

Sportlite

with Denis Gibbons



Dear Santa:

I've been a good boy so instead of a toy in my stocking I'd like a big pointed spike for every Sports lad who thinks I've been bad.

Would you please try to get me: Alan Eagleston's assurance that as Premier of Ontario in 1976 he will use better judgment than he did last year in forecasting a 46-12 goals advantage for Team Canada in the historic hockey series.

A crying towel for all the skeptics who laughed at Jack Carpenter when he personally put Acton in the national lime light with his Grey Cup gimmick and who are now in a panic wondering what to do, with Acton's Centennial year less than two weeks away.

A video-tape replay of the scene where Alexandre Yakushev glides past the opposition net, lets the goalie tie himself up in knots, then closes his eyes and backhands the puck into the 24 square feet of net that has been left open, so that I can see it anytime I should go astray and begin believing the NHL brand of hockey is superior to that played on International rinks.

A note from Phil "Scotty" McCristall reminding me that every time I lift a pen to criticize Phil Esposito, he fills the net with another half dozen goals.

A comfortable seat in front of the McCristall color TV set on New Year's Eve, so that Scotty and I can talk about the one thing we agree on, the superiority of Ara Parseghian-taught Notre Dame college football.

The "animals of the year" award which I would present to the Ottawa Roughriders (sorry Philadelphia Flyers) for the use of illegal tactics above and beyond the call of duty in this year's Grey Cup game.

A piece of the shoulder pad of Gene Hickerson, who wound up his illustrious career with pro football's most consistent team the Cleveland Browns Sunday. A player who had too much ability and pride to ever consider levelling the opposition's best player with a fist in the throat or landing full force on an opponent who was already out of bounds.

Two medals for loyalty, which I would present to "Tinnie Masates" and Father Mike Bennett for their undying support of the Cleveland Indians, while less faithful rounders fanatics like myself have spread their bets around American league cities like Oakland, Boston, Baltimore and Detroit depending upon the year.

A reminder to Mike Marshall that he better think twice about throwing his glove up into the air in disgust because a teammate made an error in Dodger stadium with 6-3 225 pound catcher Joe Ferguson as his batterymate.

A dinner date with New York Times dining critic Craig Claiborne who makes my mouth water every time he talks about lasagna at La Scala and Pekin duck at Kwong Chow.

A dancing date with the usherette in Section 56 of the Montreal Forum who makes my mouth water and my heart pitter-patter every time the TV cameras swing her way.

Two imaginary hunks of venison from the deer "Duvy" Duval missed up north this fall.

A chapeau that will outwow the fancy Austrian headwarmer sported by Sabre manager Lou Bonnette.

A carbon copy of the \$3,000 account the OMHA received from the Royal York Hotel for its annual meeting in October and an explanation from president Lloyd Davidson about why the governing body of Ontario Minor Hockey spends three grand to rent the lavish premises so it can spend all day condemning kids for stick-swinging and tricking themselves into believing that giving a boy 10 games instead of five will curtail this nonsense, then turns around and

destroys the whole effort by handing out free tickets to Maple Leaf Gardens where young lads sit every Saturday night and say, "They can give me 20 games, but if Bobby Clarke does it, it must be alright."

A special request for which Santa might be able to get help from an AHS basketball coach. One USC cheerleader. Any one Ann, they're all great!

A promise from Acton minor hockey coaches that they will make haste putting into practice the tips they receive at next month's O.H.A. coaching clinic which will be conducted in the community centre by technical director Ron Smith, an admirable hockey player who has played at the professional, college, junior and international level and who was honest enough to tell me last year "The Soviets do so many things well and I'm not too proud to copy anything that's done well."

A clarification from the unnamed Quebec Rampart defenceman on what he meant when he said "The Soviet system isn't worth a nickel" after the Moscow Selects had drubbed his club 13-2, scoring 10 times while he was on the ice.

An evening alone with Toronto Star charmer Gale Garnett so that I can tell her that I've just outgotten her 15-14 in the use of "Me", "Myself" and "I" and so that we can sit and tell each other how really great we think we are without any interruptions.

