from the world of sport

by Denis Gibbons

In any ordinary six team hockey league, a team would likely be able to finish fourth, even with a record a couple of games under the .500 mark.

That's exactly what makes the first year South Central O.H.A. Junior "D" league extraordinary. With the schedule more than two-thirds over, it now appears it will take at least a .500 won-lost percentage for any of the five contending teams to nail down the fourth and final playoff position.

A large share of the credit for this extraordinary situation must go to the Sheiburne Bluebirds, a junior hockey team with an extraordinary lack of talent. The inexperienced Bluebirds have lost all 21 games they've played, 15 by a margin of five goals or more.

Bluebirds have been such easy pickins that all five contending teams in the league, Acton Sabres, Fergus, Schomberg, Alliston and Bradford currently have .500 or better records. Yet only four of them will be eligible for postseason play.

The important factor that has made the league as interesting as it has been is the almost complete equality in calibre of the five contenders. Only 10 points separate the first place Fergus "Green Machine" and the fifth place Bradford Vasey's. Each has beaten the other at least once, with the exception of Schomberg Cougars, who have managed only a tie in five games against Fergus.

As far as Sabres are concerned the next two weeks will likely tell the tale of whether or not they'll be able to hang on to the playoff spot they now hold. They play Alliston, Schomberg and Bradford, then tackle Fergus in a weekend home and home series.

During their current slx game winning streak, Sabres play has shown a 100 per cent improvement. The addition of defenceman Rick Mitchell, centre Graham Fraser and goalle Nelson Barber has strengthened the three obvious weak spots that existed on the team before Christmas.

Although Mitchell is only available on weekends, because he attends Western University in London, his presence has had a steadying effect on the previously suspect Acton blueline brigade.

Fraser, one of the team's fastest skaters, has turned the third line into a definite scoring threat. Wingers John Sheppard and Les Wilson have been playing their best hockey, since he joined the club.

In two starts Barber hasn't really been under sustained pressure yet, but his work in practice sessions and his dedicated attitude have provided a morale booster for the rest of the team.

"It's nice to have two guys like Craig (Weldon) and Nelson, who are equal in ability," coach Bill Dawkins commented. "Now our guys will have confidence in their goaltender no matter who's in the nets."

Randy Weldon and Ted Harmer have been particularly impressive on defence in recent games and the first two lines, anchored by Ray Evans and Dale Fisher, two of the best playmaking centres in the league, have been doing their usual excellent jobs.

Physical condition of the team as a whole is now above average, thanks to the efforts of assistant coach John Goy Jr., a harsh taskmaster during practice sessions.

"John has our guys so well conditioned now that we're not running out of steam in the third period like we were," Dawkins says. "We're able to forecheck teams in their own end and still recover to backcheck, when we have to."

The fact that Sabres have run into only one serious injury is further evidence of their excellent physical condition. Fergus, in comparison, has been battling a host of injuries all season. They've scarcely played a game without at least one of their key men out of the lineup.

It's no coincidence either that the team's winning streak has accompanied a drastic reduction in time spent in the penalty box. Sabres served 437 minutes in the sin bin, while losing seven of their first 11 games. Of their second 11 games, eight have been wins. The penalty time? 256 minutes, a reduction of almost 200 minutes.

From here on in the five team race for the four playoff DEEWEES spots is going to be the same as it is now, "dog eat dog". Except for a February 22 date in Shelburne, the pushover games are gone from Sabres' schedule. Every game will be a struggle.

With the Bluebirds finally vanished from the local ice palace for this season, Sabre fans can count on seeing wellmatched teams in every game the rest of the way. They might not be able to bank on their favorites coming out on top every time, but at least they'll be assured of a contest.

And if the team can maintain its momentum, Acton fans might still be in for a bonus in the form of a group championship and a crack at the O.H.A. crown.

