

## Taylor was too much for Erindale

BRAMPTON — The Walt Jowett in defeat in Friday night's semi-final at Brampton Centennial was not quite the Peel western division basketball semi-final last year.

Last year, Jowett's Erindale Raiders lost a heart-breaker to the Kennedy Kougars to miss out on the title and this year the Raiders fell to the Brampton Bucs 60-53 to again assume the role of spectators at this Friday's Peel title game between Brampton and Gordon Graydon.

What was the difference? Well, last year Jowett was visibly disappointed. He had

an excellent team that couldn't win the "big" game. Man for man they were the equal of any team, only Kennedy had Rick Klacza. This year, the Raiders were an unknown quality — a "rebuilding year" as Jowett termed the club. He almost sported a smile as he walked to congratulate coach Bob McMurray of the Bucs.

**SATISFIED**

"A lot of people didn't figure us for the playoffs but here we are," he commented. "The boys are feeling low but I'm satisfied with the way they've come along. We gave Brampton a good run but (Glen) Taylor killed us."

Had another defeat in semi-final play dampened his spirits? "Well, it hurts a little. But remember, we beat Kennedy," he smiled.

Erindale nipped the rebuilding Kougars 47-46 in the battle to decide second place last Tuesday. It was the first "big" win for the Raiders in two years.

The young, inexperienced Raiders could not match the experience and the shooting of Taylor who had 34 for the winners, including 16 in the third quarter when the Bucs opened up a 20-point lead. It was something from which the Raiders never quite recovered.

Jowett has some impres-

sive youngsters to call upon next year. Shawn Dunn may bloom as one of the classiest in the league with another year under his belt. Brampton will lose Taylor through graduation. In other words, it's almost a do or die year for the Bucs who have relied on Taylor to carry most of the load all year.

**JITTERS**

Both teams displayed playoff jitters at the outset. Shooting on both sides was considerably off. Even though the Bucs carried a 23-17 lead into the second half, they had shot only 29 percent from the floor and Erindale was even lower than that. The Bucs had col-

lected 13 first-half points from fouls.

The fouls forced Jowett to use caution at a time when he needed aggressive play. Both Greg Keeping and Doug Gilpin, two of Raiders' top shooters and rebounders, left the game after fouling out in the exciting final quarter. At that moment, Erindale's momentum seemed to disappear. They were the victims of some erratic shooting in the final two minutes after they had stormed from well back to make the game interesting.

In the end it was the spectacular shooting of Taylor and his defensive play, which is as equal as his

offensive ability, which kept the Raiders at bay. He only had 11 points in the first half but was a one-man tyrant in the final 16 minutes. John Barlow was next with 10, all in the second quarter.

**KEN RAMSEY**

Ken Ramsey had his finest game in a Raider uniform with 21 points. He hooped 16 in the final half. Dunn was next with nine. Ron Hill and Rob Knight had eight and six respectively for the Bucs.

McMurray had difficulty in controlling his happiness. It was the first time for the Bucs in the final since North Peel schools joined South Peel schools three years ago. "I feel very good now," he said. "It got a little tense for a while though. We were up about 20 but when they came back, I got a little scared."

In two previous encounters, the Raiders had lost by just a single point in each of the games.

The Bucs lost Knight, their topnotch centre, through fouls in the fourth quarter and that hurt somewhat. McMurray didn't substitute much though. He basically went with his big five of Taylor, Knight, Hill, Barlow and Ron Moss.

Jowett kept a running shuttle from the bench to the court but he was often forced to substitute due to foul trouble. Everyone saw action for the Raiders.

The final is slated for Brampton Centennial Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Fans will be witnessing a battle between Taylor and Graydon's Doug Kitts. The Hawks have plenty of muscle, a big plus, but again, the Bucs have Taylor.



Brampton's John Barlow goes high in bid to score while three Erindale Raiders including bearded Steve Medlar attempt to haul him down. Bucs beat Raiders to win the west division title.

## Cool, confident Hawks toyed with Westwood

MISSISSAUGA — This just could be the year of the Hawk again... at least as far as the Peel County senior basketball story goes.

