

Sportlite

with Denis Gibbons

A few boxla buffs laughed this Spring when Bob Pool, rookie coach of the Acton Rams vowed he would teach the Junior "C" representatives of Mississauga and Long Branch, where he learned his lacrosse, a thing or two before the season was over.

And when Rams dropped their first game to Long Branch and got patted 32-9 on their first visit to Mississauga, it looked like they had good reason to laugh.

That was more than a month ago however, and with the Central Ontario Junior "C" regular season just a week short of being finished, the league's June patsies have become a July powerhouse. Rams have won seven of their last 10 games, climbed from ninth place up to sixth, clinched a playoff berth and knocked off every team in the league except Bolton, Rexdale and Orillia at least once.

Going into Sunday's final road game in Mississauga, the Ram record against Mississauga and Long Branch reads 4-3 in Acton's favor. There are not many fans laughing now, especially in those two metropolises.

What has happened to put the team on the winning track?

"We've got rid of the individualism and substituted it with solid team play", coach Pool explained after Monday's win over Owen Sound. "We're playing psychological lacrosse. The guys are much more mentally alert and every time they go out on the floor they're thinking WIN."

Sure there have been a few roster additions. Goalie Doug Taylor, Jim Chisholm and Bruce Green, who all played in East York last year have helped out and Glen Sherman, a Mississauga cut has worked hard. But it's basically the same team that started the season and mostly locally developed players, Pool points out.

"We had to go out and get some imports simply because some of the locals who aren't here anymore weren't showing up" he explains. "This is Acton's team and the way they're playing now, I think they deserve Acton's support."

Pool singles out players like Wade Knight and Ian Campbell to show that it is not always points on the scoresheet that indicate a man's value to his team. Although neither are scoring threats, as a defensive combination they work extremely well, in the coach's view.

Speaking of combinations, "the best in Junior 'C' lacrosse" is the tag he puts on Steve and Paul Wilson, two lads who learned their lacrosse in Erindale and now live in Milton. Both have more than 20 goals and 40 scoring points in their rookie season of junior lacrosse. July heat and the team's dismal start have cut attendance figures almost in half, in comparison to the first four years the team operated. August, manager Howard Dwyer hopes, will be kinder to club coffers. Certainly, he's now got a competitive team with which to attract folks who love their lacrosse.

A league meeting in Bolton Sunday will decide playoff arrangements. Following Monday night's final regular season home game against Arthur, it's expected Rams will enter a four team round robin series with Huntsville, Long Branch and Owen Sound. The series will declare one winner to advance to the 'A' series. That round robin with Bolton, Rexdale, Mississauga and Orillia battling it out, will eliminate one team.

There will be lots more lacrosse in the community centre next month. Lots more fans would give the team the encouragement they've missed this year for the first time.

A playoff schedule should be ready in time for next week's Free Press.

Blazers blank Titans Arrows shot down

Blazers blanked the Titans 15-0 and Avengers stopped the Arrows 16-3 in the Acton Men's recreational softball league Sunday night.

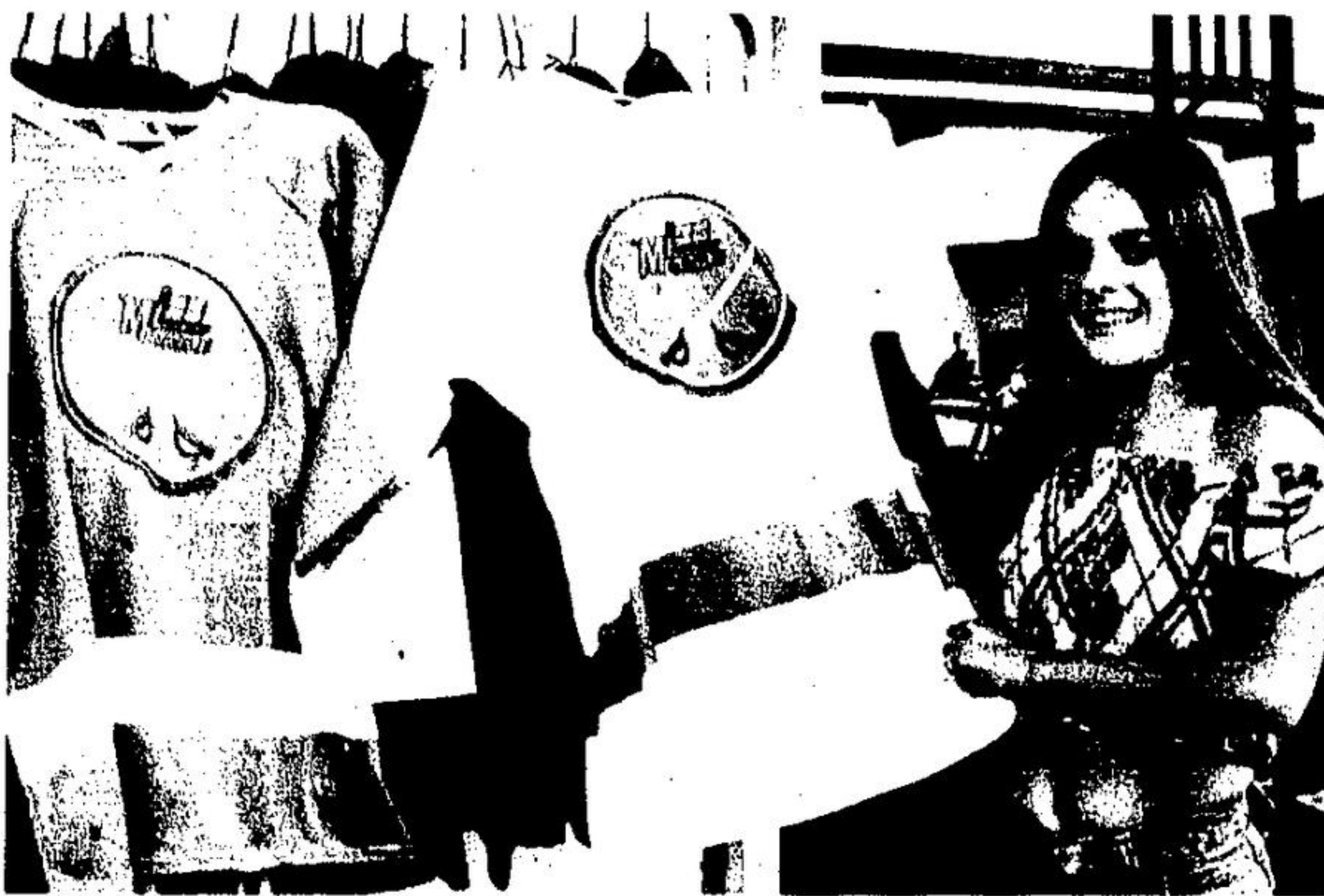
Gerry Van der Eyken, Bill Boyd and Fred Crawford lined out five base hits apiece against Arrow pitcher Jim Whitmill to lead the Avengers to victory. Brent McEachern and Gord Standbridge had three hits apiece for the winners and Dave Cooksley drew four walks.