Junior "D" stats

(Not including last night's game Schomberg at Shelburne)

		P	W	. 4	T	PTS	GF	GA	PIM
Fergus		21	14	5	2	30	137	75	562
Alliston	•	21	13	7	1	27	95	83	649
Schomberg		21	11	7	3	25	136	93	635
ACTON -		22	12	10	0	24	144	103	693
Bradford		20	9	9	2	20	110	100	518
Shelburne		21	0	21	0	0	58	226	398

Game Scores Fergus 8 Schomberg 5 Alliston 5 Bradford 2 Bradford 5 Fergus 2 Fergus 4 Schomberg 3

Top Scorers P G A PTS PIM Ray Evans, Acton 21 28 41 69 Bill Field, Acton 22 31 15 46 120 Sandy Fleming, Fergus 17 40 33 Tom Coffey, Bradford 15 24 39 11 George McPhail, Acton 9 30 39 Kim Beirnes, Fergus 24 38 Dale Fisher, Acton 12 26 38 39 Randy Fleming, Fergus 14 33 Chet Couse, Schomberg 16 13 20 33 20 19 13 32 86 Andy Purmals, Bradford

Remaining Games for Playoff Contenders

FERGUS-9, vs Alliston (2), Schomberg (1), Acton (2), Bradford (2), Shelburne (2).

ALLISTON-9, vs Fergus (2), Schomberg (2), Acton (1), Bradford (2), Shelburne (2)

SCHOMBERG-8, vs. Fergus (1), Alliston (2), Acton (2), Bradford (2), Shelburne (1).

ACTON-8, vs. Fergus (2), Alliston (1), Schomberg (2),

Bradford (2), Shelburne (1).

BRADFORD-10 vs. Fergus (2), Alliston (2), Schomberg (2), Acton (2) Shelburne (2).



CENTRE GUY Payne leaps high to pop in an easy two points for Acton Roadrunners, while Bill Bourne of the North Halton O.P.P. cage squad watches helplessly. Roadrunners, coached by Acton O.P.P. Constable Roy Wood outscored the visitors 77-66 in their annual challenge game here last week. -(Staff

Lions get tough as playoffs near

Acton Lions Javeniles picked up four of a possible six points in Waterloo-Wellington league action last week to climb within striking distance of the third

place Erin club. In a four point game here last Tuesday night, Lions tied last year's Ontario Finalist New Hamburg squad 4-4. Each team

earned two points for the tle. First period goals by Gingerich and Kaster gave New Hamburg a

2-0 lend. Wipe out lead

Lions wiped out the lead, when 'Rocket" sparks

Upset by a last minute 3-2 loss to Orangeville last Tuesday night, Acton Y's Men's peewees bounced back to dump Elmira 41 for the third time this season here

Saturday afternoon. Shifty centre Ricky Holmes was the big gun in Saturday's game, "Rocket" Rick wiped out a 140 Elmira lead, when he scored on a penalty shot in the second period. In the third period he feed the Acton victory with his second and third goals of the game.

Marvin McNabb scored a second period goal for Acton. Joe Gardin and Jeff Shields earned two assists apiece. Steve McKnight solved in the assist column.

Down 2-1 in the final minute of Tuesday's game, Y's Men tied the score on a goal by Marvin McNabb, only to have Orangeville bounce back with the winner, 18 seconds later.

Joe Gardin had a goal and an assist and McNabb, Ricky Holmes and Barry McKerracher picked up single assists.

Y's Men can finish the regular season at .500, if they can win two of their final three games, here tomorrow (Thursday) night, Friday night and in Orangeville Saturday night, Right now they have a record of seven wins, eight

Tom Parkinson, Mike "Mucker" Field and Charlle Kuiken scored in succession before the 10 minute mark of the second frame. Ted Meuhlbacher and Dan McGilloway drew assists.

New Hamburg tied the score on a goal by Hallman, before the period ended. Parkinson bagged his second

goal of the night to put Acton 4-3 at 2.25 of the third period, but Weller knotted the count for good two minutes later.

Single marksmen Dan McGilloway, Gord

Murray, Harry Lawson Mike "Mucker" Field, Gord Williams and Jeff Cooper scored for Acton in a 6-2 win over Fergus the next

Ted Hagan was a steady performer in the Lion cage in both games.

Lions close out their regular schedule, against the leagueleading Orangeville team in Orangeville tonight (Wednesday). New Hamburg will provide the first round opposition fur Acton in the O.M.H.A.

Choose it



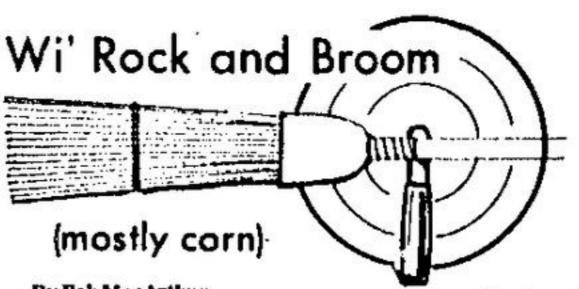
ANDREW MURRAY **MOTORS**

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losses and two ties. O.H.A. JUNIOR "D" HOCKEY **ACTON SABRES** SCHOMBERG COUGARS at the ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sunday, Jan. 30th

at 1.30 P.M.



