

SPORTS & LEISURE

Veltman taken first in NLL draft by Boston Blazers

It appears as though the newest franchise in the National Lacrosse League has decided to use Halton Hills as its pipeline to fill out its roster with players for the upcoming season.

The Boston Blazers now have four local-area residents on their roster after hosting Sunday's NLL entry draft at the TD Banknorth Garden, in which they selected Georgetown's Daryl Veltman with the first overall pick.

"We are pleased to have a player of Daryl's calibre join the Boston Blazers," said Tom Ryan, Blazers' head coach and general manager.

"He is a smart, talented player who can play a variety of offensive roles for us, especially our top offensive lefty spot."

Veltman, a recent graduate of Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y., was the Eastern Conference Athletic Conference leading scorer in 2008 with 26 goals in 11 games and was an honourable mention All-America. The former Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldog and Orangeville Jr. A Northmen captain joins his older brother Peter, an NLL veteran, with the expansion Boston organization.

The Blazers added Georgetown's Matt Lyons in the league's dispersal draft during the summer and are looking to see the 21-year-old flourish with more playing time than he had in his rookie campaign with the Rochester Knighthawks.

Acton's Chad Henry, another former Bulldog, went to the Blazers in the fifth round, 52nd overall.

The 76th and final player taken in this weekend's NLL entry draft was current Bulldog sniper Pat Saunders, who led the entire Ontario Jr. B leagues in scoring with 102 points this past season.

The 19-year-old Arthur resident was taken by the Chicago Shamrox in the sixth round.



DARRYL VELTMAN

Otters spoil Raiders' home opener

'Poor effort' highlighted by 0-for-7 night with the man advantage

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

As far as home openers go, the Georgetown Raiders' first regular season game of the 2008-09 season turned out to be pretty homely.

The Raiders lost 4-1 on Saturday night in an OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League contest to the visiting Huntsville Otters at the Alcott Arena and showed a lack of cohesiveness in doing it, after squandering some great chances to score early on.

Facing a veteran Huntsville side, Georgetown went 0 for 7 on the power play and was outshot 29-20, with Kyle Essery netting the lone goal for the hosts two minutes into the second period.

The Raiders also have several returning players and secured the rights to high-scoring centre Andrew Marcoux just prior to game time, but looked at times as though the pre-season was still in progress.

"On paper, we should be a lot better than we were on Saturday and I thought it was a poor effort on our part, especially for a home opener," said coach James Richmond.

"Being a team that hasn't really played together yet, it's tough for guys to try to find their way. I thought our first few shifts were great, then Huntsville scored on the power play and got another one with eight seconds left in the period and we never really recovered."

Jon Whitelaw scored twice for the Otters and Milton resident Ryan Williams was strong in goal for Huntsville, which has former Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient Charlie Hanman on its staff as head trainer.

Next up for the Raiders is a trip to Brampton to face the Capitals on Thursday at Memorial Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Rejoining the Raiders for the home opener was defenceman Rob Brennan, who is attending the University of Waterloo in its business program.

Richmond also signed backup goalkeeper Kevin Campbell, who spent time with the Oakville Blades last season.

Second-year forward Lukas Ciotti of Hamilton was sent to the Burlington Cougars in a cash deal as he'd requested to play closer to home.

The Capitals have a number of Georgetown connections, including rookies



Braiden Burnett of the Huntsville Otters deflected a shot off the post behind Georgetown Raiders' goalie Vince Cusick on Saturday night in a Jr. A matchup at the Alcott Arena. The Raiders couldn't find their stride in the home opener and lost 4-1.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Jake Merchant on defence and forward Chase Nieuwendyk, son of lacrosse star Gil and nephew of longtime NHLer Joe.

Forward Kyle Davis of Caledon played for the Halton Hills Jr. B lacrosse Bulldogs and goaltender Jared Lockhurst is related to

the late Norm Lockhurst, a star netminder for Georgetown Raider intermediate teams in the 1970s.

Also this week, the Raiders will host the Vaughan Vipers Saturday at the Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Lapointe upset at U.S. Mid-Am

As Georgetown golfer Mary Ann Lapointe has said many times before, seedings for match play don't really matter much once the two opponents get out onto the course.

And the numbers seemed to be in Lapointe's favour heading into the match play segment of this week's U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship in Ann Arbor, Mich. after she finished third overall through 36 holes of preliminary stroke play over the weekend with a one-over-par score.

The top 64 players then advanced into

head-to-head matches, with number-three-seed Lapointe taking on 62nd-ranked Kim Eaton of Colorado in round one on Monday.

Lapointe led 1 up after the eighth hole at the Barton Hills Golf Club, but her opponent, who finished at 15 over par in stroke play, took a four-hole lead by the 16th hole to claim victory.

In 2005, the 48-year-old Lapointe became the first non-American player to win the U.S. Women's Mid-Am title in Richmond, Texas.



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