

# SPORTS & LEISURE

Centreman in his fourth OHL season

## Acton's Giudice hopes to make Wolves howl

**EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

Acton's Gerome Giudice is hoping the number 13 turns out to be a lucky charm for his Sudbury Wolves during this Ontario Hockey League campaign.

The 19-year-old centreman is in his fourth season with the Wolves and was named captain of the team after the trading deadline in January by head coach and general manager Mike Foligno.

Along with the letter C on his chest, Giudice decided to look into changing his uniform number from 18 to something else, so he inquired about 13.

"I'm Italian, and the number 13 actually is considered good luck, not like here in North America," the 5-foot-11, 198-pounder said.

"My favourite players growing up were Eric Lindros (88) and Peter Bondra (12), but there's something about number 13 that I liked. Someone with Sudbury said it was retired or something, then I checked with Mike and he said it was okay."

With just one assist in four starts so far, one might question the effectiveness of the number switch for Giudice. However, the Wolves have won three of those games and lost the other in a shootout as Giudice has a plus-3 rating while anchoring the club's shutdown forward unit.

Last season, he had his best offensive totals to date with 15 goals, 29 assists and 141 penalty minutes in 64 games, becoming a fan favourite in Sudbury for his competitiveness on a last-place team.

With star defenceman Marc Staal moving on to the New York Rangers and veteran Kevin Baker dealt to the Oshawa Generals, the Wolves' captaincy became vacant and Foligno didn't hesitate to call on Giudice to fill it.

"We made a decision last year to trade some veteran players and after they left it was difficult wearing a C in the environment of that time, but Gerome did a great job," Foligno said.

"What we needed was a heart-and-soul player and he more than filled those qualities with his leadership. This group today has a lot of pride and because of his

incredible work ethic, Gerome's been a fixture here ever since he realized what his role entailed."

A third-round pick of the Wolves in 2005, Giudice was one of a record 14 players selected in the OHL draft from coach Gary Camilleri's Mississauga Senators' minor midgets. Foligno was impressed that Giudice gladly pulled double-duty in his rookie season with the Wolves and their Northern Ontario Jr. A Hockey League affiliate, also located in Sudbury.

Good fortune didn't appear to be on Giudice's side in his second season as he suffered two knee injuries and a separated shoulder, limiting him to just two goals and six assists in 59 regular-season games. He returned to full strength for Sudbury's improbable run to the OHL finals in the spring of 2007 and scored three times in 11 games before the second knee injury ended his season.

"All of it happened in my (NHL) draft year. That kind of sucked," he sighed.

"My priority now is to have a good season in Sudbury and hopefully get a pro contract next year. I'm in the process of getting Italian dual citizenship that would also allow me to play in leagues in Sweden or England as a non-import."

The Wolves have 18 returnees from last season and should challenge Belleville for top honours in the Eastern Conference, especially if they can obtain the release from the Russian Hockey Federation for Columbus Blue Jackets' number-one 2008 draft pick Nikita Filatov, a prolific scorer.

Giudice was cautious when asked about the expectations for the Wolves, who will visit Brampton Monday afternoon to take on the Battalion.

"In the year we went to the finals, we finished in sixth place as the somewhat underdogs and it showed that anything can happen," said Giudice, who is working part-time as an embroidery company salesman and taking an on-line business course from Athabasca University.

"It's a big honour to be captain of this team, especially under Mike, a guy with a great NHL career and a successful coach in the American Hockey League. There's a

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**GEROME GIUDICE**



### Crossing swords

Natalie Meek (right) of Georgetown District High School's senior girls' field hockey team battles for the ball with a Bishop Reding opponent this past week in Halton Secondary School Athletic Association play. Despite several chances to score, the host Rebels had to settle for a scoreless draw.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

### Bantam Twisters win title

After dropping the first game of the Ohio Flames Ignite the Ice Girls' Hockey Tournament in Cleveland, the North Halton bantam BB Twisters rallied back to beat the Oakville Hornets in the championship game.

Preliminary round-Oakville Hornets 3, North Halton 1: Lindsay Logan (G); Alix Murray, Megan Wain (A).

North Halton 7, Buffalo Regals 0: Sarah DiGiallonardo (3G, 2A); Delaney McQueen (G, 3A); Jessica Hannan (G, 2A); Ashley DiCarlo (G, A); Hannah Hube (G); Alyssa Dodson, Lisa Laidlaw (2A); Murray, Sara Santos (A); Hannah Goss (SO).

North Halton 9, Perinton, N.Y. Edge 0: Megan Wain (3G, A); Hube (2G); Hannan, Vanessa Hartwick, Lisa Laidlaw, Santos (G, 2A); Rebecca Cameron, Dodson, Logan, McQueen (A); Goss (SO).

Semifinal—North Halton 4, Perinton Edge 1: Logan, Wain (2G); DiCarlo, Hube, Hartwick, Shani MacIsaac (A); Goss (W).

Championship—North Halton 7, Oakville Hornets 4: Wain (4G, A); Logan (G, A); McQueen, Laidlaw (G); MacIsaac (2A); Cameron, Dodson, DiCarlo Hube, Hartwick (A); Goss (W).



Netminder Hannah Goss recorded two shutouts and allowed just eight goals in five starts to help her North Halton Twisters win the bantamtitle at a recent hockey tournament in Ohio. Team members (front, from left) are: Megan Wain, Vanessa Hartwick. Second row: Rebecca Cameron, Ashley DiCarlo, Jessica Hannan, Delaney McQueen, Alyssa Dodson, Lisa Laidlaw, Sara Santos, Hannah Goss. Third row: Hannah Hube, coach Ken Hartwick, Lindsay Logan, Alix Murray, Shani MacIsaac, Sarah DiGiallonardo, trainer Cathy Logan, assistant coach Brian McQueen.

Submitted photo

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