

# Raiders won't shy away from competition

Team working hard to get back to first place in the MMJHL

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STAFF REPORTER

## GARDEN CITY

The Raiders Junior Hockey Club is vying with the Pembina Valley Twisters for first place in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

The Raiders and Twisters have been on each other's tails since the beginning of the season. On Dec. 13, the Raiders had a record of 17-4-0 and sat in second place with 34 points, just a point behind the Twisters and their record of 16-2-3.

Raiders captain Jordan Kreml said the team lost some key players from last year's championship team and have a few injuries to members of their defensive corps. However, he feels they are progressing the way they want to.

"That's all part of the game, and we'll deal with that," Kreml said. "Our core veteran guys had to lead the way for our younger team which is nice. We've got a lot of work to do moving forward but we are happy with where we are right now."

Kreml feels confident because he sees a positive culture in the locker room. Due to injuries, several players have had to take on different and unfamiliar roles and have proven to be successful.

Forward Dawson Anderson is just one example. Even though he has played forward his entire life, he is playing as a defenceman for the time being and won a player of the week award in October.

"We have guys that want to play, and they love the game. We have a lot of passion in our locker room... and that's part of a winning team," Kreml said.

Having a good team is not the only reason the Raiders are confident. Kreml, a 21-year-old forward (who is also playing defence due to injuries) said the organization believes in the players, which has been crucial for the team.

"It's not just us players, but our GM and owners are giving us opportunities to win. We have, hands-down, the best coaching staff in the league, so it's not just the players but the culture and the community that surround us that helps us win."

The Raiders beat the River East Royal Knights 9-2 on Dec. 9, scoring their first goal within five minutes of the opening faceoff.

Despite the big win, Kreml said his team is determined to work hard to get better.



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A young team, the Raiders are working hard to get back on track and progress throughout the season.

"Every team in this league wants one thing and that is to win, but for us to do that we've got to keep improving and keep progressing," he said.

"For a group like ours we just want to improve our systems, start focusing on the

foundation and our D zone and once we have that down, things will come together in the offensive zone, and good things will happen," Kreml added.

The Raiders played the Charleswood Hawks on Dec. 14 and the St. Vital Victorias

on Dec. 16. (results were unavailable at press time).

Their next game is Fri., Dec. 21, at home against the Transcona Railer Express.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### GARDEN CITY

#### Dylan Carreiro picked first by Valour FC

On Nov. 13, Winnipeg's new professional soccer team, Valour FC, selected three players in the 2018 Canadian Premier League's U Sports draft following the 2018 U Sports men's soccer championship at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C.

Winnipeg-born midfielder Dylan Carreiro, of York University, was Valour FC's first pick, chosen second overall.

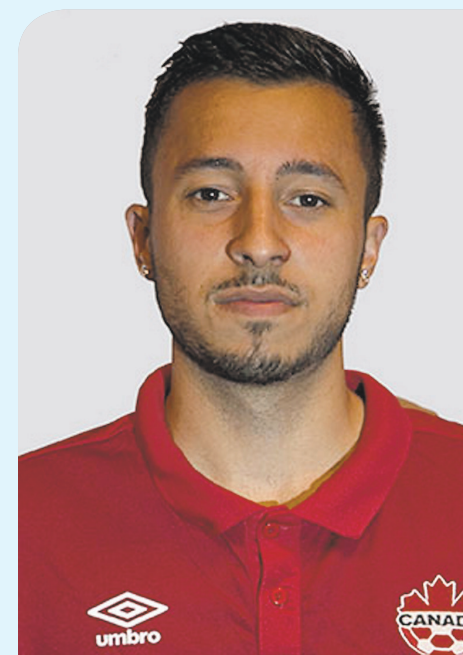
Carreiro attended Clifton School and Garden City Collegiate before moving to Toronto to attend York. Since 2016, he has played with League1 Ontario side Woodbridge Strikers, making 36 appearances and scoring 12 goals in both league and cup play.

The 5-8 midfielder began his professional career playing with Toronto FC's youth team and moved abroad to the U.K. to play with Queen's Park Rangers in London. In 2014, he signed with Dundee of the Scottish Premier League. That same season, he also played on loan at Scottish League One club Arbroath FC.

The Winnipegger formerly played for the Canada U17 team under the direction of Valour FC head coach and general manager Rob Gale, and stayed on through the U18 and U20 teams, serving as the team captain on every squad.

"Dylan is a player that I have a history with as former coach of the Canada U17 and U20 squads, so I know him very well," Gale said.

Joining Carreiro as Valour picks were Lewis White and Jack Simpson of Cape Breton University.



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On Nov. 13, Valour FC announced Dylan Carreiro will be joining their team.

— Staff