Sabres' cool almost won

by Eric Elstone

What impressed me most about the Sabres who bused the 100 miles north to Meaford Friday for the final game of the regular season, was their composure.

They had to win. As far as the players who gathered at the community centre were concerned, this was a must game. Charlie McCrae, the soft spoken captain of the team, said that Meaford and Acton were tied with 14 points each because the Monarchs had upset fifth place Orangeville earlier in the week. Meaford also had a game in hand over Acton, an extra chance to leave the Sabres at the bottom of the OHA Junior C Standings.

The team would be shorthanded for the game. Coach Craig Weldon and manager Bill Campbell spent about an hour or so trying to reach players by phone. Eleven of a possible 14, the number at other games, made the trip for what would be the third game in three nights.

Five resting

In the program list of players sold at the Meaford arena, the Sabres were credited with 16 men. In the game, five men on the ice plus Robin Inscoe (in goal), whose name is spelled incorrectly in the program, left five skaters resting on the bench.

These Sabres, besides the ones mentioned elsewhere, played in the game: Steve Buchanan, Andy Wyseman, Alf Behrens, Steve Taylor, Don Richard and Kevin Marcoux.

As the players waited to see who else might make the game, former Milton Flyer Dave Chapman got his skates sharpened at the arena.

There was extra pressure on at least oneplayer. To say that a person's future depends on how well he performs for 60 minutes on two thin steel blades is an overstatement.

College scouts

There were, however college hockey scouts at the Meaford game. Defenceman Perry Caputo was the most visibly bothered player, but only off the ice. He was talking about it even when the bus stopped in Collingwood for a 1 a.m. snack on the return trip.

The men from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and RPI in Schenectady in the same state also came to see McCrae, who scored four goals, and Chapman who played a solid defence and assisted on a goal. The other Sabres and the Monarchs were probably evaluated, too.

If there was a pep talk to the players, coach Weldon didn't give the pitch on the ride up. The players, instead, talked about their girl friends, slept and played euchre.

Coach Weldon may have given the 11 players a spiel in the dressing room prior to stepping on the ice, but I missed it if he did. The bus we were on and a car collided near the arena and I stopped to take pictures. Just some paint was scraped off.

On the ice, the players for the most part retained their composure, For example, when their legs must have been feeling the previous eight periods of play the most, in the third frame, the Sabres did not cave in after the Monarchs took a two goal lead. They refused to panic; they came back.

McCrae's second, third and fourth markers of the night gave the team a one goal edge by the mid-point of the third period.



Resting on the bench.

"Moochie" Holmes, who assisted on three of McCrae's goals and who was often around the Meaford net looking for a loose puck, marred his performance by picking up late third period penalties. The Monarchs took advantage of the situation and were lucky to beat Inscoe whose kicking and grabbing of pucks kept the Sabres within distance. He handled 33 shots. The final score was a five all draw.

On the trip south the team was quieter than on the run north. They were, of course, tired. The weather, flowing snow, and very bad driving conditions may have had something to do with it.

Regardless of the tie, the Sabres are in the playoffs, hopefully in the finals if they can get by Alliston.

How are the Sabres and Meaford in the playoffs? It seems to have been decided after their last game of the regular season.

Bracebridge beat Meaford in the Monarchs'

last seasonal game: 6-2. The Junior C team officials met in Barrie on the weekend, and decided the two bottom teams

were in. If the Sabres are able to keep their composure, their cool as they did in Meaford, and play to win with a full team, they have a good chance to take Alliston in seven.

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SABRE STEVE TAYLOR and goalie Gary Villon watch the puck bulge the Monarchs' net in Meaford. The second period goal fired by Alf Behrens briefly tied the game for the visitors at 2-2 Friday. In the final frame, the Sabres pulled ahead

of the Monarchs 5-4 on one of Charlie McRae's four goals. Meaford came back with its fifth goal with less than four minutes to play. The Sabres open their playoff action against Alliston, there, tonight.

Sabres capitalized on four

power play opportunities,

with Charlie McRae notching

ing a pair, one from George

Trenes and Dave Chapman

and another from Perry

Firstgoal

first goal as a Sabre on a Cou-

gar penalty in the first period.

Alf Behrens, who assisted on

Buchanan's goal, followed

suit with one when the Cou-

With the teams at equal

strength in the first frame,

Chapman fired one home

from George Artem. Caputo

took a play from Richard and

Sword club president Fred

Buchanan says a general

meeting for the election of the

1976-77 executive will be held

in April.

