

FOUNDING THE SPORTS BEAT

THE MEN WHO KEEP CLOSE tab on teams in the Tri-County Hockey Association through the season have been discussing a new topic as Tri-County teams advance into the O.M.H.A. playoffs — the big improvement in the Acton entries.

There seems to have been a sudden and dramatic improvement in all the Acton clubs as the season drew to a close. The most noticeable upsurge was demonstrated in the midweek series, the only Acton team to survive the first round of the eliminations.

The midweek eliminated both Orangeville and Hespeler before they bowed out in the finals. If you saw the second game of the finals which Milton won 5-1 you probably went home shaking your head and wondering how one team could outplay the other by such a wide margin over most of a game and still lose by four goals.

It just happened that the Acton kid who guards the nets had an "off" night, understandable for anyone in that age bracket, and in the Milton net — a Jr. 'A' prospect — was almost spectacular in the game's first 10 minutes as he stopped shots from point blank range, from the point and almost every angle.

They weren't easy shots to handle, either. Some of them had the velocity of pucks you'd expect to see in intermediate ranks. Largely through McDuffie's efforts the Milton team deserved to win the series. They should have won it by a larger margin.

The other Acton Tri-County clubs, except the Novice, are engaged in consolation series and most of them are making a creditable showing. Another two years and the playoffs from other communities say Acton will be in the league's upper echelons.

WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING but it will be a treat to see local minor hockey clubs competing with teams from centres the same size and winning their share of the contests. They've been the darlings of the Tri-County too long.

Artificial ice has made major improvement in Acton teams. With natural ice in the arena the kids would only expect two months of hockey. They sometimes got more with an early winter or a late spring. Now with artificial ice there's hockey from November to late March and it could go on to the end of April. Skating legs develop much quicker five months of action than two.

It hasn't been the installation of ice only that's made the difference, however. The quality of the coaching has improved. This season the formation of the Acton Minor Hockey Association contributed a great deal to the equilibrium of the Acton teams, perennial targets of abusive darts from league headquarters.

It takes a bundle to operate these teams. They've got to pay for ice time, referees, transportation, equipment and all the little extras that hockey teams require. Their only source of funds outside of gate receipts, which are never sufficient, is donations.

That's why the A.M.H.A. has to run draws and minor hockey nights, they are also sponsoring the appearance of the N.H.L. Old-Timers here March 30. How can you help minor hockey? Mostly by supporting the activities the A.M.H.A. puts on.

BEAT BITS ... Anytime I feel weary of hockey it only takes a game between Toronto and Montreal like last night to renew my enthusiasm and strengthen a belief it's the world's greatest game.

Yosemite for the Stanley Cup? Could be but even with Balthgate and McKenney in the lineup they'll have to hustle more to beat the Canadiens. Orangeville Dufferins beat Georgetown Raiders 8-3 in the first game of their best-of-five or best-of-seven playoff series in Orangeville.

Industrial League playoffs start Sunday at 6:00 p.m. ... Acton Juvenile and midweek teams have dropped out of the Tri-County consolation series due to pressure of school exams.

Keith Ramsey, a member of Guelph Legion Track Club, competed in the Empire game in New York over the weekend. Milton Charles edge Fergus Flyers 9-7 in the first game of their playoff series last night (Wednesday).

W.O.A.A. Wise ... Fergus Forfeits Five Games ... Representatives from every club in group one of the W.O.A.A.'s intermediate hockey circuit attended a special playoff meeting in Acton Community Centre, Sunday night.

Startling news was released by the W.O.A.A. head when he notified the representative, Fergus had been using an ineligible player and a special meeting in Wingham Sunday afternoon decided all games in which the player participated must be forfeited to the other team. The player, who has since been certified, and the manager of the Fergus club were also suspended for four games apiece.

No Release ... Fergus Flyers' player in dispute without securing his release from Kitchener Rangers of the O.H.A.'s Junior series. The penalty was enacted because the W.O.A.A. felt the Fergus club used the player, knowing he was ineligible.

Yellow Jackets Finally Win One

Jim Casburn's Yellow Jackets finally delivered a win to their coach in the midweek town league Saturday by downing Don Ryder's Blue Hornets 3-2.

In a game which saw 11 penalties assessed by ref. Jim Casburn, Jackets score a goal in each period to win. Glen Holmes notched the first. Van Gils got the second period counter and L. McPhedran rattled in the winner from D. Allan.

Hornets Edge Buffalo 4-3

Four first period markers were enough for Don Ford's Pittsburg Hornets to nudge Charlie Thompson's Buffalo Bisons 4-3 in the A.I.L. (Bantam) section of the Legion town league Saturday.

