

# Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport

By Denis Gibbons

This is a long overdue salute to the most valuable player on this year's edition of the Acton Tanners and indeed to one of the backbones of intermediate hockey in town over the years.

In 16 league games, at the age of 41, Harold Townsley netted 10 goals and assisted on nine others for a fifth place team even though he spent just a little short of half his ice time filling in for missing defencemen. On defence, he gave a 100 per cent effort in spite of the fact, as many observers point out, he doesn't play his best hockey behind the blueline.

"The sad part about having to use Harold on defence," coach Jim James points out "is that it takes so much scoring punch away from our forward lines".

There isn't a player in the league that's been more dangerous in front of the opposition cage in the last 10 years and that's saying quite a bit when you consider goalies have had to contend with the likes of Paul Knox, Bob Dobbie, Jim Nixon, Ken Doig and Jack Nairn. Perhaps any one of the five surpassed Harold in other aspects of the game, but it's a safe bet none have cashed in on as many scoring opportunities.

His team leading point total this year was no fluke either. Although records aren't available, it's a cinch Harold is Tanners' modern day all-time scoring leader. A check of records over the last five years show the peskey winger has led the team in scoring in three of the years. He coached the team one of the two other seasons and finished second to Blake Inglis the other.

Certainly there were other Tanners who deserved consideration in the vote and definitely got it. Kevin Hall and Gary Naylor (particularly) played well. In fact, had the vote been taken at Christmas time, Hall probably would have had the award all locked up. Naylor's late arrival and a dose of asthma that kept him out of the lineup late in the season hampered his chances of winning the award. Goalie Bruce Thomason, who didn't join the club until January but was outstanding from then on missed for similar obvious reasons.

If 60 minute hustle game in and game out were the sole basis for the award, Gordie Bell and Larry Gregson would be hard to pass over. Dan Arbie, Dave Norton and Fred Buchanan all had their moments.

But when Tanners had their backs against the wall and were struggling for the league's final playoff berth it was the old vet Harold Townsley who came through. Harold's tremendous second effort set up Gary Naylor's last minute goal that capped a brilliant Tanner comeback and produced a 6-5 win in a key game against Elmira, February 12. Without the win Tanners would have missed the playoffs. What did he do in the crucial two game series with Fergus in the final week? Lead the team in scoring with four goals and four assists, that's all!

In spite of his yearly scoring feats, Townsley's play has not always escaped criticism from some who labelled him "a goal hanger".

"He just hangs in front of the net and picks up the garbage," was the tag he most often received.

Anyone who's played the game can tell you garbage represents potential goals and goals win hockey games. Phil Esposito's garbage collecting talents only earned him an all-time NHL record 76 goals and probably enough money in off the ice endorsements to pay for the whole city of Boston's sanitation problems! Espo proved the old adage "being in the right spot at the right time pays off".

What did Harold Townsley do to deserve the team's MVP award? Play any position on the ice he was asked to and do an adequate job of it, be in the right spot at the right time, lead the club in scoring, help lift them into the playoffs and above all provide unquestionable inspiration for younger players on the team, many of whom were still in diapers when he started his career. That's all!

## Hockey Canada test

Acton's Y's Men's peewees participated Sunday night, in an experiment being conducted by Hockey Canada in over 400 centres across the country.

Local peewee players were tested and timed in various facets of the game including forward

and backward skating, quick release shooting, agility skating, puck control and passing accuracy.

Team coach Don Legate, Acton minor hockey head coach Jim James and arena manager Harold Townsley conducted the tests.



DIXIE ATOMS won the championship of the Legion house league's atom division, ousting Weston two games to none with one game tied in the final series. Members of the championship team are front row l. to r. Lance Alton, David Lawson, Derrick Neeley, Rob Renshaw, Murray McNabb, John Griese. Back row l. to r. are coach Howard Dwyer, Brian Hogan, Dean McKerracher, Doug Johnston, Rory McDowall, Chris Jenkins, Brent Vickery, Marty Daley and coach Al McKerracher. —(Staff Photo)

## Elect executive slate Jr. hockey team born

Kerwin McPhail was elected president of the Acton junior "C" hockey club at a meeting of junior hockey organizers last week.

Mr. McPhail has been prominent in the Acton hockey scene, both junior and minor for many years. This year he served as chairman of the Legion Minor Hockey Committee.

**Name officers**  
Bob Marshall was named vice-president, Ron McKnight secretary, Ed Norton treasurer and Harold Speaker O.H.A. contact man. All four have previously been involved in hockey locally.

First action taken by the executive was to give its stamp of approval to a "Name the team contest". Residents of Acton area are being asked to submit a name for the team by mailing suggestions to Box 749 Acton. Entry forms appear in this week's Free Press.

A \$50 bond will be awarded to the person submitting the best name selected by a panel of judges. Deadline for entries is

midnight, Saturday, May 1. Ask donations. In an effort to raise funds, executive members are also asking residents to send along donations with their entries if they have the means to do so. Contest entries do not have to be accompanied by a donation however, the executive points out.

