



SABRES' JOHN SHEPPARD missed a golden scoring opportunity, when he broke in all alone on Stayner goalie Barry Corby in Friday night's game here. Corby, who is hidden from the camera has been more than visible to South

Central league sharpshooters. He leads the league in goals against average. Graham Fraser and Bob Krul of Acton watch for a possible rebound. The visiting Siskins won the game 8-4. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

Double defeat

Stayner sweeps series from sinking Sabres

Stayner Siskins have swept a home and home South Central Junior "D" series from the Acton Sabres, dropping the locals into a fifth place tie with Schomberg. Siskins, who are now undefeated in five games scored four unanswered third period goals to dump Sabres 8-4 here Friday night, then posted a 6-0 shutout win in Stayner Monday night.

scoring two goals and setting up three others. Greg Corn, who spent last season with the Junior "B" Owen Sound Greys bagged a hat trick in Monday night's game. **Good start** George McPhail's well-placed wrist shot into the Siskin cage got Sabres off on the right foot Friday night, but Stayner bounced back to take the lead on goals by Wayne Parker, Jim Bell and ex-Alliston Hornet Terry Gowan.

Dale Fisher connected twice in the second period for Acton, before Don Parker scored for Stayner, giving Siskins a 4-3 lead heading into the final frame. Fisher scored his first goal at the 26 mark and was given credit for the second, a shot from the point by Randy Coker, which deflected in off a Siskin defender. Don Parker, Jack Stephens, Rick Coker and Terry Walker were the third period Stayner marksmen. Two of the goals came in a space of six seconds, when Sabre goalie Rick Bonnette blew a long drive from the centre ice area.

Sabres were plagued by hard luck around the Stayner net. One fan counted four times Sabre shots hit the goalpost. Siskins served 15 of the game's 27 minor penalties, but gave up only one power play goal. Excellent defensive work by Gowan and Angus York, who played the first half of the season with the Junior "B" Million Flyers prevented Sabres from scoring.

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PAT PATTERSON

Says Pat

European hockey has arrived

National Hockey League teams would do well to return to the slick passing and skating game made famous by the Cook brothers and now a feature of European hockey. That's one opinion expressed by former O.H.A. referee-in-chief "Pat" Patterson of Norval in a recent interview with this paper.

Well-known as a referee of intermediate hockey games in the North Halton area during the 40's, Patterson later became the O.H.A.'s top arbiter and was subsequently delegated by the CAHA to represent Canada on international hockey junkets. Among his excursions were trips to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and to Stockholm, Sweden, for the 1969 World Championships.

"Canadians have always believed the game is ours," "Pat" says. "Now at least three European countries have taken our game and improved on it from a spectator's point of view."

Pat says he sees no pattern in today's pro hockey. He believes that at the present time Junior "A" hockey is a better spectacle. On the other hand, he is not too quick to criticize NHL players for the ruggedness of today's game. "I believe the pros themselves feel that they have to expect a certain degree of rough play by the very fact they're being paid handsome salaries," he says.

Nor does he think the pros are entirely to blame for the rambunctiousness now apparent in some minor hockey leagues. "There's no question youngsters do try to imitate the pros, but if there's any rough stuff developing in minor hockey, the onus should be on the coaches of the teams to control it," he suggests.

European referees, he explains, are held in much more respect by fans on the continent and their decisions are more often than not considered to be final.

Many of them are accomplished businessmen. They don't officiate more than 10 or 12 games a year," he explains.

Rudy Batja of Czechoslovakia, one of two referees who handled the exciting eighth game of the series, for example, is employed by his country's government as an engineer. In Pat's opinion, Batja and Uve Dahlberg of Sweden did an excellent job in the series and looked as close to Canadian officials as any who refereed.

Much of the credit for the rapid improvement of European hockey, Pat insists, must go to International Ice Hockey Federation president "Bunny" Ahearne, who he describes as "one of the finest gentlemen I've ever had to work with in hockey."

That description may surprise a lot of Canadians, who are accustomed to hearing the controversial IIHF president's name taken in vain for his alleged harassment of teams representing this country in international competition.

