- THE DIGITAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF RAIDERS HOCKEY -

THE RAIDER

ISSUE I

Erik Piatak

2021 SPRING CUP

NIHL NATIONAL

#RAIDERSHOCKEY

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Sunday 21st February 2021 - 5:00pm face off

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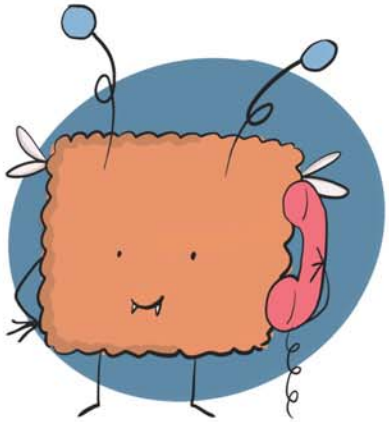

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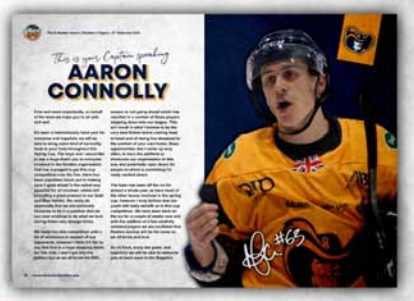

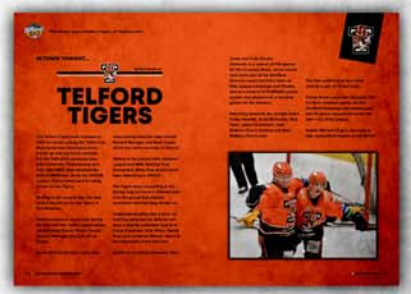

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EVERY FRIDAY

POOLING OUR RESOURCES

Hello good evening and welcome: The five words I use to greet the readers of this publication every week but words we thought would not be overused again till September 2021.

Let's start by hoping that you and yours are all well, have remained safe, and have not suffered too badly from the effects of this pandemic. I would like to say "not suffered at all", but clearly that is an impossible wish. With luck our scientists and medical profession have this damned virus on the run now and by September we hope we will be able to welcome at least 50% capacity crowds safely back into our rinks. Fingers crossed.

Those that follow our web site and social media will be aware of some of the activities behind the scenes after 19-20 season was cut short. The management and ownership teams are probably more familiar with each other now than at any time in UK hockey and this will I hope be one of the few good things to come out of the last 11 months. I suspect most of us have gone from a position of not having heard of Zoom to now almost living our lives on it! I have no doubt that when things return to "normality" that our regular meetings in the middle of the country are going to be far less frequent now we have seen the benefits of on-line meetings.

The teams share a vision and a passion to keep the sport on a level footing and sustainability in every venue into the open door future. That is a big "ask" when venue sizes and crowd sizes are so diverse between teams. The last few months has seen an unprecedented amount of data sharing and assistance between the teams and I have no doubt that getting to the position we are now, about to start a cup competition, is related to that cooperation between teams. Long may it continue.

We had a number of false dawns before getting to the Spring Cup series. Pilot games were planned and missed. League starts were planned and missed. Each time another set of ambitions were set out the pandemic took another twist, tiers were introduced and lockdowns re-enforced. Getting Elite Sports status for training undoubtedly assisted creating the right mind set and protections in place and operating a game within a closed doors environment is an extension of everything learned in that process.

As the Raiders fans reading this will have seen we have kept a team largely unchanged from the one that travelled to Telford on 15th March 2020. Sean has been working constantly behind the scenes and with the on-off nature of the games for months has done well to keep faith and patience. Likewise we are pleased to see the players have stuck with it and the reward at last is some relief from the boredom of not playing hockey.

Michael Gray is trying to step down and whilst he is making himself available in the event of emergencies the starting pairing of Ethan James and Brad Windebank will do duties between the pipes.

Ben Solder has joined from his North American exploits having started in the Chelmsford system many years ago. Another "local" player now to find their way down the A12.

Olegs is focussing more on his strong man competitions and Blaho is

not due to return from coaching in Norway till the new season starts in September. Ably filling their roles will be Zach Sullivan and Liam Stewart was to take Blahos spot but as we will have announced a few days ago Liam needs to get a knee issue sorted before he can appear. We wish him luck with this and hope he can get back playing soon.

Logistics, quarantine, work permits and accommodation were amongst the obstacles that mean that Lukas will also not be available till the September start and Juraj Huska needs no introduction as the sharp shooter to fill our second overseas trained slot.

Most recently former Romford junior Glenn Billing has been allowed a loan period by Peterborough so again it is great to see even more of the Romford heritage back at "home".

The rest of the squad is pretty well as announced during the summer when we were hoping for a September or October return to action. Ross Connolly and Callum Burnett both returning after nasty injuries and Tommy Huggett progressing onto more senior ice time with Harry Gulliver also returning home after a spell across the pond.

As many of you will have read and perhaps seen during last weekend's games between Sheffield and Swindon the other teams have also added a few extra players to their rosters and a lot of these are British players from the Elite league who also represent team GB. This is going to provide an excellent chance for our lads to match themselves against some of the best players they will have faced before and can only help in their development and experience for the next full league season. Team GB has an important test in the World Championships in May and I am sure the sports associations felt that giving these players a chance to play together was an important issue.

So we have finally made it onto the ice for the Spring Cup series which is expected to be shown in its entirety with doors closed and live streaming on a pay per view basis. It is very unlikely that any changes in the UK Covid situation will influence that closed door policy in this initial series. The Spring Cup will take us through to the end of March and as that date approaches I am aware that there are hopes to be able to extend the action into a mini league running through April and May. Perhaps other teams will join the famous five that are in the Spring Cup? Whether that proves viable or not will be down to the fortunes and logistics for the teams and rinks absent from this first phase. Hopefully the five teams that have taken part in this first phase will all be able to return for a second.