The Hornets' markers were J. McCoy assisted by Russ Hibbard, Stan Slaven, Earl Butler and Neil Anderson, George Cook from Jim McCoy and finally Brian Robertson assisted by Terry Coles and Fred Barons.

Don Campbell got one for Buffalo in the first stanza from Mike Miller and Mike Maroux and Bryan Dunn were the unassisted lamplighters in the second session.

Pittsburg also outpointed Buffalo in the penalty department, drawing four of the game's seven sentences. Terry Coles, Bob Lovell, Jim McCoy and Tony Hurst were the Hornets' offenders.

Roller Skaters At Rainbow Room

Dancing shoes were doffed Tuesday night as patrons flocked to the Rainbow Room to don roller skates and whirl around the floor to the music of records.

Acton's latest indoor sport got off to a flying start as skating was free and skates supplied to everyone present. The place was jammed with first-timers as they took turns around the dance and dining hall.

Monday proprietor Jack McMullen started movies in the former Rex Theatre and hopes to continue both roller skating and movies on a weekly basis.

Advances into O.H.A. ... Int. B champion, either Milton or Orangeville, has the right to advance into the O.H.A. Intermediate B playoffs.

Secretary-manager Al Lockridge reminded the teams, skate ends would be mandatory in the playoffs. No one may play without them.

Attending the meeting were Joe Milton and Jim McLaughlin from Orangeville, Al Parton and Murray Hood from Milton, Len Coxe and Fred Maveal from Georgetown, D. Ronalds and F. Macklan from Fergus, D. Mars and B. Young from Elora.

Watson Nets Three ... Cyclones got a three goal performance from H. Watson and he potted two at the tail-end of the second stanza to finish his hat trick and give Cyclones a 4-3 lead as the teams went into the third. The second was a solo but

Casburn, McKenzie Fire Tanners To 6-3 Victory Over Elora Rocks

Two goal performances by Don McKenzie and Jim Casburn carried Acton Tanners to a 6-3 victory over Elora Rocks in the final game of the W.O.A.A. intermediate schedule, here, Friday night.

Over 400 of the faithful saw the Tanners bustle the puck and outplay the chippy Rocks for most of the contest. Netminder Jack Marshall had a shut-out going until the first minute of the third period when Max Hillis, one of Rock's finest, rapped in a counter for the visitors. They added two more before the period ended.

It looked like playoff hockey for the first two periods with the Tanners pressing hard but only able to notch one goal in the opening stanza. They bagged three in the second stanza and a pair in the third. Besides McKenzie and Casburn, Harold Townsley and Ron Mellon were the Acton marksmen.

Norm Love was back in uniform for the first time in several games for the Tanners who finished with a 12 win, 12 loss record. Fergus' forfeiture of a game to Acton enabled them to finish in third place with 26 points when another win was awarded.

First Period A-H. Townsley (R. Mellon, J. Casburn) 18:00

Second Period A-R. Mellon (J. Casburn) 14:15 A-J. Casburn (H. Townsley, M. Stafford) 14:49 A-D. McKenzie (E. Baxter, R. McLean) 16:08

Third Period F-M. Hillis (L. Bruce, B. Young) 0:31 A-J. Casburn 1:39 A-D. McKenzie (R. Malcolm) 7:34 F-B. Oakes (F. Hughes, G. Shafer) 9:11 F-D. Schwandt (Hillis, Watkins) 16:11

Standings—Van Wyck 10, Blow 8, Graham 8, de Jong 7, Brunelle 4, Hinton 4, Irwin 4, Williams 4, McGeech 2, Grischow 0.

Monday March 9-11 D. Rowley L. G. McCutcheon W. J. Goy W. M. Holmes L. W. Cooon W. B. VanFleet L. T. Tyler Jr. L. B. Hunter W. L. Bonnette T. K. Easley T.

Tuesday March 9-11 B. Holmes W. W. Dubois L. C. Cook W. W. McKay L. C. Bradlev J. Hufnagel W. A. McKen (Continued on Page Five)

CURLING

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Town League Standings Top Scorers Released

As of February 22	Dale Fisher	13	8	1	9
Junior 'A' Novice	Henry Tracie	13	7	2	9
	Garth Taylor	13	6	1	7
	Brendan Irwin	13	5	2	7
	E.P.H.L. Joe Woo	13	4	2	2
	Chas. Gidden	13	4	2	2
	Stew. McCullough	13	3	1	7
	H. O'Rourke	13	3	1	6
	Wayne DeForest	13	3	1	6
	Brian Given	13	3	1	6
	American League Bantam	11	0	1	18
	Terry Coles	11	0	1	18
	Blay Hibbard	11	7	2	2
	Harry O'Rourke	11	3	1	11
	Alan McNabb	11	3	1	10
	Laur. Gordon	11	5	1	10

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Tanners Meet Chelties In Group One Playoff

First hurdle for Acton Tanners to take in the W.O.A.A. group one intermediate playoffs has a familiar ring — Cheltenham.

