

Sportlite

with Denis Gibbons



What a difference a year makes! Last November the pages of Wellington County newspapers were filled with reports on the successes of the Fergus "Green Machine." Now it's hard to find out if the machine is even still running.

It took Fergus officials two whole days to burp up the score of last week's game in Bradford, after the machine swallowed a 14-0 defeat. Accounts of subsequent games with Schomberg and Stayner have been conveniently absent. You can bet they weren't much more favorable!

Sabres have a lot of catching up with the machine to do, in their three year arch-rivalry, nevertheless, Fergus has won nine of the 11 games played between the two teams since this group began play in 1971. And though it pains to admit it, the absence of clever players like the Fleming twins, Sandy and Randy and Merv Griffin will make the Central league a little less exciting this year.

Charlie McRae, the Rockwood rapido who captained Acton CFAW midgets last season finally donned a Sabre uniform for the first time Friday night and nobody is happier to see him back on Acton ice than coach Dave McKnight. Charlie scored three goals for Guelph juveniles when they upset Sabres 6-4 in an exhibition game in October.

Residence almost exactly halfway between the two centres allowed McRae a right of choice of where he wanted to play, providing he was properly released by the Acton Minor Hockey Association. Players should have such a right of choice. The rule that should be added to the OMHA book is one which would restrict Triple "A" centres (35,000 population and over) to players who reside within their boundaries!

Arena manager Harold Townsley and his staff, who are more accustomed to unceasing criticism have had some well-deserved compliments on the appearance of the Acton rink directed at them this year.

"The town won't spend money for better lighting or insulation, but at least the arena staff has made the best of a poor situation with a few gallons of brightcolored paint and four heaters," one hockey fan told me.

Visiting teams have been high in praise of ice conditions, something Acton has always taken pride in.

"Whenever we went into Acton, the ice was as smooth as a baby's bottom," Georgetown Raider centre Junior Tibbetts reminded me the other night.

The holes in the arena roof have a lot to do with keeping the temperature of the building down, as they did when you played for Cheltenham, Junior!

Ann Pool, coach of the Acton High junior girl's basketball team, which finished just a game below .500 (5-7) and dropped three games by less than five points says she's looking forward to a big season next year.

"We'll have our two high scorers, Maria Pataky and Susan Thomson back and two of our overage players, Maureen Gerth and Nancy Shortill are taking up refereeing. Acton's the only town in the county, that didn't have its own refs this year!" Miss Pool related with a smile of anticipation.

Seriously, the junior girls surprised a lot of teams that had written Acton off as pushovers, including the Oakville Perdue five which was forced into a sudden death playoff with Milton, after losing to AHS in the final game of the schedule Friday.

Murray Scoyne says the Ridgetown minor hockey teams will try to win when the second half of the Acton-Ridgetown challenge series is played in the province's "sun parlor" in January.

One report Sunday morning said the Acton lads had coaxed their visitors out of competing with platefuls of pancakes and maple syrup.

Ridgetown parents apparently enjoyed themselves as well.

"Acton has just replaced Ridgetown as the friendliest small town in the world" commented one Ridgetowner late Saturday evening.

"But has it made Readers' Digest?" asked another, more faithful.

Ridgetown actually did rate mention in the Digest. Acton fans, who visited there last year know why.

And in case anybody's interested, I believe Edmonton will take Ottawa 23-6 on Sunday.

It will not be, as one radio announcer predicted, "a replay of parliament."

"You know what that is," he said "Ottawa against the Eskimos and Ottawa always wins!"



SABRES' LEE YOUNG was the recipient of an unwelcome blow from a Penatang defender in Friday night's game. After starting slowly Sabres came on strong to win 6-2 and maintain their hold on third place in the league. Acton plays host to Fergus Friday night and travels to Bradford Sunday night to take on the defending O.H.A. Junior "D" champion Vaseys for the first time.

Reliable Ric Sabre saver

Ile Tomkinson kicked out 19 Penatang shots in the first period Friday night, before Acton Sabres got untracked and posted their third win of the season 6-2 over the upstart Hurons.

Sabres controlled play for most of the final two periods of what turned out to be a rather dull game.