In a normal season we have plenty to be grateful for in terms of the support that gets us to the start of a league campaign. This season is no different and I am indebted to Sean for all the work he does almost constantly for the team. Paul Windebank has been his normal self, designing all the kit, rink boards, graphics and setting up and running the 50:50 and shirt off the back together with his normal fine work designing the booklet you are reading now. If you like what you see he does this for a number of other sports teams so would be more than happy to assist you.

Dave Leach and Louis Capps have been on the case for player registrations so thank you to them again.

Mel completed her normal work with the own and loan and on that subject thanks to all our amazing own and loan sponsors. Our three shirt team once again have a sponsor's name on every single shirt! Amazing support!

We have some more commercial sponsors and whilst we will speak in length about them all in future editions we would urge you to explore the web site a little and see for yourself what a great range of services they offer between them.

Our off ice team did not hesitate to step forward in rather unusual circumstances to resume their roles supporting the games. So thanks to Bill Cooper, Ray Fitzhugh, Brendon Crowley, Glenn Chamberlain, Catherine Burnett, Matt Udall, Malcolm Burnett, Paul Ludlow, Danny Oxley and to Graham Ford and Mel Treagust. These guys and gals will be judging goals, keeping time, videoing action, announcing and commentating and keeping the social media platforms topped up with up to date information!

And finally to you guys ~~in the stands~~ on your sofas, eating pizza, drinking beer and wine and keeping warm and cosy. If you are reading this then there is a fair chance you are about to wrestle with your password and settle back in front of a laptop or connect to your TV. We hope you enjoy the different experience enough to tune in again next week, when hopefully for your sake my words will be much shorter.

Enjoy the game.

John S

- HEAD COACH -

SEAN EASTON

Good evening and unfortunately whilst it is not welcome back to the Sapphire in person it is welcome back to hockey from the Sapphire with the start of our Spring Cup games all to be held behind closed doors.

As I am sure it will have been mentioned on more than one occasion already I would like to reiterate comments hoping all our Raiders fans and hockey fans tuned in are keeping safe and well.

During the course of the pandemic we continued to sign our team and move forward as if it would be any regular off-season and we have done our upmost to enter this cup competitiion with that same line-up. Unfortunately we will be without Blaho (Novak) and (Lukas) Sladkovsky for these run of games, but have added to our roster with what we believe to be the right thing in recruiting local players to us, not breaking the bank in the process.

An extraordinary amount of work has been crammed in behind the scenes to ensure all protocols and safety measures are met to allow these games to take place in the safety manner possible.

Moving on to the on ice activities and last night we began our 'season' where last season was ended by the pandemic, in Telford. I guess both myself and Tom (Watkins) will both feel that we deserved to win the game and personally if our powerplay had been slightly sharper and maybe a couple of games into this series we would have converted on a couple more of those opportunities and taken the points.

Tonight is a new game and we start afresh and see what we can do tonight. Thanks for tuning in, enjoy the game and get behind the boys virtually.

This is your Captain speaking

AARON CONNOLLY

First and most importantly, on behalf of the team we hope you're all safe and well.

It's been a tremendously hard year for everyone and hopefully we will be able to bring some kind of normality back to your lives throughout this Spring Cup. The boys and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Raiders organisation that has managed to get this cup competition over the line, there has been countless hours put in making sure it goes ahead in the safest way possible for all involved, whilst still providing a great product to our Gold and Blue faithful. We really do appreciate that we are extremely fortunate to be in a position that we can now continue to do what we love during these very strange times.

We head into this competition with a lot of unknowns in respect of our opponents, however I think it's fair to say that this is a huge stepping stone for this club. I won't get into the politics but as we all know the EIHL season is not going ahead which has resulted in a number of those players stepping down into our league. This will result in what I believe to be the very best British talent coming head to head and all being live streamed to the comfort of your own home, these opportunities don't come up very often, to have the platform to showcase our organisation in this way and potentially open doors for people involved is something I'm really excited about.

The team has been off the ice for almost a whole year, as have most of the other teams involved in the spring cup, however I truly believe that our youth will really benefit us in this cup competition. We have been back on the ice for a couple of weeks now and with the addition of a few carefully selected players we are confident that Raiders hockey will be the same as we all know and love.

So sit back, enjoy the game, and hopefully we will be able to welcome you all back soon to the Sapphire.

IN TOWN TONIGHT...

By Mark Rackham

TELFORD TIGERS

The Telford Tigers were founded in 1985 but teams calling the Telford Ice Rink home have not always been known by that particular moniker. For the 1999-2000 campaign they were called the Timberwolves and from 2001-2005 were renamed the Telford Wildfoxes. Since the 2005-06 season, Telford went back to being known as the Tigers.

Moving to the present day, the man behind the bench for the Tigers is Tom Watkins.

Watkins has worn many hats during his time with the Telford organisation, namely Head Coach, Player-Coach, General Manager and Director of Coach.

Since 2018 the Durham native has concurrently held the roles of both General Manager and Head Coach which has led to success on the ice.

Telford is the current NIHL National League and NIHL National Cup Champions, titles they should have been defending in 2020-21.

The Tigers team competing in the Spring Cup will have a different look from the group that claimed silverware last time they hit the ice.

Goaltender Bradley Day is back to tend the twine but his defense will have a slightly unfamiliar look to it. Corey Goodison, Nick Oliver, Daniel Rose and Jonathan Weaver return to form the basis of the blue line.