First game of the best-of-three series is tonight (Thursday) in Brin and resumes tomorrow night (Friday) in Acton. If a third game is necessary it will be played next Wednesday, March 4, in Acton.

Just when it looked like the fourth place Tanners would be pitted against the league-leading Orangeville Dufferins a special meeting of the W.O.A.A. brass in Wingham declared Barry Redwood, a player Fergus used with Acton, ineligible for the playoffs.

This action dropped Fergus into fifth place in the final league standing, elevated Milton to second, Acton to third and Georgetown to fourth.

Consequently Georgetown Raiders meet Orangeville in a best-of-five series. Milton takes on Fergus in a best-of-three and Acton and Cheltenham meet in another best-of-three. Winner of the last two series meet in the semifinal and that winner will meet the Georgetown-Orangeville winner in the group finals.

These playoffs do not affect the team's right to continue in the W.O.A.A. playoffs unless it is eliminated by a team of the same category in the group.

For the Tanners it will be the second season in succession they have met the tough Cheltenham Harvesters in the first playoff. Last year Harvesters surprised the Acton club by sweeping the set in two straight games.

Craig Weldon recorded the shut-out in goal for Quebec. Penalties went to Hughie O'Rourke, Bob Storey and Larry Drysdale of the winners and Wayne DeForest and Brian McLellan of the Bears.

Bob Coon Wins League Scoring Title

Player	G	A	Pts.
Bob Coon, U	18	18	36
Barry Incoe, U	16	18	34
Jim McDonald, U	17	15	32
Harold Watson, C	16	13	29
Fred Thompson, C	14	13	27
W. Sheppard, B	16	10	26
Grant Withers, B	15	11	26
Ron Sheppard, C	12	12	24
Keith Martin, U	13	11	24
Keith Allan, U	14	10	24

Bob Coon, Scoring Champion.

Tramp Trail

—There was a hike along the Bruce Trail Sunday from a rendezvous at 401 and 25 highways to the first line of Esqueping near Associated Quarries. There were 18 hikers. The eight mile hike took three hours. More hikes are planned. Information: The Toronto Bruce Trail Club, 15 Conifer Drive, Etobicoke.

Aces Blank Bears 2-0 Cleveland Downs Amerks

Quebec Aces chalked up the second shut-out of the afternoon in Legion town league hockey Saturday by whitewashing Hershey Bears 2-0 in the E.P.H.L. section of the league. Cleveland Barons defeated Rochester Americans 3-1 in the second game.

There was no scoring in the first periods of the opener but in the third period, first Brian Blume from Clare Snow, and then Hughie O'Rourke from Charles Gidden, scored on Hershey netminder Graham Fraser to give Aces their victory margin.

All five penalties were served by Rochester. Penalties were John Churchill (2), John East, Brian Given and Mike March.

Team Standings

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Bruins	8	5	3	19
Untouchables	8	5	3	19
Cyclones	7	5	4	18
Raiders	3	11	2	8

Clare Sheppard — Top Goalie Average with 4.12.

Muff Hunter ended the regular schedule with 84 minutes in penalties.

SCHEDULE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

FRIDAY, FEB. 28	2: Pre-School Figure Skating	4:30 to 7:30: Figure Skating	8:30 W.O.A.A. Int. Playoff	Cheltenham vs Acton	
SATURDAY, FEB. 29	8-10: Figure Skating Club	10-12: Public Skating	1-6: Legion House League	6-7: Midweek House League	8-10: Public Skating
SUNDAY, MAR 1	1-2: Junior Hockey	2-4: Family Skating	6-9: Industrial Hockey	9-15: Adult Skating Party	
MONDAY, MAR. 2	Curling				
TUESDAY, MAR. 3	Curling				
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4	4-6: Public Skating	6: Hockey Practices			
THURSDAY, MAR 5	4:30-Hockey School	6-9: Practices	10-Chamberlain Rental		

Plan to Attend the ADULT SKATING PARTY Sunday Evening

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