By Rob MacArthur

A team from the Acton club competed in Erln on January 19 for the O'Keefe trophy and came home winners, Members of the team were Bob Drinkwalter, Bill Sommerville of the Acton club Jack Hamilton Georgetown and Jack Burroughs of Guelph. They are all employees of Standard Products of Georgetown.

If all skips and vice skips would only read the rules of the game, na listed for the Ontario Curling Association and also the local variations, it would save a lot of time and fuss. Of course, all players should have a basic mowledge of the rules. It would help avoid any misunderstandings when actually playing the game.

Have had a number of compliments on the condition of the ice at the club this year. The ice in past years has not been conducive to good curling, but this year there has been very little lustification for anyone to criticize the playing surface. This will reflect on the number of outside curiers who will want to join our honspiels. In fact, a number of rinks have expressed their intention of returning to play on Acton ice. installation of the cement floor was worthwhile, and certainly help in spreading Acton's reputation for a good curling club.

+ + + Two men's and two mixed teums from the Hamilton depot of Texaco Oil Company curled at the local club Saturday evening. Two steer hides were raffled off during the evening and winners were both from the local club, S. Luciw and Mert. Parker. The evening and draw was arranged by Ab Robinson, Enough monles were raised to pay for the color TV antenno and head, installed at the club this season.

+ + + This coming Saturday will see a men's invitational bonsplel. There will be three games of eight ends. Good curling is expected at this bonspiel.

Playoffs for the first draws will be concluded this coming Sunday afternoon. There will be winners for each night of the mixed curling and for the men's draws. The ladies have already declared winners in their Monday afternoon and Thursday evening

through to near the end of March. There will be a change of

50-50

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night to another:

Here are final standings in each of

Monday Mixed 7 to 9. J. Buckman W. Hubolt 11, S. Duboin 14, R. l'onkaley 14, Il. Dumarah 13, H MacArthur 4, A. Irwin 8, G. hargent 8 The rink of Steve Dubots, Jean

Mcliball, J Vohovick and Flo Barber won this draw by points over the team headed by Ron Cooksley Manday Mixed 7 to # Ab

Tyler Jr. 14, M. Jorden II, II. Armstrong t, G. Williams t, S. Luciw 12 T. Tyler Jr. won this draw with Vivian Rossell, Don McDonald and John McCristali on the learn. Tuesday Mixed 7 to V. D. Hagedorn N. M. Halmes 12, F. New S.

R Evalan 12, C. Cook 14, C. Davidson 12, F. Archibald 10, M. Parker 4 Clande Cooke, Rene Watson, Dick Lee, Agnes Holmes were the winning team on the draw Theaday Mixed 8 to 11 M. Blow 14. Il Moore 8, C Anderson 13, 7 l'yler hr u, V. Patrick 4, II. Toth 10, L.

Lawell 17, B. Buchanan 7. The team of

Len Lovell, Gwen Tylor, Harry

Offerhein and Karen Shortill won the

Wednesday Men 7 to 8 K. Murch ment 13, C. Anderson 8, W. Dubola 8, 5. Jubota 8, B. Domarsh 12, R. Cooksley 16, A. Robinson II, G. Sargent 6, R. Cookaley, Bill Majnprize, M. Parker

and h Howen were the winning team. Wednesday Mon V to II Ellerby 18, D Timmings 5, T. Tyler br. 7, M. Holmes 13, M. Jordan 10, 11. Toth 12, 1, Lovell 10, H. Drink walter 6 A Ellerby, Bill Pendleton, Bob Lavell and Earl Ryder were the top rink in

Fillay Mixed Tto V A. McKenzk 12, T Stapleton 10, T. Nichol 4, K Marchment H, F. New B, B Drinkwalter 10, Il. Robertson 10, 1). Manes 10. Ken Marchment, Val Drinkwalter, If Fahian and Heather Dumarah were the log feam in this draw.

Friday Mixed | Blo 11 A. Ellerby 6, A Robinson 10, M. Parker 5, G. Williams 10, M. Jordan 12, I Doberthem 19, B. Somerville 6, N Anderson 6. Top team was L. Doberthein, Barry Huchanan, Mary Watson and Tont Downs. The winning team on the Monday afternoon ladies was Lucille Cooksley

in the Thursday Ludles' draw the winners were Anne Moure, Jean McPhall, Anne Toth and Pat Near. The Alexander McKenzie Trophy will

ina Mellon, Betty Eastwood and Pat

The last draw of the curling season began Monday.