Additions are David Clements, Sam Jones and Cole Shudra.
Clements is a veteran of 245 games for the Coventry Blaze, Jones would have been part of the Sheffield Steelers squad had there been an Elite League campaign and Shudra, who is a product of Sheffield's youth system and played over a hundred games for the Steelers.

Returning forwards are Joseph Aston, Finley Howells, Scott McKenzie, Rick Plant, Jason Silverthorn, Jack Watkins (Tom's brother) and Sam Watkins (Tom's son).

The four additions to the roster include a pair of 19 year-olds.

Keiran Brown recorded 34 points (10-24-34) in nineteen games for the Sheffield Steeldogs last season and has 55 games experience under his belt in the Elite League.

Austin Mitchell-King is returning to play competitive hockey in the UK for

the first time since 2017-18. The Warwick native has spent time playing prep school hockey in Canada. He represented Great Britain U20's in the last world championships, recording five points in as many games.

Ross Venus joins Telford from the Coventry Blaze for whom he recorded single-season career-high numbers in the last campaign. The 26-year-old registered 37 points in 47 games, including fifteen goals. He will provide some leadership on his new team having worn the 'A' the last two years in Coventry.

Ashley Calvert has spent the last nine years as a Sheffield Steeldog but it will doubtless be odd for the 29-year-old to face his old team in the Spring Cup. The left-winger spent time in Nottingham and Leeds last season and has something of a point to prove.

Just when you thought the Tigers had completed their roster a couple of late additions were installed in netminder Jordan Hedley and forward Robert Lachowicz.

Hedley has been drafted into the team due to back up netminder Zack Brown being unable to attend practice due to being forced to self isolate.

Hedley has recent Elite League experience having iced for the Coventry Blaze for the past two seasons.

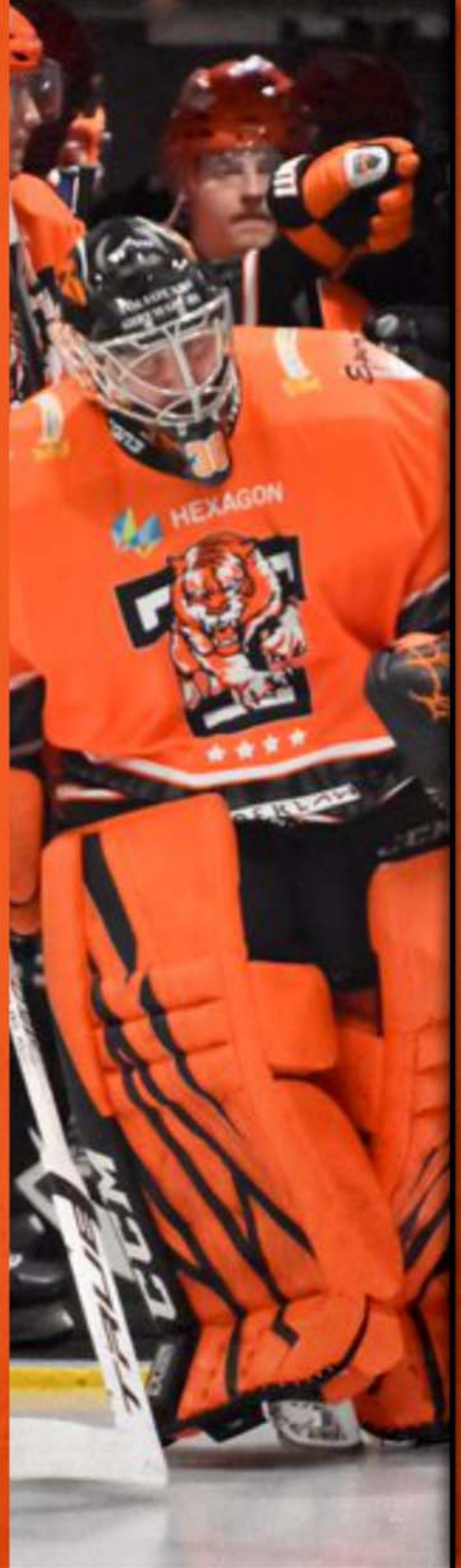
Lachowicz has played a majority of his career with the Elite League Nottingham Panthers and has been a regular member of the Great Britain team. At 31 years of age he will bring a huge amount of experience to the Tigers throughout the Spring Cup.

It is not like the Tigers required much more experience with three players in their roster over the age of 40. Jonathan Weaver (44), Rick Plant (43) and Jason Silverthorn (41).

Tigers took game one last night of this home and away double by the odd goal in five. Watkins will be hoping for his penalty killers to be used less tonight having had to kill a number of minors and a major penalty.

Both teams will be better for shaking off any rustiness they may have had after the game yesterday so I think we are in for just as good a game this evening if not better.

Anyone who watched the game last night and thought this may turn out to be an exhibition type tournament saw the complete opposite.



Photograph by - Steve Brodie

ONE 2 WATCH

BRAD DAY

The former Sheffield Steelers netminder led the Tigers to the inaugural National Ice Hockey League title last season, just in time before the Coronavirus pandemic put a halt to the remainder of the season.

In his first full season as a starting goalie, Day played in 47 of the Tigers games, facing 1,709 shots, allowing 171 goals for a save percentage of 89.99%, which was in the top 5 in the goalie stats for last season.

Day spent a number of seasons in the Elite League with the Steelers totalling 24 games played, but at the age of 26 it is now the perfect time for him to be a legitimate starting goalie, and for some years to come.