April meeting

gars were short handed.

Steve Buchanan got his

Caputo and Don Richard.

Sabres in playoffs tonight

The Sabres open a best of seven game OHA playoff series in Alliston against the Hornets tonight.

Alliston is the top place club in the Junior C loop, Bradford, Orangeville and Meaford are playing a home-andhome round robin plus a twogame-out-of-three series between the winners of the round robin games. Sabre manager Bill Campbell said the winner will play Acton in the finals.

The playoff arrangements were decided between the Junior C loop teams at a meeting Saturday in Barrie. In the first game of the round robin series between Orangeville and Bradford. the Blues soundly defeated

the Stone Crushers 9-2. In the closing games of the regular season, the Sabres played three games in as many nights. They returned from Meaford early Saturday morning with a 5-5 tie from late Friday night. Schomberg outscored Acton 8-6 in another road game, Thursday, after the Sabres were edged 4-3 by Bradford here Wednes-

day Feb. 4. Four goals

The four goal output from Sabre captain Charlie McRae

The hockey season is not

quite complete, yet the Inter-

mediate C Swords are pre-

Club president Fred

Buchanan outlined the team's

plan for the next season in a

Mr. Buchanan stated that

coach Don Aubin is expected

. Duckie Simon and Cam

Gall of Milton swept the finals

of the first Acton, George-

town, Milton and Oakville

(AGMO) Snooker League

doubles at the Acton Family

Billiards over the weekend.

ed a Georgetown team

AIHL final

standings

Van's

Hellers

Station

Lakeview

Blow Press

Kensmen

view 5-2.

frame marker,

The winners first dispatch-

prepared statement

paring for the '76-77 games.

forced the Meaford Monarchs into a come from behind tie with the visitors Friday. Approximately 300 fans watched

the game. The third period was the key. The Sabres entered it trailing 3-2. McRae started the previous scoring from Steve Taylor and Alf Behrens. Behrens himself soon scored late in the second frame from Andre Wyseman. Very early in the final

frame Meaford made it 4-2, but McRae's outburst of three straight goals put the Sabres into a 5-4 lead mid-way through the period. Terry "Moochie" Holmes, who figured in three of Mc-

Rae's goals, took a gross misconduct penalty late in the third period and Meaford tied the score with 3.40 to play. The Sabres pulled goalie Robin Inscoe, who faced 33

shots, with 40 seconds to play, but failed to score with the extra attacker. Assists

Don Richard and Dave Chapman also recorded as-

sists in the Meaford game. Three times the Sabres took a one goal lead over Bradford, and three times the Blues tied the Wednesday night game, and then the visi-

Swords set conditions

to return in the same role.

especially if some changes

The team needs three solid

defence types to work with

the corps from this season. A

pair of centremen to comple-

ment Dale Fisher and Ron

Most of all Rick Bonnette,

composed of Ray Carrier and

Ron Currie in the semi-finals

and then took a final win from

In Acton Open singles play,

Turk Sheppard walked off

with the \$50 first prize after:

defeating Nate Field in two

straight games. Mr Field

The Sharpshooters moved

ahead of the pack by picking

up three points for a total of

23 in mixed junior league

play. The Ticats broke a

second place tie with the

Sabres by adding two points

to their total and leaving the

bladepeople at 18 The Pool-

sharks stayed pat with 17

points, while the Wizards ad-

vanced to 15 and Elton

2 11 2 6 climbed to the 14 point mark.

AIHL playoffs starting

scoring the most goals the winner.

one second to play in the game.

teams, but the standings remained the same.

The Acton Industrial Hockey League 1975-76 playoffs start

Sunday night with the two first place teams-Van's Welding

and Hellers-getting a bye until the winners of the first series

Blow Press will play Lakeview; Kensmen will play Station.

Each team will play two games, with the squad

Sunday night's results increased the point totals for some

Ken's and Station settled for a five all draw. Van's skated

Ken's marksmen took a first period three to one lead on

Pete Morrison's first of two goals and singles from Eric Stone

and Bill Coon. Station's Ron Schmidt fired the only first

Ken's added a goal in the second period by Jack Gudgeon,

who also got a pair of assists and Morrison's tying goal with

to a 9-3 victory over Blow Press and Hellers outscored Lake-

an Oakville pair.

won \$30

for training, players

are made.