Gordon Graydon's senior Hawks moved into the finals against the powerful Brampton Bucs by virtue of their eastern division playoff victory last Friday night over the Westwood Wildcats.

The Hawks and Bucs tangle in the big championship game this Friday night at Brampton and if the Hawks can contain high-scoring Glen Taylor (which is no simple task) they can take the Peel County crown.

After the first quarter of

play last Friday evening, the Wildcats were really no match for the calm, cool and confident Graydon team. Led by Brian Duncan and Dave Waters, Westwood took an early lead in the opening quarter but they were simply unable to hold Graydon's dynamic duo. Len Platt and Doug Kitts, and the quarter ended with the Hawks holding an 18-16 lead.

Westwood tried but after that first quarter only tireless Greg Hooper managed to have much success with the solid Graydon defence.

Graydon led 38-27 at the half, increased their margin to 36-28 by the end of the third quarter and just con-

tinued to roll to a comfortable 75-52 final score.

**PLATT LEADS**

The Graydon offence was led by sharp-shooting Len Platt with 32 points; Doug Kitts with an even 20 and John Trawczynski with 13.

Hooper was Westwood's top man, as usual, with 20 points... 10 of them coming in the final quarter. Brian Duncan contributed 13 and Dave Waters added 10.

Aside from being their top scorer on the night, Platt also came up with a tremendous defensive effort, snaring rebounds like they were going out of sight.

As the game wore on, Westwood found themselves being forced to shoot from well out and Platt was always on the spot for the re-

bound. The Wildcats tried every manoeuvre to stop Platt but he just wasn't to be denied in this game.

Liners of only one game this season, the Hawks proved to be the strongest team in the east and truly earned their right to battle Brampton for the County crown this Friday.

Considering this was only their second year in the senior basketball loop, Westwood gave a tremendous showing. But, they are at least a year away from reaching the level shown by the smooth Hawk machine.

There is certainly no shame attached to the Westwood team for their defeat. They played hard and they played well... but they were up against a better club.

Top marks must go to young Greg Hooper of the Wildcats. Held to a pair of points in the first quarter, Hooper netted six in the second quarter and two more in the third. Trailing by 18 points going into the final quarter, Hooper just about wore himself right into the final quarter but still managed to come up with a sparkling 10-point quarter to keep the Wildcats in the game.

The Hawks were confident, and so they should be, after their eastern division victory. But this Friday it is all or nothing as the Hawks move into the home court of the Brampton Bucs to play for the Peel County championship.

It should be a great game.

### What's New In Sports

By BRYAN CANTLEY

Westwood Secondary, stuck away up there in the far north-east corner of Mississauga (Malton to be exact), has suddenly turned into a basketball magnet which has championship-producing potential for years to come.

The senior team shocked the experts by finishing second with only two losses after last year's dismal record and people around the school are saying the team is just a year from winning a championship. They lost to powerful Gordon Graydon in the east semi-final but they were certainly not shamed by the loss. It took only two years to get this far, that is how long the senior team has been in existence.

Then there's the case of both the Westwood midget and junior basketball teams battling for Peel County basketball titles Thursday night at Brampton Centennial. Westwood's junior team is so strong, it could very well have held its own in the senior loop and many of these stars will be graduating to senior ranks next year.

The midget team has some fine ball players such as Vic Risinger and Claudio Manzato who will be moving up to replate juniors who graduate to the senior squad. It's creating a happy cycle that is taking Westwood by storm.

**New blood for school sports**

Westwood has enjoyed some lean years in other sports including football which they care not to talk about but they now have something that has injected mounds of spirit into the relatively new school. — It's somewhat gratifying to see Westwood doing so well. Established schools such as Graydon, Port Credit, Applewood and Bramalea have had a monopoly on the sports scene in the east division and new blood is always good for interest's sake.

Westwood appears to be a good bet for the junior title against Erindale although Erindale will be content to pull off another upset as they did to Lorne Park. The midget battle between Lorne Park and Westwood could be close but, again, the edge has to go to Westwood because of Risinger, a ballplayer who shows plenty of poise for a youngster.

**Graydon may have edge**

In the senior final, Graydon could have an edge due to a greater balance. Brampton Centennial keys on their big man, Glen Taylor, who can singlehandedly destroy any one team and he has done so to the west's previous powers, Kennedy and Erindale.