But for the premature end to last season, who would have bet against Day backstopping his Tigers team to the treble, having earlier in the season won the cup followed by being crowned Champions the day before the initial lockdown.

Can Day bring last seasons form into the Spring Cup? He certainly did last night with a great performance.

HEAD 2 HEAD

Statistics provided by Dave Leach

62

GAMES PLAYED BETWEEN THESE TWO TEAMS ALL-TIME

688

TOTAL NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS IN ALL GAMES AGAINST EACH OTHER

34

OF THOSE GAMES HAVE BEEN WON BY THE RAIDERS

362

IS THE NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED BY THE RAIDERS AGAINST TELFORD

24

WON BY TEAMS FROM TELFORD THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN 4 DRAWS

326

GOALS HAVE BEEN SCORED BY TELFORD IN ALL GAMES THEY HAVE PLAYED AGAINST RAIDERS

HIGHEST SCORES RECORDED AGAINST EACH OTHER

RAIDERS 20 TIGER ROAYLS 1 - 17th February 2001

TIGERS 13 RAIDERS 4 - 12th November 1994

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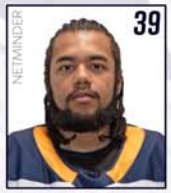


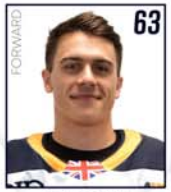
ETHAN JAMES
- NATHAN LAMB
- MICHELLE SPIGHT
- LYNN DELDERFIELD

ZACH SULLIVAN
- ADRIAN CROXALL
- DEAN CROSS
- LAURENCE THORN

-
-
- JAYNE & JAXON
- TOM FLETCHER
- MITCH CORBETT

ERIK PIATAK
- BILLY PRATER
- CHRIS & THE OLD MAN
- RAY FITZHUGH

SEAN BARRY
- DAVE IN THE BIN
- MITCHELL, RYAN & LUCAS
- THE YOUNGS

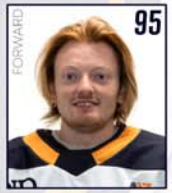


AARON CONNOLLY
- IN MEMORY OF BRENDA
- THE BAYLEY BROTHERS
- BOB DELDERFIELD

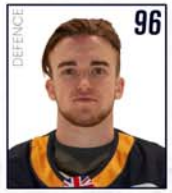
ROSS CONNOLLY
- CHLOE MASTERSON
- TONY CLAXTON
- ALAN WHITE

TOMMY HUGGETT
- THE TILBROOKS
- BLUE MANTIS BAND
- CAZ STAMMERS

JURAJ HUSKA
- THE SPIGHT FAMILY
- ADRIAN CROXALL
- ROGER FORD



JACOB RANSON
- JOHN HATTAM
- ANDREW SWEENEY & TISHA PRENTICE
- BILLY PREATER



BEN SOLDER
- AMBER & CHARLIE
- THE UDALLS
- PAUL & SUMMER

- BEHIND THE BENCH -

SEAN EASTON

ALAN BLYTH

ANTHONY LEONE

MICHELLE SPIGHT

COVID 19 TOOK MY HOCKEY AWAY

By Craig Simpson

Sunday March 15 2020 was the last time I was in an ice rink. Billingham Stars v Solihull Barons in NIHL North 1 and we knew things were changing in the world, hockey games were being cancelled despite government advice that it was safe to keep playing.

At the end of the game - a Billingham win - everyone was sort of looking ahead to the post season while at the same time thinking we might have seen the last game of the season.

Less than 24 hours after the buzzer in Billingham, all hockey was cancelled for the foreseeable future and we entered lockdown a week after that.

We missed out on post season hockey and finals, Conference weekend, junior finals, womens finals. Great Britain versus Canada in Nottingham - gone. World Championships - gone.

For many players and fans we never got the chance to end our season properly, and to this date we still haven't really done so.

Over the summer there was a constant stream of guidelines, return to play protocols. With the virus believed to be more dangerous in cold, damp conditions it meant ice rinks were forced to close for months. Team sports were a risk, indoor team sports even more so and hockey paid the price.

Players forced into online training, zoom sessions, ball hockey or inline skates to keep some sort of skill development going. Everyone adapted and made the best of things but the big part of the sport is the social side, the people, meeting up over a beverage to talk hockey. Online just isn't the same.

From an organisation point of view, strong links were made with government bodies such as Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Sport England were on the directors' speed dial.

The EIHA in particular took the lead with some funds obtained to cover the loss of the last quarter of the 19/20 season. Working with other sport governing bodies such as ice skating, curling, basketball - and approaching government as a joint group to canvass for sport to be allowed back as quickly and safely as possible.

In early summer a roadmap was drawn up with a hope that competitive hockey could return at the back end of the calendar year.

"Yet one ingredient is still missing... fans in the stands."

Without making this a political column, we know how the situation developed in the autumn with the much predicted second (and third) wave.

Rinks reopened, training recommenced, timetables were drawn up for fuller return to play. We had the Streaming Series in NIHL National to show that hockey could be played safely in a covid-secure way.

Junior test games were played... and then overnight were withdrawn again as a second lockdown came into being.

Working with DCMS and Sport England and other governing bodies, the EIHA secured the possibility of elite status for top two divisions of mens and womens senior hockey, while junior hockey was suspended again. Frustration all round at all levels.

And now here we are in February. Elite status teams are allowed to play competitive games, the NIHL National has the Spring Cup. NIHL North has confirmed a series of games, NIHL South and WNIHL should be around the corner.

Regular testing of players has been secured to add to the covid-secure protocols for the games, bringing the sport back as safely as possible.

