

Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport

by Denis Gibbons

The 11-3 shellacking Acton Sabres absorbed against the Fergus "Green Machine" here Sunday was a sad farewell to 1972 for the locals, but sad to report, Sabre headaches may be only beginning.

Since six of the South Central league's seven teams will make the playoffs and Shelburne Bluebirds have fallen far behind the pack it appears there will be playoff hockey of some description here this year. Whether or not it will be worth watching depends on several important decisions the team management must make within the next two weeks.

Not the least of the questions Sabre officials must be asking themselves is who is going to play goal in February and March? By way of explanation we point out that regular goalie Ted Hagan is playing on a juvenile card and may play no more than three junior games after January 10, without forfeiting his right to play with the juveniles. It is our understanding Sabres agreed before the season to use Hagan only as long as he is eligible to play for both teams. After that, he sticks with the juves, who have OMHA playoffs coming up in February themselves.

Hagan's play to date has been adequate and indeed a pleasant surprise, considering he returned to competition last season for the first time since his bantam years. But the little work sub-goalie Rick Bonnette has been getting hasn't helped his progress a bit. Bonnette is signed to a junior card, one of only 25 each team is allowed, yet he's played only three games.

Sabre scouts have been scouring the countryside for goaltending prospects since September, but the players they've invited to workouts haven't measured up to the netminders they're already using. Another goalie must be acquired before the February 10 signing deadline or the team will have to go the rest of the way with just one man.

Question number two has to be, who besides Johnny Snow is going to put the puck in the opposition net? A corollary to that one could be, can we afford to have three players with a combined total of 12 scoring points tying up almost half of the team's penalty minutes, when one player (Snow) working his butt off has racked up 20 points and spent just 10 minutes in the sin bin?

Of six returnees the team had counted on heavily, only one Gary Turkosz is ahead of his point production totals for the same time last year. Turkosz has nine goals compared to eight at this time last year, but four of them have come against the last place Shelburne Bluebirds.

Those behind the pace they set last year with 1972 totals in brackets are Dale Fisher 11 (20), George McPhail 6 (20), Pete Morrison 6 (14), Randy Weldon 6 (12) and Ted Harmer 5 (11).

Yes we know there is no Ray Evans on the ice this year and Sabres have played only two of the 12 games they have scheduled with Shelburne and Schomberg. These two factors alone could account for the low Acton scoring totals. But can they be used as an excuse for the indifferent play of some players in the third period of Sunday's game against Fergus?

Coach Paul Cook's "Green Machine" now appears to be treating games against the Sabres lightly and who can blame them, after they've nailed down 15 out of a possible 18 points against Acton in the last two years. Five of the seven Fergus wins have been by a margin of four goals or more, 10-3, 11-6, 6-2, 8-2, and 11-3.

We realize that untimely injuries, sickness and work shifts have kept Sabres below full strength for a number of games. However, there isn't a team in the league that can't make the same claim. Even with one of their steadiest performers, Ted Harmer holidaying in Florida, Sabres could hardly look for sympathy, when Fergus started Sunday's game without one of their big guns Randy Fleming.

It's by no means imperative that the team win every game or even that it be in the pennant race. All fans are asking for is a good effort with the emphasis on hockey not rough-house tactics.

Because of the ineptness of the Shelburne team, it's almost certain Sabres will be in the playoffs. What the team management must try to answer in the next two weeks is will the playoff hockey justify a \$1 admission charge?



FIRST PURCHASER of a 1973 ticket in the Acton Minor Baseball Association monthly lottery was Fred Salt, Crescent St. AMBA past president Roy Swan and 1st vice-president Tom Bousfield presented Mr. Salt with his ticket on New Year's Day. Money raised from the lottery has helped the association expand its sponsorship to include minor softball teams for girls. (D. Gibbons photo)

Van Fleet joins Slaven on Miami track team

Miami of Ohio, a college with an excellent reputation in U.S. collegiate sports circles will soon have two Acton High School grads on its track team roster. Steve Van Fleet, who set school, county and regional records as a javelin thrower last year left last week for Oxford Ohio, (near Cincinnati) where he will study chemical engineering for the next four years with the aid of an athletic scholarship. Jim Slaven, the 1970 all-Ontario High School 3000 metres champion accepted a Miami athletic scholarship following his graduation from A.H.S. that year. He is now in the third year of a four year physical education course.

Six offers The Miami offer was one of six Steve had to choose from. Bonavista College, Bethany College, Michigan, Oregon and South Carolina were also interested in him. Steve began throwing the javelin seriously in competitions less than 18 months ago, but through hard work and practice became one of Ontario's top juniors in a remarkably short period of time. Acton High track coach Bruce Andrews, who attended Seton Hall University on a track scholarship himself and who is fully aware of the daily training demanded by U.S. coaches sees a bright future for Steve.

Quick learner "Steve has been a quick learner, an extremely hard worker and a fierce competitor," Bruce says. "One thing you have to remember in the U.S. is that every meet you're going up against guys as good or better than yourself. It's hard to be content with your progress, but I think the fact that Steve hates to lose will help him come through."

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Yuletide spirit dies quickly

Little evidence of the Christmas spirit showed up in last Wednesday night's South Central Junior "D" battle between Acton Sabres and Stayner Siskins. A total of 105 minutes in penalties were assessed, as the fourth place Siskins stretched their lead over Sabres to three points with a 9-2 victory. Included in the penalty list were three majors and three misconducts. Stayner scored twice while Sabres were shorthanded in the

first period, before Pete Morrison opened the Acton scoring on a pass from Brian Davey. Siskins added four more goals in the second period, while Sabres could manage only one. Dale Fisher bagged that one with help from John Sheppard and Gary Turkosz. Ted Hagan blocked 43 shots in the Acton nets, including 18 in the

first period, when Stayner held a wide margin in the play. Siskins' leading scorer Greg Conn dented the twine twice. Ted Dwyer, Terry Gowan, Don Parker and Jim Bell counted once each. Missing from the Acton lineup were defenceman Ted Harmer, centre Graham and winger Bert Osborne.

Burg blanks juvenile Lions

First and third period goals by Ron Haffner were enough to give New Hamburg juveniles a 2-0 shutout win over Acton Lions here last night (Tuesday). Peter Wolf in the New Hamburg nets held Lions at bay, especially in the first period. Referees Junior Beaumont and Brian Peavoy handed out seven minor penalties, five of them to Acton.

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