Avengers scored in every inning but the third and fourth of the seven inning contests. Winning pitcher Gord Standbridge struck out nine.

Rick Bonnette was the lone Arrow to hit safely twice against Standbridge. Mark Watson, Rodger McEachern, Ray Graham, Skeeter Hill and Jim Whitmill had one hit each.

Wally Ella was the hero of the Blazer victory, as he pitched the win and also walloped two homers and two singles. Nelson Granger homered twice in one inning for the winners. Don Richards had four hits in five at bats.

Ed Hillier, Andre Conway, John McKinnon, Ron Hagan and Ken McLeod hit safely for the Titans.



COLORFUL NEW home and away uniforms for the Acton junior hockey Sabres were unveiled Sunday at an off-season pool party at the home of team sponsor Joe Gardin on 25 Sideroad. Mr. Gardin's Mobile Materials Handling firm has taken over full sponsorship of the Junior "C" hockey team. Sabre supporter Joan Fournier displays the new sweaters which for home will be a white base with

light blue, dark blue and orange trim and for away games an orange base with light blue, dark blue and white trim. The basic Sabre crest has been maintained with the addition of the words "Mobile-Lift" one of the trade marks of the company. The name "ACTON" is printed above the numbers on the back of the sweater.

Clinch playoff berth

Rams knock Satellites out of winning orbit

Acton Rams officially clinched a berth in the Central Ontario Junior "C" lacrosse playoffs, when they upset the Owen Sound Satellites 14-11 at the community centre Monday night. The win improved Rams' record to 9-14 and gave them sole possession of sixth place in the 10 team loop. Less than a month ago Acton was in second last place.

The fine combination play of Steve and Paul Wilson, two Ram rookies from Milton and Bruce Cooksley's three goal effort highlighted Acton's first win over Owen Sound, after three straight defeats at the hands of the Satellites. Steve Wilson fired four goals and brother Paul added two goals and three assists in the Ram scoring totals. Cooksley had three goals and

Jim Chisholm, Ian Duff, George Artem, Ron Turkoz and Del Watson one apiece. Roger Boyd accounted for five of the 11 Owen Sound goals, including three in the space of four minutes in the third period. Jim Quigley netted a pair and Paul Kazarian, Ivan McNabb, Rodger Minard and Rodger Dadswell tallied singles. Minard also earned five

assists. Score was tied 4-4 after one period. Rams led 9-8 heading into the third, quickly made it 11-8, then found themselves tied when Boyd fired his final three goals after Acton penalties.

Jim Chisholm fired the winner for the Rams at 13:21 and the Wilson brothers each added single insurance goals in the final two minutes of play.

Starting goalie Gary Turkoz picked up a game misconduct following a

second period fight with Owen Sound's Rodger Minard and Doug Taylor took over in the Ram nets for the rest of the game.

Rams close out their regular schedule with games in Oshawa tonight (Wednesday), Mississauga Sunday night and back home at the community centre against the Improving Arthur Aces Monday, July 29 at 8:30.

A league meeting is being held in Bolton this Sunday to determine the league playoff schedule.