Yet one ingredient is still missing... fans in the stands.

The hope remains that as the vaccination levels rise, the infection levels fall and the government plots a way out of lockdown the fans can return to rinkside and our sport will come back, at all levels.

It's been 342 days since I was in a rink, likely going to be over a year once things return towards a normal. The sport will come back, the people will come back.

We've come this far looking in from the outside, just a short while more.

MATCH ACTION

TIGERS 3

RAIDERS 2

NIHL SPRING CUP - Saturday 20th February 2021

Everyone Active Raiders were edged out by defending National League champions Telford in their opening match of the Spring Cup competition, held behind closed doors on Saturday.

Having not played for close to a year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Raiders handed debuts to Zach Sullivan, Harry Gulliver, Glenn Billing and Ben Solder, as captain Aaron Connolly made his 100th appearance in a gold and blue jersey.

And following a minutes silence, the action got underway with Ash Calvert having the first shot of the night for the hosts.

Connolly was called for interference in the fourth minute, handing Tigers a powerplay, and Billing had a shorthanded chance for the visitors, but Brad Day made the save.

A hooking penalty against Connolly handed the hosts a second man advantage in the seventh minute, with veteran Jonathan Weaver sending a long hard shot wide of the mark.

But Raiders were then given a powerplay chance of their own as Scott McKenzie was called for holding in the 11th minute, only for a bench minor penalty for having too many men on the ice a minute later to leave the sides skating 4-on-4. And Tigers, once back to full strength, made their extra man count as Cole Shudra opened the scoring at 13:38.

Ethan James denied Joe Aston a second after a quick break, before Kieran Brown was binned for slashing to hand Raiders another powerplay chance.

But they could not convert as Shudra's goal remained the difference between the two sides at the first break, although Raiders began the middle session on the powerplay after Brown was given a penalty for kneeing at the 20-minute mark.

Telford's penalty-killers did their job once more after the restart, with Day denying a good shot from Juraj Huska, and it was 2-0 at 23:45 as David Clements fired home from the blue line.

James made a good save from Calvert soon after, with both sides then picking up minor penalties in the 27th minute and a cross-checking call against Daniel Rose giving Raiders a 4-on-3 powerplay chance.

And they opened their account 45 seconds into their man advantage as former Romford junior Gulliver claimed his first goal as a Raider with an impressive finish at 28:36, assisted by Erik Piatak and Dan Scott.

The joy was shortlived, though, as Telford restored their two-goal lead just 32 seconds later through Brown, before Jack Watkins was called for tripping just past the game's midway point.

Raiders went back on the powerplay when Aston was assessed an interference penalty with five minutes remaining in the period, with captain Connolly forcing Day into a block after being set up by Piatak.

James made a stick save on Calvert at the other end of the rink, before Billing and Ayliffe attacked dangerously and Ross Connolly fired wide from the blue line.

And James thwarted Watkins late in the period, before Scott's shot on a Raiders powerplay was saved by Day, after Mitchell-King was called for hooking.

Further penalties followed to both sides at the start of the final stanza, with Jacob Ranson having a shot from the left wing for Raiders before Telford lost Mitchell-King to a 5+game penalty for boarding.

And although Day denied Ayliffe during the major powerplay, Raiders cut the gap to one soon after the penalty expired through Billing, with an assist to Ross Connolly.

A holding penalty against Plant handed Raiders another powerplay chance, with Piatak firing just wide, but James had to make a good save from Brown's wristshot at the other end after Telford returned to five skaters.

Jake Sylvester had a right-wing shot blocked by Day with less than four minutes to play and, despite pulling James for an extra skater in the final minute, Raiders could not get back on level terms.

Match Report by - Recorder Sport

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Raiders

11 Harry GULLIVER

- ON THIS DAY -
21st FEBRUARY

Raiders last played a game on 21st February in 2016, when they travelled to Gillingham and lost a South East Trophy game 7-0 to the Invicta Dynamos, with Damien King and Glenn Rodbourne sharing the shut out.

In total Raiders have played on this date on seven occasions, winning three and losing four, including one in overtime, scoring 29 goals and conceding 35.

In six league games on this date, Raiders have beaten Oxford City Stars 11-8 in 1988; Medway Bears 6-5 in 1993; and Wightlink Raiders 6-3 in 2015. League losses have come against Blackburn Hawks 0-3 in 1999; Bracknell Bees 1-2 after overtime in 2009; and against Peterborough Phantoms 5-7 in 2010.

RAIDERS MILESTONES

BRANDON AYLIFFE - needs four points to become the 54th player to score 100 points in all competitions for the Raiders.

JJ PITCHLEY - is six appearances away from becoming the 18th player to make 250 appearances in all competitions for Raiders.

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Raiders Glenn Billing denied by Tigers goalie Brad Day late in last night's 3-2 loss in Telford.
Photograph by - Steve Brodie

Jack Love on HOCKEY

My annual advice, mainly aimed at newcomers to Raiders games, to "expect the unexpected" never fails but who could have guessed what was about to happen to our sport some 11 months ago when our season and everybody else's was brought to a shuddering halt by what was then only referred to as the Corona virus which had only recently reached our shores. Nearly a year has gone by and we are hopefully coming to terms with this deadly contagion and finally Raiders along with Tigers, Bees, Steeldogs and Wildcats are once again able to put on their skates and recommence battle, this time in the Spring Cup. For supporters, it will be a new way to watch Raiders home games and for the first time our match day programme 'The Raider' will be an all digital affair.