Pat admits Ahearne provides great fodder for newspapermen with his controversial comments, but he also feels "Bunny" was unjustly accused of forcing the Canadian National team to withdraw from international play in 1969.

Secret meeting "Ahearne had already cast the deciding vote the previous summer to allow Canada to use nine reinstated pros in the World Championships," he recalls. "Canada was still in by January, before a separate meeting of representatives of the Ice Hockey Federations of the Soviet Union, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Finland and East Germany was held. They voted solidly against the Canadian proposal, claiming they wouldn't play against pros because of Olympic regulations."

"It became a political situation. It's all political wherever you go over there," he says.

Still, Pat disagreed with the decision to withdraw the Canadian team from the tournament.

"That was a year when the Russians were revamping their team. I think we could have beaten them without the pros. Our team had already won a two out of three pre-season exhibition series against the New York Rangers," he explains.

Moved out Political involvement caused Pat some concern during his visit to Prague in 1969.

"It was at the same time the Czechs beat the Russians in the Stockholm tournament," he recalls. "The Czech people went wild with celebration, but the Russians moved tanks into the city to settle things down. We got out in a hurry."

He remembers another occasion when a Soviet referee carried the championship trophy into a hotel lobby following his country's victory.

Nevertheless, Pat has many more fond memories of his association with international hockey and the friends he made in Europe.

"European hockey is becoming a great spectacle. I believe they'll have pro leagues over there within 10 years," he concludes.

Now retired from hockey wars, Pat is president of his own firm Swift Chemical Company, but he maintains his interest in the game.

Underdogs steal AIHL spotlight

Underdog teams stole the spotlight Sunday night, as the Acton Industrial Hockey League race lightened up to the point where now only six points separate the six teams.

Lakeview Centre engineered the biggest upset of the night, stopping a six game Unknowns' undefeated streak with a 3-2 victory. Ken's Auto tied league-leading Nielsen's Clothing 2-2 and Heller's surprised Blow Press with a 4-4 standoff in the other games.

Red-hot goaltending by Ray Smith helped the fired-up Lakeview team hold Unknowns to just two goals, one each by Eric Stone and John Kavanagh.

Talies two Mike Miller tallied the first two Lakeview goals and hard-working Gerry Van Der Eyken

fired the winner midway through the final period.

A third period goal by Fred Buchanan saved Nielsen's from defeat against the improving Ken's Auto squad. Gord Mason scored in the first period for the clothiers.

League scoring leader Dan Kavanagh and Bill "Golden Jet" Coon were the Ken's Auto snipers.

Sponsor shines Team sponsor Ron Heller figured in all four of his leather-workers' goals. He scored two and set up two others. Ray Hibbard and Ron Schmidt also counted for Heller's, who received excellent goaltending from Jim Piehl.

Cyril Rees, Les King, Jim McDonald and John Goy scored for Blow Press.

Backhauler John Snow backhanded home his 12th goal of the season for Acton. Pete Morrison collected a pair of Sabre assists. Randy Coker, John Sheppard and Randy Weldon picked up one apiece.

League leaders defeat Sabres

Bradford Vasey's skated to a 6-3 win over Acton Sabres in South Central Junior "D" action in Bradford last Wednesday night.

Defenceman Don Stevens staked Bradford to a 2-0 lead with a pair of goals in the first six minutes of the game.

A shot from the point by Sabre rearguard Brad Timbers skipped past Vasey goalie John Muizelaar at the 11 minute mark, reducing the score to 2-1. Pete Morrison and John Snow assisted on the goal, which was scored with Bradford short-handed.

Andy Purmals scored for Bradford early in the second period, but Sabres bounced back

again with their second power play goal. Dale Fisher was the marksman. John Snow and Ted Harmer drew assists.

Goals by Les Kovacs and Andy Purmals later in the period made the score 5-2, heading into the third.

Shots on goal were even, 14 apiece in the final frame with each team connecting once. Stevens completed a hat trick for Bradford and Gary Turkosz cashed in Dale Fisher's pass for the Sabres.