Eight teams squared off in each draw for the mixed bonsplel Saturday, A team from Guelph won the early draw with 401/2 points. It was skipped by Bill Burrows. Another Guelph rink with 3514 points was second. It was skipped by Jack Bruce of the Guelph Curling Club. Third place was won by the Acton rink skipped by Walter Dubois. They carned 24% points.

In the second draw the team skipped by Ken Jackson of Georgetown was high with 401/2 points. Second place was taken also by a Georgetown rink with 3512 points. It was skipped by Reg Broomhead. Third place was The new draws started on won by the team of George Monday and will continue Shields. They had 26% points.

Mae Dunarsh and Ab Irwin were in charge of the bonspiel. personnel on the teams, and some Good prizes were provided for the curters are changing from one winners. The ladies of the club supplied supper for the curlers.

AIHL scoring family affair

Two brother acts, the Masons and McDonalds stole the scoring spotlight, as Lakeview Centre and Nielsen's Clothing posted major upset victories in the Acton Industrial Hockey League, Sunday night.

John Mason scored seven goals and assisted on an eighth to help Lakeview wallop league leading Blow Press 15-2. Brother Gord's five goal, two assist effort helped Nielsen's knock off second place Heller's 12-10.

Stu McDonald contributed three goals and six assists to the clothiers' attack, while younger brother Jim collected four assists assists in a losing cause for Heller's.

Stopped cold

A third brother combo, Harv and Ed Hillier, who rank second and third in the scoring race, managed only two scoring points. Ed scored a goal for Heller's and Hory was limited to a single assist for Blow Press. Gerry Van Der Eyken, Russ

Masales and Gus Ifolmes also botted two goals aptece for Lakeview. Dave Cooksley and Lloyd Smullwood, shot singles. John Cunningham and Gary Kelley replied for Blow Press. Ray Stall, John Kavanaugh,

Ron McClintock and Dave Papillon completed Nielsen's Stuff Donald, N scoring list. Mike Miller, Gary Talllefer and Gary Ritchie were two goal men for Heller's. Ed Hiller, Fred

Buchanan, Cecil Stuckless and Run Mellon scored a goal aplece.

Acten goal on a pass from John

coach Harold Townsley commented after the game.

JOHN MASON Lakeview lamplighter

Higw Press lieller's 6 4 1 13 97 74 Lukeylaw 4 7 0 8 69 82

3 7 1 7 73 12

G A PTS

John Cumpinghom, H Hary Hillier, 15 Ed Hillier, H tinty Ritefau,ff Run Mellon, H Gord Mason, N

22 25 47 20 22 12 15 14 33 12 18 31 IN 11 30 13 14 27 12 12 24 Caril http: klass, If R 15 24 Jave Papillon, N 13 19 23 Run Schmidt, B 50 11 23 Jim McDonald, H 7 16 23

Firefighters drop key game

In a buttle for first place, Elmira bantams defeated Acton Prefighters 4-1 here Saturday afternoon. Firefighters tralled the league leaders by only two points going into the game.

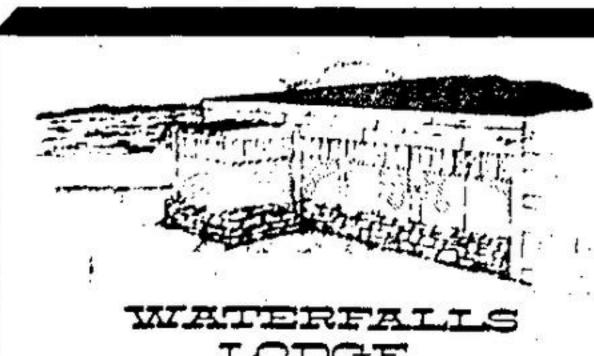
Hansen in the second period. Miller, Seiling, Trapp and Brubacher were the Elmira markanen.

"We just didn't play hockey,"

"They got excellent goaltending ton," he added.

Monday night Firefighters played to a 2-2 tie with Elora. Lost night's game against Orangeville was postponed B.J. Legate scored the lone because of poor weather conditions.

Firefighters host Fergus Friday night, travel to Orangeville, Saturday night and take on Kitchener here, Tuesday, February 1. Actor's record is now eight wins, four losses and



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