And seriously, a New Year's wish that more and more youngsters will become involved in the sport of their choice and a self-reminder that I should bless the day the late "Peewee" Masters ever showed me how to pick up a grounder and the many nights men like Ben Bayliss and Ernie Marks gave up their good time to show me how to handle a puck.

Merry Christmas everybody.

Midget passing improves but sin bin sentences hurt

Acton CFAW midgets averaged a point a game in their three most recent Waterloo-Wellington league games.

Midgets upset Orangeville 3-2 on Orangeville ice Saturday night, bowed to Elmira by the same score in Elmira Sunday night and played to a 2-2 tie against Orangeville here last night (Tuesday). Midgets remain among the league's top three contenders.

The CFAW squad took only five minor penalties and built

up a 3-0 lead on a pair of goals by John Hansen and a single tally by John McAdam Saturday night, before Orangeville hit the scoreboard. B. J. Legate drew a pair of assists, while McAdam, Hansen and Steve Brunelle notched one apiece.

Assistant coach Don Legate reports the line of McAdam, Hansen and Legate played a beautiful passing game and that Robin Insoe came up with a super effort in goal. Acton led 1-0 heading into the third period of Sunday night's game. That was on a first period goal by John McAdam with Allan White and Jeff Townsley assisting.

Men tied it up for Elmira at the 20 second mark of the final frame and the host club stretched their lead to two goals on markers by Bryndza and Uberig, before Russ Van Fleet netted an unassisted marker for Acton with only nine seconds to play.

Van Fleet cashed in a pass from Steve Brunelle in the third period of last night's game to give the locals the tie. Russ also assisted on a first period marker by Jeff Townsley.

Horlock and Halls were the Orangeville marksmen. "Our passing is improving," commented assistant coach Legate "but

penalties continue to hurt us. Some of our players are allowing themselves to be intimidated."



AL CLARK

Wishes Everyone

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

He looks forward to serving everyone in 1974.

SEE AL AT

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Withers leads Lions over 'burg

Ken Withers scored two goals and assisted on a pair of others to lead Acton Lions to a 7-1 win over Hillsburgh juveniles here last night (Tuesday).

Wayne Allen also netted two goals, while George Artem, Terry "Moochee" Holmes and Kevin Marcoux tallied singles. Artem assisted on four goals, Marcoux two and Rolf Hoyer and Pete Pavli one each.

Charlie Bennett provided steady goaltending in the Lion nets.

ACTON MINOR SOCCER CLUB Pre-Season Training (NO CHARGE)

All Interested Boys and Parents are Welcome

SESSIONS

AGES 6 - 10

*Wednesday Jan. 2nd 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
*At M. Z. Bennett Gymnasium
*And every following Wednesday

AGES 11 and up

*Thursday Jan. 3rd 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
*At Robert Little Gymnasium
*And every following Thursday

All last year's coaches and anyone interested in coaching, please attend at appropriate gymnasium and time.

A-B's show Fergus power

Acton A-B atoms posted an impressive 6-3 victory over Fergus in Waterloo.

Wellington league action here Saturday afternoon. A-B's led 3-1 at the end of the

first period and 4-2 after two periods.

Bants bow to Fergus but melt Polar Kings

Acton Firefighter bantams dropped a 3-2 decision to Fergus here Saturday afternoon, but bounced back to upset Elmira Polar Kings for the second time this year 9-7 in Elmira Sunday night.

Bants now have a respectable record of five wins, two losses and three ties. Marvin McNabb and Rick Van Fleet scored for Acton here Saturday with Jeff Shields and Joe Gardin assisting.

Tom Gamble, Derek Rooney and Garry Dobbie were the Fergus marksmen. "We gave the puck away too much, in fact every one of their goals was a complete giveaway," said coach Harold Townsley.

Joe Gardin fired four big goals to bring Firefighters back from a 7-5 deficit in Sunday's game. Marvin McNabb scored twice and Bill Manes, Ricky Holmes and Kevin Weir counted once each. Holmes and Rick Van Fleet each drew two assists.