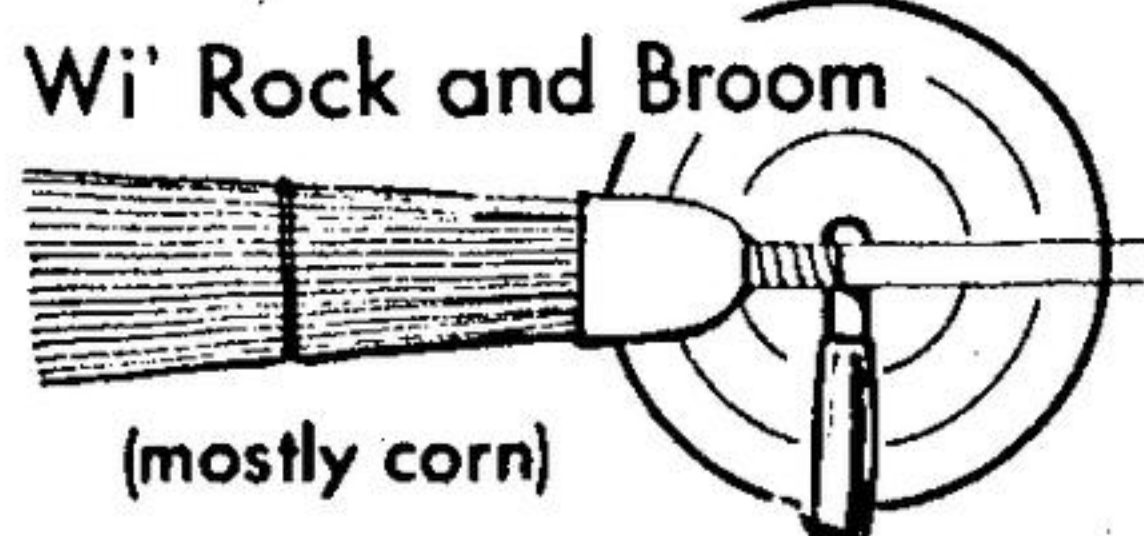
Bradford received 15 of the game's 28 penalties.

Hockey coaching clinic at Hillsburgh Sunday

Hockey coaches or persons interested in coaching someday are invited to attend a hockey coaches clinic, conducted by O.H.A. technical director Ron Smith in the Hillsburgh arena this Sunday morning, January 21 at 10.30.

Included in the three hour clinic will be a demonstration of effective practice drills and proper use of ice space, two films on basic skills and a discussion on the controversial aspects of coaching, such as dealing with referees and parents. Registration fee is \$1 and all who attended will receive a hockey coaching manual.

Smith, who still plays with the Senior "A" Galt Hornets has conducted 50 similar clinics for the O.H.A. throughout Ontario since October. He has also played hockey at the minor pro, college and international levels.



By Bob MacArthur

This week will see the end of the first club draw of the season. There has been some juggling of games to make room for extra games and activities, but the games were mostly all played. Playoffs will start next week.

Saturday there was an invitational mixed spiel at the club. A full quota of rinks participated. Two 10 end games were played. In the first draw the winner was the team skipped by W. Dubois with 39 1/2 points. Second prize went to the D. Van Gooren rink of the Guelph Curling Club. They had 37 1/2 points. Third prize was taken by another local rink, skipped by Ron Cooksley.

In the second draw top rink was skipped by Tony Stapleton. They had a total of 37 1/2 points. Second place went to the E. Pinkney rink of Erin. They earned 35 1/2 points. Third place went to the Hillsburgh rink of J. Hulise with a total of 26 1/2 points.

The ladies' section are planning an open Valentine bonspiel for the club. It will be held Wednesday, February 14.

Noticed that some of the local curlers do not fraternize with the out of town teams that they curl with. This to my way of thinking, is not the way to win friends and influence people. If the visitors are to be made welcome, surely the local curler can spend some time with them, when they come off the ice.

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