In North America the NHL continued to see out its 2019-20 season albeit with no spectators present and with teams being placed in a bubble with testing daily. After a summer break a new season began for junior sides in the USA but almost immediately hit a big Covid-19 problem. A youth hockey coach died from the virus in August and as soon as the season began a huge number of outbreaks within the teams was apparent and one asymptomatic referee exposed up to 400 people in just 2 days. Leagues were suspended, teams quarantined and there was a rush to get players tested. Different states took differing approaches but it was soon apparent that ice hockey spread the virus much faster than field sports. It was argued the reason was that ice rinks may trap the virus at around head level due to the restricted air flow, temperature and humidity. Only players taking face-offs had to wear masks and this was to prove a poor decision in a sport where there is much contact, players skating at full pace much of the time on the ice and frequently changing lines. Another theory was that in the chilly conditions the air became stratified with the virus carrying level being in a band 6-9 feet above the playing surface. Similar conditions in cold stores and at curling games had also resulted in increased levels of infection. Overall, some 1.3 million children in the USA had tested positive for Corona virus during the pandemic with a staggering 154,000 diagnosed in one week in November.

In general, the United States took a somewhat laid-back approach to handling the Corona pandemic and while some states restricted ice hockey others had far fewer restrictions resulting in parents taking their kids to wherever they could play hockey without restriction. Their view being that their offspring have a God give right to play whichever sport they want and when they want. Tests showed that in the confined area of an ice rink surrounded by plexiglass and kept at a nominal temperature for skating the virus could exist up to twice as long compared with air at higher summer like temperatures. Amateur ice hockey in the USA continues amid worrying levels of Corona virus.

British ice hockey has always been good at conjuring up some form of some previously unheard of cup competition to fill in a gap in the season's fixture list. When I first got involved with the Raiders there was the Essex Cup fought out with Chelmsford Chieftains who in April 1988 became the first competitive team to beat Romford Raiders. The following season saw us compete in the Autumn Trophy along with Medway Bears, Richmond Flyers and Lee Valley Lions. By 1990 we were pitched into the Norwich Union Cup which brought about some attractive fixtures against superior opposition with the likes of Durham Wasps and Nottingham Panthers visiting our Rom Valley Way rink. Autumn cup competitions came and went but in 1992 a well known cigarette brand sponsored the B&H Cup which did have a higher profile than previous cup competitions and continued for some years. In 1993 we also had the Southern Cup while the Essex Cup made appearances as and when Raiders and Chieftains could find time to lock horns at the season end. Since those days the cup competitions we have been involved with have been very much league cup games where we play the others in our league with, in some seasons, games counting as league & cup fixtures. Cup triumphs for Raiders have amounted to little more than being English Premier Cup winners in 2001-02 and 2004-05 while the earlier mentioned Essex Cup has changed hands on a number of occasions since the first time when Chieftains beat Raiders 8-6 at the Riverside rink on 9th April 1988 but were overwhelmed 7-1 at Rom Valley Way two days later giving Raiders a 13-9 aggregate victory.

Bruce's ACTIVITY PAGE

T	T	D	L	E	F	T	Y	L	O	W	R	M	O	T
O	A	E	S	I	X	F	Z	F	W	E	D	A	G	D
M	S	T	Y	U	F	C	N	L	K	F	R	R	T	J
A	Z	E	S	H	O	S	K	O	E	A	T	S	H	B
L	A	L	Z	I	A	H	O	S	A	W	A	H	F	Z
I	I	L	F	L	T	L	N	V	S	R	V	A	J	I
N	T	F	G	D	G	T	O	E	L	J	E	L	U	M
H	M	U	X	S	S	T	A	Y	E	V	K	L	Z	V
S	O	U	I	C	H	B	T	B	H	R	Y	A	D	V
D	J	J	X	E	Q	B	T	L	I	J	G	D	V	Q
D	U	Z	L	N	G	V	C	C	R	D	L	D	P	U
K	U	H	C	Y	O	W	Y	L	Y	G	V	K	I	Y
L	Z	E	S	N	N	M	A	X	L	L	V	Q	N	E
S	I	M	N	O	R	X	V	X	N	S	T	T	T	S
I	C	X	E	U	R	S	U	K	S	O	T	Z	N	N

WORDSEARCH - CUP WINNERS

- DOUGLAS
- SIMNOR
- TOMALIN
- YTFELDT
- DIBATTISTA
- LOOKER
- LOW
- MARSHALL
- GYLYWOYCHUK
- GREENHOUS
- LEHTOVAARA

DID YOU KNOW? Kamil Vavra, who played 6 times for the Raiders in 2009-10 has played the last 4 seasons in Kuwait for the Kuwait Falcons.

1. Who scored Raiders first goal in the Sapphire?

2. What additional colour did Raiders add to their shirts for a season in the 90's?

3. How many players have played 400+ games for the Raiders?

4. How many Canadians have played for The Raiders since 1987?

5. Who is the only import to captain the Raiders?

Answers on page 44

WHICH RAIDER AM I?