Representatives will attend the O.H.A. annual meeting in Toronto Saturday, April 24. Milton, Georgetown, and Fergus are still planning to enter teams.

## Juveniles face Elmvale in tourney semi-finals

Acton Lions juveniles blanked Waterford 2-0 in the first round of the 13th annual Tri-County Juvenile Hockey Tournament in Milton arena, Saturday morning.

The win moved Lions into the "C" series semi-finals against Elmvale, this Friday afternoon at 4:30. Elmvale scored in the last minute of play to edge Tecumseh 3-2 in their opening game, Saturday afternoon. Winner of Friday's game advances to the

"C" series championship game, Saturday night at 6.

**Joe scores**  
Joe Tarr scored a first period goal for Acton from Ken Marsahl and Mike Field at 7:25. Gord Murray netted the second goal in the second period, Bill Field and Gord Williams drew assists.

Craig Weldon posted the shutout in the Lion cage.

Dale Fisher, George McPhail and Gary Turkosz, all up from Acton midgets, bolstered the Lion lineup for the game. Midget goalie Steve Webster dressed as backup man.

Although they won the "C" consolation trophy in 1967, Acton juveniles have never won the "C" championship. The team can use lots of vocal support for Friday's big game.

Highlighting tournament action Friday night following the Acton-Elmvale game are two other division semi-finals.

# Free Press Sports Page

## Huskie-Jet set not settled yet

After breaking exactly even (three wins each and a tie) in their best of seven Central O.H.A. Intermediate "B" group final series, Lucan-Dorset Jets and Durham Huskies opened a two games total goals series in Centralla last Friday night. O.H.A. officials hoped the series would finally decide a winner.

So what happened? Jets had no sooner skated off with a convincing 6-3 win and what looked like a sure series victory, than Huskies protested the game. Second game of the home and home series, originally scheduled for Durham Sunday afternoon was cancelled and according to officials at the O.H.A.'s Toronto

office will not be played until a hearing is held on the protest tonight (Wednesday). When contacted by the Free Press, official refused to reveal grounds for the protest.

The series, which go underway March 12, is now just two days short of being a month old!

Huskies had the defending provincial champion Jets down three games to one, after the first four games of the series, but the "green machine" roared back to tie the series.

Friday night's game attracted a crowd of 1800. Winner of the series meets Strathroy in the O.H.A. semi-finals.



ALVIN CLARK HAS DECLARED IT OLDSMOBILE WEEK

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 9**  
1 P.M.  
Club House  
Upper Base Line - Milton, Ontario

**NAME THE TEAM CONTEST**

A group of Acton area residents has formed a junior "C" hockey club with no ulterior motives such as business, financial, personal or publicity reasons. It was formed strictly to try to give the Acton area young hockey enthusiasts a place to play. These boys after spending their younger days playing Legion and Tri-County hockey have no place to go after playing juvenile. Intermediate "B" is too large a step to take. We hope to assist these young people to enjoy what could be the last of their childhood days before working. It will also keep them from having to hang around the streets with the good possibility of getting into trouble.

As everyone probably realizes, it will cost a lot of money for ice time, equipment, transportation etc. for a junior "C" team. We are asking the people of Acton area to name the team for us. Most teams have a name, such as the Acton Intermediate "B" team is called Acton Tanners.

One of our executive has come forth and offered a \$50 bond as a prize for submission of a suitable name for the team. The best name submitted will be selected by a panel of judges. In case the same name is submitted twice, the entry with the earliest postmark will be awarded the prize.

It is hoped the people of the Acton area will open their hearts and send along a substantial amount or any amount with their entries.

But please Acton area residents, take part and send as many entries as you wish whether you send anything with them or not. Your entries will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking all good people of the Acton area.  
Acton Junior "C" hockey club

FILL IN ENTRY FORM BELOW

My suggestion for a name for Acton's Junior "C" Hockey Team is: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Entries should be addressed to Box 749, Acton, and postmarked not later than Midnight, Sat. May 1, 1971

WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

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TAKE ADVANTAGE NOW  
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IF YOU JOIN BEFORE THE END OF APRIL  
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**HILLTOP GOLF CLUB**  
ERIN, ONT. 833-9702

**MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEETING & REGISTRATION**  
- GENERAL MEETING -  
April 21st at Community Centre at 8 P.M.  
Anyone interested in lending a hand please attend to assure Baseball for the youngsters  
- REGISTRATION DATES -  
Age Groups 7 Years to 16 Years  
Saturday, April 10th AND Saturday, April 17th  
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
PLEASE NOTE!  
"Tee Ball" will be organized for further information phone  
J. MITCHELL 853-0769  
R. SWAN 853-0624

**Acton Legion House League**  
**Hockey Dinner**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 17th  
AT THE Legion Hall at 1.30 P.M.  
**ALSO:**  
**LEGION MINOR SPORTS**  
WILL HOLD A  
**"FUND RAISING" DANCE**  
In The Legion Auditorium  
The Same Night (April 17)  
Starting at 9 p.m.  
Admission - \$3.00 Per Couple  
For Dance Tickets Contact  
KERWIN McPHAIL - 853-1114

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