

the SPORTS spot

BY JOHN MCHABE

Acton's Tanners to date have suffered seven straight losses in seven attempts and couldn't be anywhere now but down in the dumps - moral wise.

It's going to take a lot of team enthusiasm and will power to bring them out of this pre-season slump and one thing the fans can do to help is bolster this enthusiasm.

Comments from the older generation came in waves, something like "well, sonny, 30 years ago you couldn't get standing room in this h'ar arena. Y'd had 'ta stand outside and listen for the scores as they drifted through the crowd."

Back in those days the Tanners were one of the hottest clubs around - far from what they are today. All the more reason for the Acton fans to head down to the Community Centre every Friday night and cheer on the locals. On the whole, the home games in Acton still draw the biggest crowds from what I have seen in Hespeler, Port Elgin and Durham but then again these games were hard on a week night.

This Friday night's match with Seaforth should prove to be an exciting event. The Beavers have rung up an undefeated line of scores to date and Acton's due now for their first win after last night's edge by the Elora Rocks on their local ice.

The forward line of Norton, Terry Lane and Blake Inglis is beginning to bring in results for the Tanners, as they combined in last night's game for three markers.

Milton Merchants will host the Hamilton Red Wings of the O.H.A. Junior A league in Milton, Friday night in an exhibition game. A special dinner will be held after the game for both teams at the Legion Hall.

Orangeville will be without a Jr. "C" hockey club for the remainder of the season. The "Greenshirts" have disbanded after losing out on all of their games with scores such as 15-0 and 19-2 for examples. The manager of the team will continue to try and find enough players for another attempt next year.

Legion town league tallies



ATOMS
Saturday's afternoon Atom bout saw Weston edge Brampton with a 5-4 score. Mike Morris copped a pair with an assist going to Bruce McPhall in the first period. McPhall took the scoring end of the stick on the third marker with Morris on the assist. Ricky Gibson and Mike Ware scored the last two Weston goals of the afternoon in the second period with Mike Morris collecting a second assist.

Brampton's tally came from Scott Malcolm with one in the second and two more in third period for a well earned hat trick. Gord Bruce made the assist on Scott's second marker and slammed one in, unassisted, in the final stanza.

Barry Inscow officiated during the atom game.

NOVICE
St. Catharines turned off Niagara Falls in the Novice opener with a 4-3 tally. First period markers for St. Kitts went to Steve Brunelle from James Ellerby and Ford Alton on a pass from Billy Ware. Ford Alton and James Ellerby assisted on the only St. Kitts goal in the second stanza, scored by Billy Ware with Ware coming back in the third period to assist on John McHugh's marker.

Steve Papillon started Niagara Falls running in the first period with Ricky Baginski taking the assist. Baginski poured on the steam in the second and third periods with two more unassisted scores.

Steve Brunelle took all three of the St. Kitts penalties for tripping and cross checking.

Niagara Falls' Jim Hurley sat out for three offenses, cross checking and interference. Norm Thornhill took a cross checking penalty as well.

In the second half of the Novice twin-bill Hamilton trounced Oshawa 5-1. John McCutcheon scored three of Hamilton's five markers with Dave Morris, Gary Martin and Gord Toth collecting assists. Gord Toth scored in the third period from John McCutcheon as did Dave Morris on a set up from Gord Toth. John Scoyne slammed in Oshawa's only score for the afternoon, unassisted.

Oshawa drew the majority of the penalties. Ken Swan took three minutes for holding, Greg Snow, three minutes for slashing, Blaine Cleland three minutes for interference and Greg Snow three minutes for cross checking. Hamilton's John McCutcheon spent three minutes in the penalty box for tripping.

PEE WEES
Baltimore blasted Springfield, in the Pee Wee opener with a

12-0 score. Springfield went behind 6-0 in the first period, led in five more in the second and one in the final period.

Brian Storey signalled the onslaught in the first period from Jim McNabb, Steve Ward followed up with two quick markers, one assisted by Treth Armstrong. Charles McCrae slammed in two with Jim McNabb and Gary Fisher copping assists and Brian Storey made it 6-0 on a pass from Mike Ferguson.

Storey came back with second and third period markers, Treth Armstrong assisting on one. Steve Ward, Jim McNabb, Brian Storey and Gary Fisher each took a goal all unassisted.

Russ Coultrup received a penalty for elbowing a Baltimore player and Bill Paul suffered a 10 minute misconduct.

Rochester doubled up on Cleveland with a 4-2 tally to take the win in the second game of Pee Wee action.

Glen McKenzie scored three unassisted Rochester markers and assisted on John Rochester's marker along with Kevin Marcom.

Cleveland's Wade Knight scored in the first and collected the assist on Wayne Allan's marker in the second period for Cleveland's tally.