"It was an up and down game. We let 'George do it' for two periods, but snapped out of it in the third to score four times in the final 10 minutes," said coach Townsley.

Coach Fred Buchanan was proud of the Acton team's effort and expressed the hope they play as well in their big game in New Hamburg tomorrow (Thursday) night.

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Nor-Dam pendant or wrist watches for men, ladies and children. \$12.99
Al- wallets, key cases, French purses made by Buxton, etc.
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Hinton's 5¢ to \$1 Store

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Toyota Community Calendar
What's doing in North Halton area!
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON
On Wednesday night, December 19, the Acton Citizens Band will be touring the town by bus, playing and singing Christmas carols. Be sure to watch for them!
CONCERT POSTPONED
The School Choirs Concert at Robert Little School, will be postponed to Thursday evening, December 20, at 7:30 p.m., due to the teachers' walkout on Tuesday.
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
The C.G.I.T. Vesper Service will be held on Sunday, December 23, at 8 p.m., at the United Church. Check the Church notices for the special Christmas service at the Church of your choice.
See how much car your money will buy at
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Free Press Sports Page



TWO GOAL sniper Bill Coon (9) spent a lot of time around the Blow Press cage, as Ken's Auto Service upset the pressmen 8-7 in Acton Industrial Hockey league action Sunday night.

Buddha's boys bulge the twine

Ken's Auto Service averaged only 3.1 goals for their first seven Acton Industrial Hockey League games, but the automen went on a scoring spree Sunday night to edge Blow Press 8-7 and move into a tie for fourth place.

Van's Welding took advantage of the Blow Press defeat to grab sole possession of first place with a 9-2 win over Hellers and Lakeview Centre upended Station Hotel 6-3.

Acton juvenile grad Dan McGiloway triggered a hat trick to get the automen in motion. Captain Bill "Golden Jet" Coon netted a pair of goals, while Jim "Shaky" McDonald, Dan Kavanagh and Les King tallied singles.

John Kavanagh padded his league scoring lead with a three goal effort for Blow Press. Jim Kavanagh, Gary Lewis, John Roberts and Don Rogers were the other marksmen. Ed Hillier bagged three of the welders' goals against Hellers. Dave Papillon and Woody Fabian netted two each and Ken Owen and Barry Wilson contributed single goals.

AIHL standings

	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
Van's Welding	8	6	1	1	64	27	13
Blow Press	8	5	2	1	54	40	11
Lakeview Centre	8	5	3	0	46	44	10
Station Hotel	8	3	5	0	34	45	6
Ken's Auto Service	8	3	5	0	30	41	6
Hellers	8	1	7	0	40	61	2

Firefighter draw winners

Don Maize of Milgrove won first prize in the Acton Firefighters' Association Christmas draw. Bea Chew of Acton won second, Ken McInnes of Acton third and Lyle Cripps of Acton fourth.
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MEET THE SABRES
O.H.A.
JUNIOR "C" HOCKEY
Acton Sabres
vs
Penetang Hurons
At the Acton Community Centre
FRIDAY, DEC. 21
9:00 p.m.
Adults \$1.00 - Students 75c - Children 25c
Senior Citizens Admitted Free
The "Penalty Box" will be open to Sabre Booster Club members
"Season's Greetings"

RIC TOMKINSON
First stringer for last year's O.M.H.A. Major Midget "AA" finalist Georgetown squad, Ric Tomkinson has filled a huge void in the Sabre lineup of last year by providing better than average goaltending in the first half of the season. Ric is currently third best among the league's 14 goalies. He is a Grade 12 student at Georgetown District High.

BOB INGLIS
Glen Williams native Bob Inglis has improved every game, after joining the Sabres this year from Georgetown juveniles. Bob, who comes from hockey family that needs no introduction in Halton Hills is a strong skater and persistent forechecker. He has also found time to chalk up 10 scoring points in his first 10 games. Bob is employed in the Inglis Masonry firm.

Christmas Greetings

Our wish is simple and sincere. May the holiday bring gladness to you all. Thanks to everyone.

MANAGEMENT & STAFF
GEORGETOWN BRITISH CARS