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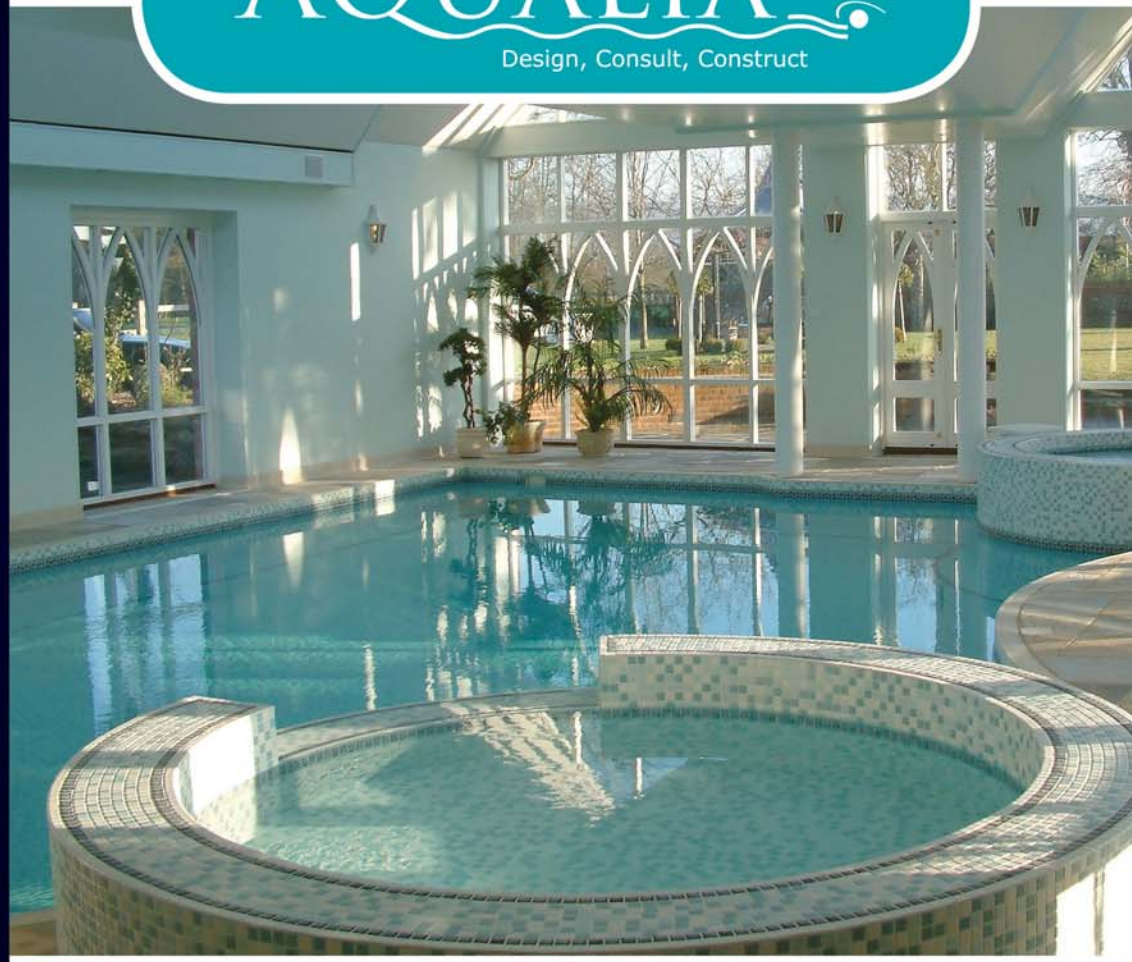

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GAME BY GAME

Saturday 13th February 2021

Game 1 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	4	1	1	2	-
STEELDOGS	5	1	1	3	-

Shots On Goal - R. Marr (Wildcats) 36/2, Zimozdra (Steeldogs) 17/2
Penalty Minutes - Wildcats 18, Steeldogs 14

Sunday 14th February 2021

Game 2 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	4	3	1	0	-
WILDCATS	2	0	1	1	-

Shots On Goal - Zimozdra (Steeldogs) 40/2, J. Marr (Wildcats) 48/4
Penalty Minutes - Steeldogs 6, Wildcats 2

Saturday 20th February 2021

Game 3 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	6	1	3	2	-
BEES	2	0	1	1	-

Shots On Goal - R. Marr (Wildcats) 27/2, Goss 23/4 D. Milton (Bees) 10/2
Penalty Minutes - Wildcats 16, Bees 8

Saturday 20th February 2021

Game 4 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	3	1	2	0	-
RAIDERS	2	0	1	1	-

Shots On Goal - Day (Tigers) 39/1, James (Raiders) 31/3
Penalty Minutes - Tigers 45, Raiders 10

Sunday 21st February 2021

Game 5 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 21st February 2021

Game 6 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 27th February 2021

Game 7 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-
BEES	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 27th February 2021

Game 8 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 28th February 2021

Game 9 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 28th February 2021

Game 10 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 6th March 2021

Game 12 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 6th March 2021

Game 13 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-
BEES	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 7th March 2021

Game 14 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 7th March 2021

Game 15 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 13th March 2021

Game 16 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 13th March 2021

Game 17 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 14th March 2021

Game 18 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 14th March 2021

Game 19 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Friday 19th March 2021

Game 20 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 20th March 2021

Game 21 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 20th March 2021

Game 22 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 20th March 2021

Game 23 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 21st March 2021

Game 24 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-
BEES	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 21st March 2021

Game 25 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Wednesday 24th March 2021

Game 27 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 27th March 2021

Game 28 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-
BEES	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Saturday 27th March 2021

Game 29 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
TIGERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 28th March 2021

Game 30 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Sunday 28th March 2021

Game 31 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
STEELDOGS	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Date To Be Confirmed

Game 32 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-
BEES	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

Date To Be Confirmed

Game 33 - Scores	FS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT
BEES	-	-	-	-	-
RAIDERS	-	-	-	-	-

Shots On Goal -
Penalty Minutes -

LIAM **KIRK**

Photograph by - Podium Prints

STATISTICS

LEAGUE STANDINGS - AS AT 20th FEBRUARY 2021

Pos	Team	GP	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Home	Away
1	STEELDOGS	2	2	0	0	9	6	4	1-0-0	1-0-0
2	WILDCATS	3	1	2	0	12	11	2	1-1-0	0-1-0
3	TIGERS	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	1-0-0	0-0-0
4	RAIDERS	1	0	1	0	2	3	0	0-0-0	0-1-0
5	BEES	1	0	1	0	2	6	0	0-0-0	0-1-0

GP = Games Played. W = Wins. L = Losses. OTL = Overtime Losses. GF = Goals For. GA = Goals Against
PTS = Points. Home = Home Record. Away = Away Record.