Graydon hasn't had the competition Brampton has received all year and that's about their only drawback. The Bucs have been honed to a fine point by playing in topnotch tournaments and they are not about to allow their one-big chance at all the marbles to slip away.

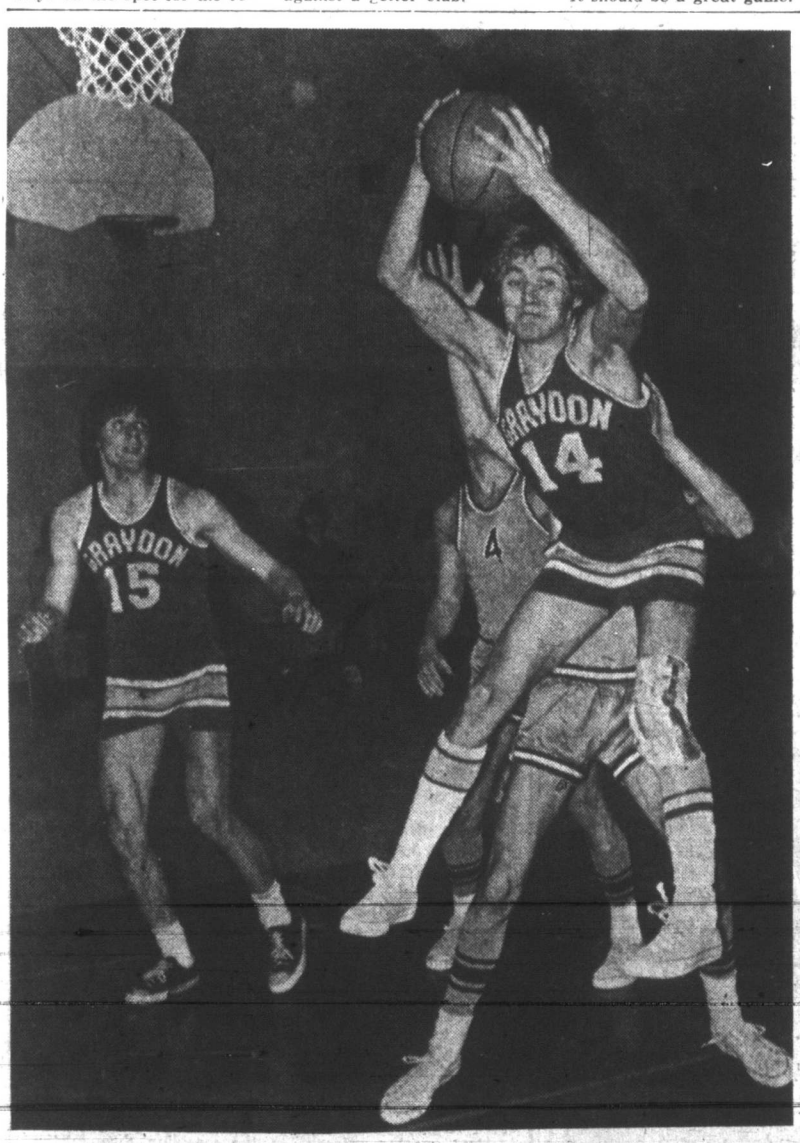
Graydon can muscle a team into submission. Len Platt is possibly the best rebounder in Peel County and recently he has shown a penchant for scoring points as well.

It should be interesting. Each team has its own style and they've been effective all year.

**Dixie may have peaked too early**

There's some fear that the Dixie BeeHives may have peaked too early. In the past seven games the Bees have lost four of them and have looked very ordinary rather than like the classy machine they were earlier in the year.

They've still shown their typical ability to score bundles of goals but their defensive record, and it's not the fault of the defence units, has been simply terrible. The forwards have been so content with spending their time in the offensive zone they've virtually forgotten about the other half of the ice.



John Trawczynski (14) of the Graydon Hawks has a classic expression after snatching a rebound from a Westwood player. Len Platt, Hawks top scorer in the win, is an interested bystander. Hawks meet Brampton at Brampton Friday night.

(Times Photo by Stan Harwood)

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