Gary Turkosz became Sabres' all-time scoring leader when he broke Ray Evans' mark with his eighth goal of the season in the first period.

"Turk" also picked up three assists. Dale Fisher moved back in between Turkosz and Pete Morrison at centre when Kevin Zardo failed to show up and the big centre responded with a goal and three assists.

Pete Morrison netted his third and fourth goals of the season, while Brian Beaumont and Bert Osborne both bagged their second.

Brian "Duke" Duquette and Bob Moreau scored for the Hurons, who had only

been on the ice five times and have yet to sign any imports. Charlie McRae, an Acton midget grad played a strong game for the Sabres, although he didn't figure in the scoring.

"We played well enough to win, but we can do a lot better," said coach Dave McKnight.

Minor midget Robin Incoe dressed as backup goalie, since regular Rick Bonnette is sidelined with a broken finger.

Scoring Summary
First Period
A...Turkosz (8) (Beaumont) 6:22
A...D. Fisher (1) 12:25
P...B. Duquette 16:02
A...Morrison (3) (D. Fisher) (Turkosz) 17:13

Second Period
A...Osborne (2) (McGilloway) 18:33

Third Period
A...Beaumont (2) (D. Fisher) (Turkosz) 3:44
P...Moreau (B. Duquette) (Jamieson) 8:02
A...Morrison (4) (Turkosz) (D. Fisher) 8:53

Sabres: Goal—Ric Tomkinson, Defence—Brian Beaumont, Steve Taylor, Warren Craig, Gary Saul, Rob McEachern, Centre—Dale Fisher, Bill McGilloway, Bob In-gia, Charlie McRae, Right Wing—

Pete Morrison, Lee Young, Doug Patten. Left Wing—Gary Turkosz, Bert Osborne, John Sheppard, Sub Goalie—Robin Incoe.

Look sharp

Georgetown's Ray Love is averaging close to a goal a game for the Milton Flyers, who are currently in third place behind Oakville and Burlington in the Central O.H.A. Junior "B" league.

Brad Butterworth of Georgetown is a valuable defenceman with the fourth place Streetsville Derbys in the same league.

MEET THE SABRES

O.H.A. JUNIOR "C" HOCKEY

Acton Sabres vs Fergus Green Machine

At the Acton Community Centre Friday, November 23rd 8:30 p.m.

Adults \$1.00 - Students 75c - Children 25c Senior Citizens Admitted Free The 'Penalty Box' will be open to Sabre Booster Club members



DALE FISHER
One of the of the strongest players in the league, husky Dale Fisher has averaged better than a point a game at centre ice in his first two years with the Sabres. Dale lives on Highway 25 just south of town and works as a trainer for thoroughbred horses on the Jockey Club circuit.



GARY TURKOSZ
Only player to have appeared in every Sabre game since the team's inception, hard-working Gary Turkosz is also the team's all-time scoring leader. This year he's off to a tremendous start with eight goals and eight assists in 5 games. "Turk" has been working as a carpenter for father Pete, a staunch Sabre supporter.

PENATANG 2 GO SABRES 6 GO HALTON HILLS FURN & APPL

SABRE FANS will be able to get the score of Friday night games the next morning, courtesy of Jake Kuiken, proprietor of Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances. Jake cooked up the idea of posting scores on his lighted advertising board near the entrance to town. Now if we could just teach Jake to spell! Or was he smarter than we thought when he advertised a recent game "Sabres vs. Stainer".

(D. Gibbons photo)

Ronnie rifles winner for improving atoms

Ronnie Jackson's third period goal gave Acton A-B atoms a well-deserved 2-1 win over Fergus in Waterloo-Wellington league play in the "thistle town" Thursday night.

Scott Finnermore put Acton ahead in the first period with help from Randy Smith, but Fergus tied the score early in the final frame on a marker by Kent Bailey.

Coach Fred Buchanan said everyone of his players gave a 100 percent effort.

Sincere Thanks!
To all parents who assisted in making the weekend with Ridgetown Minor Hockey Association so successful.
The Executive
Acton (W-W) Minor Hockey Association

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