

SPORTS & LEISURE

Productive weekend puts Raiders at top of pack

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Staff Writer

For a team that has yet to taste victory on home ice early on in this OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League season, the Georgetown Raiders are nonetheless the West Division leaders after a busy and productive weekend.

The 4-1-1 Raiders handed defending conference champion Hamilton its third home-ice loss this month on Monday evening, hanging on for a 4-3 victory to complete a four game in five-day run that saw the team earn seven out of a possible eight points in the standings.

It began with a sound 4-0 beating of the host Brampton Capitals on Thursday, followed by a 6-5 shootout loss at home Saturday night against Milton in which the Raiders scored three third-period goals to salvage a point. They also rallied from a 5-3 deficit with four minutes remaining against a veteran Stouffville side on Sunday at the OPJHL's College Showcase contest to pull off an overtime win.

"For the age of our team, I thought that the boys showed a lot of character to overcome some adversity," said second-year Georgetown head coach James Richmond. "We've taken nine of 12 points so far and even in the games we've lost points, we were right in it. The guys



Newly-acquired Georgetown Raiders' goalie Johnathan McQueen made his debut on the weekend and saw plenty of action in a 6-5 comeback win over Stouffville on Sunday afternoon in Erin Mills. McQueen also came in to relieve fellow backstopper Paul Claxton at home on Saturday as the Raiders trailed guest Milton 3-0 after the first period in a game that resulted in a 6-5 shootout victory for the IceHawks.

have shown that they're going to have a never-say-die attitude and yes they're going to make mistakes, but the exciting thing is that for the most part this group is going to be together for a couple of years."

Raiders' director of hockey operations Lonnie Freeman has

also brought in four new players in the past week, including winger Paul Yovanic, who scored in his debut just 3:18 into Monday night's win over the Red Wings. The 6-foot-4, 225-pounder from Michigan, who turns 20 next week, just returned from a pro tryout in the U.S.

Goaltender Jonathan McQueen was picked up from the OHL's Sarnia Sting and he played in two weekend contests, making initial signee Eddy Davey of Orangeville expendable. Forwards Anthony Luciani, released by the Erie Otters of the OHL, and Mark White, who

spent time with Oakville and Milton in the past year, also made their debuts for Georgetown last weekend.

Winger Trevor Branning of Brampton has also been one of the team's rookie standouts thus far, notching a hat trick against Milton Saturday to bring his season total to six goals in six games. Andy Bathgate and Zak Ray chipped in single markers.

Branning, Lukas Ciotti and Kyle Essery rounded out the scoring at Hamilton, while blueliner Chris Borges and Mark McGowan, with the winner, had two goals each versus Stouffville. Ciotti and Justin Lacey added a goal apiece.

On Thursday night, the Raiders carried on their success from last year's playoff series with Brampton by blanking the Capitals 4-0 at the Memorial Arena. Ray and Branning had first-period goals for the visitors and Welland's Paul Claxton made 22 saves for the shutout. Essery and Andrew Ella completed the scoring.

Ahead this week for the Raiders is a trip to the Burlington Cougars' new home, the Wave Twin Rinks, on Friday evening. Georgetown plays host to the Buffalo Jr. Sabres at the Alcott Arena Saturday starting at 7:30 p.m.

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

High school roundup

GDHS golfers shoot 19-under to claim first in Halton Tour

A remarkable round of 19-under-par 52 in the boys' team scramble event helped Georgetown District High School's Rebels secure first place overall in the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association 2007 Golf Tour and earned them a berth in next week's Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championship tourney in Milton.

The Rebels clinched the HSSAA boys' title on Monday by finishing fifth as a team in the tour's third and final round at the Glencairn Golf Club. Georgetown's Luke Ovenden tied for top spot with a 71 and was fourth in the 36-

hole individual standings, with Christ the King's Ryan Thomson placing ninth. CtK's Danny DePlantis was third on Monday after a 72 and ended up 12th individually.

GDHS gained 20 strokes on the other two GHAC qualifiers, Aldershot and Notre Dame, as Ovenden, Adam Salisbury, Tyler McNiven and Jamison Cass teamed up to shoot that 52 in round two on Thursday at the Tyandaga Golf Club in Burlington.

The GHAC championship will be contested next Tuesday at the Rattlesnake Point Golf Club.

Football

Faced with a rebuilding year and a tougher schedule because of their move up to the HSSAA's top division during the off-season, Christ the King's senior Jaguars still managed to piece together a 22-18 victory at Oakville-Trafalgar on Friday to start the campaign.

Jags' running back Dan Rovere continued to display the MVP form he showed in the 2006 Halton Division 2 championship game, scoring two touchdowns against the Red Devils. David Juszczak also had a major score and kicker Billy

Pavlopoulos added a key field goal.

CtK held off a late drive by the hosts, with Tyler Fram, Zach Fitterer and Antoine Furlani supplying sacks.

Defence was also a strong suit for the Georgetown senior Rebels as they kicked off the 2007 schedule with a 1-0 home victory over Loyola. The lone score of the day was a single point delivered by GDHS kicker, quarterback and defender Simon Treviranus, who also had an interception. Dan Kearns, Dave Van Kooten and Alex Stanwyk had strong games for the Rebel defence.

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