

SPORTS & LEISURE

Raiders' OT win provides two-game lead

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

While they were ecstatic and somewhat relieved to be holding a 2-0 series lead over the Brampton Capitals, the Georgetown Raiders also recognized after Monday night's comeback overtime win that there's plenty of work left to do.

The Raiders finished just two points ahead of the Capitals in the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Division standings and the clubs went 3-3 against each other during the regular season, so there wasn't much surprise that the first two games in the best-of-7 matchup were closely-contested affairs that featured some nastiness as well.

Georgetown needed some superb net-minding from veteran Marc Stuart, who blocked 29 of 30 Capital shots, to score a 4-1 win in game on Saturday, then defender Scott Levitt ripped a shot from the point 31 seconds into overtime on Monday in Brampton for a 5-4 Raider victory, in which they never led until the game was over.

Game three of the series is set for tonight (Wednesday) at the Alcott Arena beginning at 8 p.m.

"I just put in on the net and kept it low, like we were talking about during the intermission," said the 20-year-old Levitt, of St. Catharines. "That's a big win for us and Wednesday's another big game because we'd like to finish the series as soon as possible to get ready for the next opponent, but at the same time we're not taking (Brampton) for granted because we're only half way there."

Four times in game two, the Capitals



Winger Lukas Ciotti of the Georgetown Raiders converts a two-on-one pass from teammate Marcus Pryde and beats Brampton Capital goaltender Taylor Hewson with the equalizer just over seven minutes into the third period of Monday's playoff game at Memorial Arena. The visiting Raiders pulled off a 5-4 OT triumph and will host game three of the best-of-7 divisional semifinal series tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

enjoyed a one-goal lead, but the Raiders, who outshot the hosts 42-38 and scored three power-play markers, came back on each occasion.

Michael Paolo, Tom Jefferson, Evan Zych and Lukas Ciotti tallied for Georgetown in regulation time.

In the series opener on Saturday, first star Kyle Essery scored for the Raiders just 43 seconds into the contest but the hosts

didn't seal the outcome until the late stages of the third period, having to kill off what seemed like an endless string of penalties along the way.

Georgetown took the lead 2-1 midway through the middle frame on a deflected point shot on the power play by Andrew Bathgate, who ended up with a three-point night. Late goals by Trevor Branning and Paolo brought relief to the Raider special

teams, which faced a nine-minute short handed situation to begin the third period after Anthony Luciani was assessed instigator and aggressor penalties for jumping a Brampton player during a scrum.

"It was like splitting hairs with Brampton through the season and both games of this series could have gone either way," said Raider head coach James Richmond. "Stuey didn't have his best game (Monday), but our defence played well and to have the forwards coming back in such a small rink really helped too."

Game four of the series will be played Thursday night in Brampton starting at 7:30 p.m., with game five, if necessary, in Georgetown Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

In the other West Division series, Oakville defeated Milton 4-1 in the first game of their series on Sunday evening.



VS.



Georgetown leads series 2-0

Game 1: Georgetown 4, Brampton 1
Game 2: Georgetown 5, Brampton 4 (OT)
Game 3: Tonight at Alcott Arena, 8 p.m.
Game 4: Thursday, Feb. 28 at Memorial Arena (Brampton) 7:30 p.m.
Game 5: Saturday, March 1 at Alcott Arena, 7:30 p.m. (if necessary)
Game 6: Monday, March 3 at Memorial Arena (Brampton) 8 p.m. (if necessary)
Game 7: Wednesday, March 5, at Alcott Arena, 8 p.m. (if necessary)

Twisters second at Silver Stick

At the Cold Creek Silver Stick qualifier in Belleville, the North Halton Twisters finished runner-up in the 11-team bantam BB division, bowing out to the Ottawa Valley Thunder in the final, despite allowing just five goals in five games. league playoffs against Rochester.

Preliminary round— North Halton 3, Kingston 0: Jennifer Eady (2G); Shauna Costello (G); Sarah Digiallonardo, Amanda Larade (A).

North Halton 5, Sarnia 0: Stefania Villeneuve, Delaney McQueen, Courtney Quinn (G, A); Costello, Megan Wain (G); Lindsay Logan (A); Vanessa Hartwick (2A).

Ottawa Valley Thunder 3, North Halton

1: Logan (G); Villeneuve, Laura Brooks (A).

North Halton 3, Woodstock 0: Wain, Hilary Cosmo, Rebecca Woolford (G); Costello, Villeneuve, Hartwick, Jennifer Eady (A).

Semifinals— North Halton 5, Petrolia 0: Villeneuve (G, 3A); Sarah Digiallonardo, Lindsay Logan, Megan Wain, Delaney McQueen (G); Mackenzie Rees, Amanda Larade, Shauna Costello (A).

Championship— Ottawa Valley Thunder 2, North Halton 0

Regular season

North Halton 4, Burlington 1: McQueen, Villeneuve, Woolford, Costello (G); Quinn (2A); Logan, Digiallonardo, Wain, Brooks (A).

High school roundup

Rebels tops in Halton

Georgetown's senior Rebels captured their 11th Halton Secondary School Athletic Association girls' volleyball title in the past 13 years last Thursday, sweeping away their rivals from Oakville-Trafalgar again in the final match at Sheridan College.

And the junior Rebels were also victorious in their Halton championship showdown, dramatically rallying to beat Burlington's Assumption in three hard-fought sets.

Georgetown's seniors were scheduled to host Hamilton's Cardinal Newman late Tuesday afternoon in the best-of-5 Golden Horseshoe

Athletic Conference finals, with the winner moving on to the OFSAA championships, to be held in Scarborough March 4-5.

Coach Sheri Nairn's squad raced out to 4-1 and 10-4 leads in the opening game of the Halton final, taking advantage of some unforced errors by the Devils. The Rebels took a 20-12 advantage when an OT spike went out of bounds and, though the Devils won eight of the next 12 points, Georgetown held on for the five-point victory.

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GEORGETOWN TOYOTA

PLAYOFF GAME OF THE WEEK

GEORGETOWN JR. A

RAIDERS

VS

BRAMPTON CAPITALS

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

8:00 pm

Mold-Masters SportsPlex (Alcott Arena)

GEORGETOWN JUNIOR "A"



www.georgetownraidersjra.com