BANTAMS
Pittsburg blanked Hershey in Thursday night's bantam action. Randy Ferguson opened for Pittsburg from Steve McConnell. Garth Taylor scored, unassisted in the second along with David Hunter with Carl Reed and Randy Coker taking the assists.

Final stanza markers went to Jeff Cooper from Tim Coles and Garth Taylor with a repeat from Cooper and Coles.

Elora Rocks edge Tanners Tues. night

The Elora "Rocks" edged out the Tanners last night on Elora's home ice by an 8-7 score. When the buzzer at the end of the third period rang, the opposing clubs found themselves at a 7-7 stalemate and had to play 10 minutes of sudden death overtime. Elora mustered up an attack and pulled the trigger, dropping the locals 8-7.

Terry Lane sparked the Acton forward line with three goals for the night. Blake Inglis and Norton assisted on all three markers. Jim Farley and Mike Kelly collected points during the game with assists going to Blake Inglis and Jim Cunningham.



BLAKE INGLIS attempts to get the puck out of the Durham net. The Husky goaltender was a big factor in the Durham win. (Staff Photo)

Durham dampens Acton with 6-3 victory Fri.

Acton Tanners played host to the Durham Huskies last Friday night at the Acton Community Centre. Huskie netminder Gord Becher had the Tanners goal scoring tactics well pegged as he continued throughout the game to block the Tanners attacks. A three goal deficit in the first period by the Durham team held the Acton club at bay for the rest of the game. With two more in the second and one in the third period the Durham squad tallied up a 6-3 victory. Acton's scoring came late in each period.

Durham took the early lead with three quick goals when Jim Nixon combined with Col Cowie and John Snafor for the opener at 9:52. Jim Aitken and Jerry Herman relayed one past Tanners netminder Ayres at 13:05 with Newell and Larry Schafer combining for a back up marker at 13:21.

Harold Townsley, Tanner left-winger, stick handled out of Acton's end, dodged the Durham defense and cruised in for Acton's first blow on the Huskie net at

19:10 to close off the first period scoring.

Durham picked up two more tallies in the second period. Jim Aitken scored at 4:53 from Clare Newell and John Tipley slammed one in at 8:05 from Col Cowie and Larry Schafer.

Again Acton played the finale when Mike Kelly moved up from his usual defense position to forward and counted an unassisted Tanner pointer at 15:18.

Durham plunged once more on the Acton net with a goal from Jerry Herman on a relay from Clare Newell and John Tipley. From here on in it was the Huskie goal tender that saved the score. Stu MacDonald broke through at the 10 minute mark on the Durham net but couldn't control a rolling puck. Harold Townsley dashed through the Durham defense but couldn't gain enough control to let loose a shot. Finally at the 17:35 mark Blake Inglis blasted in shot from Norton and Cunningham to tally up for the Tanners.

Durham served 10 of the 14



THE TANNERS TIGHTEN UP in front of the net while the ref keeps a close eye on the puck. In white Tanners are No. 7 Steve Townsley, No. 6 Mike Kelly and goalkeeper Tom Ayres. (Staff Photo)

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Tanners improved Undeclared Seaforth here Friday

When Seaforth Beavers drop into Acton Friday night for a joust with the Tanners they'll be riding the crest of an undefeated streak.

Beavers are the current O.H.A. Int. B champions, a post they've held for the past three years, and they're gunning for their fourth straight title.

There's no doubt they've got a strong club, a well balanced attack and speed to burn. It's a treat to watch them play -- even when they're taking your home town team to the cleaners.

Friday night here they meet a team which up to this writing hasn't won a game but we predict they'll have their hands full if the Tanners can field their full line-up. They've been improving every time out. Last Friday for instance the strong Durham Huskies really had to hustle to take home a win. They got some surprisingly good goal-keeping that gave them the edge.

When the Tanners' sharpshooters start hitting the net more regularly you can depend on it they'll share up with more than their share of victories.

The late start is a big factor in the Acton club's slow start but there's also a problem with getting players to report regularly

to practices and games. Hardly a game goes by that the line-up doesn't change radically making it virtually impossible for coach Max Stafford to regulate lines evenly.

There were signs last Friday that the team, in spite of all the drawbacks, is starting to jell. There is still some experimenting to be done, some weaknesses to plug, but they're showing potential of being the best balanced club to wear Acton livery to date.

There's no doubt about it, the Tanners could use the three local players who are playing Junior

C'hokey in Milton but they don't want to spoil the hockey picture there. Kevin Hall, Jan Rickell and Gary Taillefer have easily fitted into the cast company in that league and could certainly help the Tanners out.

Crowds here have been as good or better as any in the league but probably the biggest crowd of the season will be on hand this Friday night to watch the Tanners take a whack at the strong Seaforth club. The Tanners upset the Beavers twice last year and they could do it again!