POWERPLAY - AS AT 20th FEBRUARY 2021

Pos	Team	PPG	PPO	PP%
1	BEES	1	3	33.33%
2	STEELDOGS	2	7	28.57%
3	WILDCATS	3	12	25.00%
4	TIGERS	1	4	25.00%
5	RAIDERS	1	10	10.00%

PPG = Powerplay Goals. PPO = Powerplay Opportunities.
PP% = Powerplay Percentage

PENALTY KILL - AS AT 20th FEBRUARY 2021

Pos	Team	PPGA	PPOA	PK%
1	TIGERS	1	10	90.00%
2	BEES	1	4	75.00%
3	RAIDERS	1	4	75.00%
4	STEELDOGS	2	8	75.00%
5	WILDCATS	3	10	70.00%

PPGA = Powerplay Goals Against. PPOA = Powerplay Opportunities Against.
PK% = Penalty Kill Percentage

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PLAYER STATISTICS

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS
Liam **Kirk**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**6**
Ben **Davies**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**4**
Jordan **Kelsall**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**4**
Aaron **Nell**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**4**
Ben **O'Connor**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**4**
Alex **Graham**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**
Jonathan **Phillips**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**3**
Reed **Sayers**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**3**
Josh **Batch**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**2**
Jason **Hewitt**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**

GP = Games Played. G = Goals. A = Assists. PTS = Points

GOALIE STATISTICS

Player	Team	GP	SA	GA	GA.AV	SVP
Brad **Day**	**Tigers**	**1**	**39**	**1**	**1.00**	**.949%**
Renny **Marr**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**75**	**6**	**3.00**	**.920%**
Jordan **Marr**	**Wildcats**	**3**	**48**	**4**	**4.00**	**.917%**
Dmitri **Zimozdra**	**Steeldogs**	**2**	**70**	**6**	**3.00**	**.914%**
Ethan **James**	**Raiders**	**1**	**31**	**3**	**3.00**	**.903%**

GP = Games Played. SA = Shots Against. GA = Goals Against. GA.AV = Goals Against Average. SVP = Save Percentage

39 Ethan **JAMES**

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SCHEDULE

FEB. 20	TELFORD TIGERS (A)	3-2 L
FEB. 21	TELFORD TIGERS (H)	17:00
FEB. 27	SHEFFIELD STEELDOGS (A)	18:30
FEB. 28	SHEFFIELD STEELDOGS (H)	17:00
MAR. 5	BEES ICE HOCKEY (H)	19:45
MAR.12	BEES ICE HOCKEY (A)	19:45
MAR. 13	SWINDON WILDCATS (A)	15:00
MAR. 14	SWINDON WILDCATS (H)	16:00
MAR. 20	SWINDON WILDCATS (H)	17:00
MAR. 21	SHEFFIELD STEELDOGS (A)	18:30
MAR. 27	TELFORD TIGERS (H)	14:00
MAR. 28	BEES ICE HOCKEY (A)	14:00

Answers to Raiders Quiz: 1) Olegs Lascenko, 2) Red, 3) 2 - Danny Marshall & Grant Taylor, 4) 50 Canadians have played for the Raiders, 5) The only import to Captain the Raiders is Club Legend, Rob Stewart.

WHICH RAIDER AM I? - Answer: Team Captain Aaron Connolly.

THE LINE-UPS

Sunday 21st February 2021 - 5:00pm Face Off

RAIDERS

10	Brandon **AYLIFFE**	
11	Harry **GULLIVER**	
12	Glenn **BILLING**	
13	Dan **SCOTT** - A	
14	Jack **COOPER**	
15	JJ **PITCHLEY**	
21	Callum **WELLS**	
24	Ollie **BALDOCK**	
29	Jake **SYLVESTER**	
32	Brad **WINDEBANK** - NM	
36	Callum **BURNETT**	
39	Ethan **JAMES** - NM	
42	Zach **SULLIVAN**	
51	Erik **PIATAK**	
55	Sean **BARRY** - A	
63	Aaron **CONNOLLY** - C	
77	Ross **CONNOLLY**	
85	Tommy **HUGGETT**	
86	Anthony **LEONE**	
88	Juraj **HUSKA**	
95	Jacob **RANSON**	
96	Ben **SOLDER**	

HEAD COACH: Sean **EASTON**

TIGERS

1	Jordan **HEDLEY** - NM	
4	Sam **JONES**	
7	Robert **LACHOWICZ**	
11	Austin **MITCHELL-KING**	
12	Daniel **ROSE**	
14	Jonathan **WEAVER** - A	
16	Corey **GOODISON**	
17	Rick **PLANT** - A	
21	Joe **ASTON**	
22	Jason **SILVERTHORN** - C	
25	Sam **WATKINS**	
27	Cole **SHUDRA**	
30	Brad **DAY** - NM	
42	Nick **OLIVER**	
46	Finley **HOWELLS**	
51	Ashley **CALVERT**	
58	David **CLEMENTS**	
59	Ross **VENUS**	
72	Kieran **BROWN**	
77	Scott **McKENZIE**	
88	Daniel **MITCHELL**	
93	Jack **WATKINS**	

HEAD COACH: Tom **WATKINS**

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