable program that helps disadvantaged kids overcome the barriers preventing or limiting their participation in organized sport. This is in addition to the company's recent initial donation of \$25,000 to KidSport.

- News Canada

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Raiders hope for the best in wild West

Continued from pg. 1

best in the league in 21-year-old Marc Stuart, fortified by a defensive group that has plenty of experience but also a troublesome habit of some late-game panicking, leading to a handful of defeats.

Offence is really the unknown quantity for the Raiders. Bathgate and McGowan are marvelous to watch together and any local residents who haven't seen them yet won't get the chance for much longer, as they're headed for bigger stages. However, they're also going to receive more checking attention than ever, leaving vets such as Marcus Pryde, John Seymour, Andrew Ella and Trevor Branning to supplement the scoring. A couple of wild cards exist in the presence of wingers Tom Jefferson and Anthony Luciani, while the future looks bright with the likes of Kyle Essery, Fred Gervasi and Lukas Ciotti.



MARC STUART

For Freeman, who got a late start on recruiting after Kevin Lachance resigned just a few weeks after taking the general manager's job, putting more emphasis on developing younger players will hopefully mean less work for him and director of scouting Bill MacIntyre in future off-seasons. Both men have toured southern Ontario in recent weeks, already looking to replace the players who will move on, and Freeman was pleased to announce that they've received a verbal commitment for next season from a prized local talent.

Fifteen-year-old Steve Silas, a defender with the Halton minor midget AAA Hurricanes, is projected to be a high-round Ontario Hockey League pick this spring and figures that playing Tier II Jr. A hockey at home to start is the best path, much the same way his buddy Bathgate did before choosing to sign with the OHL's Belleville Bulls in December.

"We'll probably have to replace 10 players next year, and then the year after that, hopefully only seven or eight, and then even less the following year," said Freeman. "You always want to have that nucleus from year to year and sure you're going to lose guys who get opportunities to get to the next level, but that's part of the reason why we're here."

To that end, the Raiders have also brought in an educational advisor in Doug McKnight, who has fielded dozens of inquiries from Canadian and U.S. post-secondary institutions through the season.

For the average junior hockey fan though, all the behind-the-scenes machinations are irrelevant. Most would be pleased just to see an honest effort and get some value for their entertainment dollar, something the locally beloved Toronto Maple Leafs have failed to deliver on TV most Saturday evenings this winter.

If one thing's for certain, nothing's predictable in the wild, wacky West.

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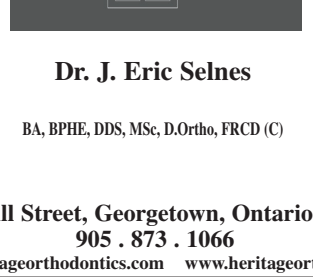
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