ACTON ROTARY novices dropped a tough 3-2 Golden Triangle Minor Lacrosse League decision to the Guelph Brazalot team in Guelph Thursday night. Novices have a record of three wins and seven losses, but are improving with each game, coaches John Goy Jr. and Gus Holmes report.

Track team second

Guelph Legion Track Club and the North Halton Harriers combined efforts to finish second as a team in last Wednesday's Ontario Track League meet at Kitchener's Centennial Stadium.

Glen McKenzie of the Harriers, who will run the 1500 at next month's Ontario

Games placed third in the 2000 metre steeplechase in a time of 6:20.8.

Rick Van Fleet was fourth in the javelin with a throw of 36.04 metres, while Rodger McEachern had a time of 53.5 in the boys' 400 metres and Heather Near a time of 63.6 in the girls' 400.

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Atoms end unbeaten season

Acton Cycle and Sports atoms completed their Halton Rural Minor Softball League schedule undefeated and in first place when they clobbered Omagh 26-1 at the park Monday night behind the fine pitching of Ian Paul who was making his first ever start on the mound.

Bruce Shannon led the Acton hitting parade with four hits including a home run, while Jimmy Richard and Brian Demone lined out two base hits apiece.

The atoms finished the regular season with a record of nine wins, no losses and three ties. They'll have a bye in the first round of the playoffs, while the other teams battle it out through the preliminary rounds.

Acton: Ian Paul, Mike Yalowica, Robert Dawe, Bruce Shannon, Jimmy Richard, Brian Demone, Paul Cargill, Kevin Kroil, Larry Thompson.



ATOM Paul Cargill reaches out to bunt the ball.

Bantam girls rally to clinch first place

Acton Family Pool Sales bantam girls clinched a very successful first season in the Halton Rural Minor Softball League when they scored 12 runs in the final inning and clinched first place in standings with a 19-18 win over Omagh here last Wednesday night.

The Acton team coached by Wally Ella and Pat Van Der

Bantams gain victory

Gary Lumbers was the big bat for Thompson Fuels bantam boys' first win of the year, driving in two runs with a homer. Gary was good for another three hits, Rick Holmes for four, Kevin Crippa, Tom Davies, Cliff Britton, Charlie Payne and Greg Robson for three apiece. Steve Van Der Eyken and John Thompson for two apiece to bring the score to 17-6 over Lowville.

Steady pitching by Rick Holmes kept the Lowville boys at bay, after Lowville's doubleheader the previous Sunday. Standin coach Gerry Van Der Eyken stated these boys could win it all, if they'd buckle under and play.

Eyken has two league games with Hornby to play this week, then they'll get a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Debbie Brown scored the 19th run that gave the girls first place, following an error by the Omagh catcher when Laurel Murchison struck out. Debbie had singled to drive in Kim Van Der Eyken with the tying run earlier.

Anna Swinkels started pitching for Acton. Heather McEachern relieved her and Debbie Brown came on later to pick up the win. Heather Eves and Lenne McKinnon pitched for Omagh, who led 9-0 after the first inning and 16-7 heading into the bottom of the 7th.

Top hitter for Acton was Anna Swinkels who homered twice and singled twice. Debbie Brown lined out three hits. Sue Lehn and Heather McEachern two each and Marg Slingorland, Kim Van Der Eyken, Karen Van Der Eyken and Tammy Livermore one apiece.

The previous night the Acton girls travelled to Lowville and chalked up a convincing 40-13 victory, as every player on the team managed at least one base hit.

Anna Swinkels belted two home runs and four triples and Kim McCristall had five hits including a home run to lead the Acton attack. Kim Van Der Eyken also homered and Heather McEachern had four hits. Heather was the winning pitcher.



JOHN HOARE proudly displays his trophy received for his round of 36. An outstanding achievement for a left hand golfer at Acton Meadows.

GO GLEN TAXI
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Jr. "C" Lacrosse Excitement Last Regular Season Game

RAMS VS. ARTHUR ACES
JULY 29th 8:30 P.M.
Acton Community Centre

Junior boxla stats

JUNIOR C—CENTRAL DIVISION STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Mississauga	17	4	0	383	234	34
Bolton	17	4	0	301	197	34
Rexdale	16	4	0	305	209	32
Orillia	14	8	0	357	302	28
Owen Sound	13	7	0	308	250	26
Acton	9	14	0	220	294	18
Huntsville	7	15	0	236	311	14
Long Branch	6	15	0	265	281	12
Arthur	3	16	0	181	330	6
Oshawa	3	17	0	160	308	6

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Jim Meredith, Huntsville	22	54	65	119
Sergio Durigon, Mississauga	21	45	69	114
Lindsay Sanderson, Bolton	20	68	35	103
Danny Gibbs, Long Branch	21	41	55	96
Bob McMahon, Mississauga	21	40	52	92
Brian Self, Rexdale	19	54	36	90
Ken Holt, Orillia	21	46	41	87
Bob Noble, Bolton	20	52	27	79
Ivan McNabb, Owen Sound	19	22	54	76
Charlie Robinson, Orillia	22	36	37	73



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