Acton Juveniles tally six consecutive victories

Acton Lions Juvenile squad are chalking up a most respectable tally of wins thus far this season. The team to date has counted six wins, two losses and one tie. Howie Leader and "Pop" Schutta, coach and manager of the squad have guided them through such teams as Guelph, Hespeler, Oakville, Preston, Georgetown and Orangeville. In the past week the Juveniles have met Guelph, Preston and Orangeville. Their latest encounter with Preston on Sunday saw them take a 4-2 victory in a very poorly refereed game. Penalties totalled 25 for both teams for minor offences

such as holding, interference etc. Brian Farrell collected a pair of markers one assisted by the Waller brothers Ernie and Bob, the other unassisted. Ken Owens scored on a relay from Barry Elliott and Allan McKenzie. John Mason potted one unassisted to tally the 4-2 win.

Only two teams to date have defeated the home team, those being Milton and Burlington. The Acton Lions meet Burlington this Thursday night on home ice for a return match.

Lions blank Orangeville 5-0

Acton Juveniles, fresh from dumping Oakville in their own back yard, travelled to Georgetown and knocked off the locals 5-0. They then came home to Acton and last Thursday walloped Orangeville 5-0. Paul Cooper was the big gun minding the nets, and blanked every Orangeville shot. In the second period Cooper handled 7 shots when the opposition pressed, inside of a minute. Barry Elliott potted the hat trick by scoring three goals in the first period. McKenzie assisted on two of them while Farrell, Marshall and Smallwood also assisted. In the second period, Alan McKenzie stole the show and potted two goals, Owen and Hillier assisting. He scored his second goal while Acton was shorthanded, stickhandling by two defense men. The third period was scoreless. Elliott was the bad man for Acton picking up two penalties and Waller watched McKenzie score a goal while he was off for tripping. The two stalwarts for Orangeville were the goalkeeper Marchington and right winger Muir, and by their efforts kept the score in single figures.

Bantams win 2-1

Henry Toebes was credited with the winning goal but Preston scored one themselves to give Acton Bantams a 2-1 win over Preston last night in Tri-County hockey.

Score was tied 1-1 at the end of the second period with Pete Morrison scoring for Acton from John Snow. Franks potted Preston's marker.

Acton officials and fans were at a loss to explain the new interpretation of the rule book offered by the referees. They laddered out all types of "cheap" penalties.

It was a pleasing victory for the Acton club since the home-town boys tried to "rough them up."

Acton: Ted Hogen, Steve Webster, goal; Randy Weldon, Mark Neilson, Brad Timbers, Harry Lawson, Dennis Harnden, Mike Field, George McPhall, Dale Fisher, Peter Morrison, John Snow, Henry Toebes, Rene Schultz, Harold Townsley, coach; Phil Drysdale, manager.



No. 17 STU McDONALD and No. 3 Jim Cunningham listen as coach Max Stafford offers some advice between periods of Friday's game. The Tanners meet undefeated Seaforth here Friday. (Staff Photo)

Hold dinner
The Tri-County Hockey Association's president's dinner was held in Milton at the Legion Hall Friday night. All the municipalities affiliated with the Tri-County league had representatives at the dinner. President of the Milton Minor Hockey Association Bill Rowney and MMHA Past President Jim Murray played host to men from all of the Tri-County leagues.

Vern Gowing of Preston was presented with the Honor Award for the outstanding contribution toward Tri-County Hockey in 1966-67.

ACTON ARENA SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
6-7 p.m. - Hockey School
7-8 p.m. - Pee Wee (Tri-City) Burlington at Acton
8-9 p.m. - Bantam (Tri-City) Burlington at Acton
9-10 p.m. - Midgets (Tri-City) Burlington at Acton
10-11 p.m. - Ind. Hockey

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
2-3 p.m. - Mothers and Pre-School Skating
6-8 p.m. - Figure Skating
8-9 p.m. - Legion Hockey
9-10 p.m. - Juvenile (Tri-City) Burlington at Acton
10-12 p.m. - Ind. Hockey

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Novice (Tri-City) Burlington at Acton
8:30 p.m. - Seaforth vs Acton Tanners

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
8-9 a.m. - Girls' Hockey
9:15-10:45 a.m. - Private Lessons Figure Skating
10:45-12:45 - Figure Skating
1-6 p.m. - Legion Hockey
6:30-7:30 - Bantams (Tri-City) Hockey Practice
8-10 p.m. - Public Skating

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
8-11 a.m. - Industrial Hockey
11-12:30 p.m. - Tanner Practice
1-2 p.m. - Novice (Tri-City) Hockey Practice
2:15-4:15 p.m. - Public Skating
4:30-7 p.m. - Minor Hockey Practice
7:15-10:15 p.m. - Industrial Hockey

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