Shoemaker

First 4-town snooker

tors grabbed a one goal lead. just 17 seconds after tying the game in the second period. "The last two goals, just seconds apart, took the steam out of them," said Blues man-

ager Bruce Collings after the

Up until the mid-point of the second frame it looked as if the Sabres would take the mutch, but both goalies refused to allow goals after the 10.40 point.

Penalties

Dave Chapman gave the Sabres an early first period lead on a play started by Charlie McCrae. George Trenes, who collected 16 of the Sabres 28 penalty minutes, scored at the 2.59 mark of the second frame from Andre Wyseman and Brad Roelofson.

Finishing off the Sabres' scoring for the night was Don Richard from newcomer Steve Buchanan and Perry

Caputo. Bradford captain Ted Vasey got the winning goal for the Blues after Scott Mallory banged in a single and Bill Collings fired two.

Seven power play goals marked the penalty filled Sabre-Cougar game Thurs-

who has played goal almost

Coach Aubin apparently

training would begin the fol-

have to travel out of town for

some home games as was the

Next season, "No longer

will players be signed from

the Actor area if they have no

intention of playing all games

and attending practices

regularly," reads the state-

Out of the 33 players signed

for this season, as few as

eight were left for some

games. Ten players attended

two games or less, three

played a half-dozen games or

less and four players received

injuries which knocked them

Finally Mr. Buchanan

out for the season.

Van's and Hellers take a bye

received from the fans.

each with a pair of goals.

assist department with two.

Kavanagh collected two assists.

case this year.

season, needs a back up.

Minor atoms win, and lose in OMHA play The Home Hardware minor The game was quite close, Bonnell and Jim Richard atoms split their week's earlier in the third period

OMHA action losing first 7-2 Richard set up Bruce Canary to Orangeville, but bouncing back with a 3-1 win over

Kevin McRae put the game on ice at the 8.03 mark of the third period on a play from David Milen at St. Jacobs Saturday.

Acton had already gone singlehandedly for the ahead 2-0 on a goal by Jerry Herrington from Ryan home.

for a first period goal.

on Paul Farguhar's third period effort, setting the stage for McRae's goal. Host Home Hardware played Youmans.

host to Orangeville last

with Acton twice trailing by one goal until early in the second frame Orangeville found the range Elmira closed the gap to 2-1 and fired five consecutive

> Kevin McRae got the atoms first marker from David McKnight, Jim Richard also hanged one in from Brad

Bradford collected two each.

Brad McPherson pulled the Dixie 2-1 by scoring in the trigger once for the winning goal from Robert Allen and David Hargrave opened the

Heath Norton led Brampton Tom Shannon fired a goal in ton to a 4-1 victory over each of the first two periods for Cleveland. Scott Page Jim Melsaac also scored assisted on the first and Ed for Brampton from Steve Allen on the second.

sole goal for the Royal City Jim Hunter's third period goal to round out Cleveland's ATOM-Ten goals were output scored in the game between Rochester defeated Balti-

Oshawa and St. Kitts with more 4-1 by keeping their Oshawa coming out on top of for the first two periods. Chris Hasaki lead Oshawa to the 7-3 win with a pair of

goals and one assist. Clayton more, on a play from Rob Oakley was right behind his teammate with a goal and an

assist. Randy Waples, Jamie Taras, Scott McDonaugh and Nicky Fryers also registered goals on the score sheet for Oshawa, Kevin Krul and Brian Witherly picked up

assists. Paul Vermuelen figured in all three St. Kitts goals, with a pair and an assist. Chris Stanburg also scored, and G.

Legion

town

league

tallies

NOVICE-Weston

first and third periods.

and Steve Campbell.

Guelph with a hattrick.

the scoring duel.

scoring from Jamie Lawson

McMeekin and B. Gibbs got assists for St. Kitts.

London goaltender Gord Goulding sealed the door on all scoring attempts by Hamilton for a 1-0 win.

Bruce Sheppard.

PEEWEE-Richmond and Scott Phelan. Peter slipped by Cleveland 4-3 on Timmerman added the Ted Windmoller's third winning goal in the final period winning goal after frame from Jason Stanbridge David Brown scored three consecutive times for the Shawn Taras set up Peter winners. Fred Kappert Cargill for Dixle's sole assisted on one of Brown's marker in the second period. markers.

Dave Allen and Kevin Sandy Waites banged in the McLaren combined to set up

> opponents off the score sheet Tom McDonough notched the only marker for Balti-

Rod Whiterley set up a pair of goals, one by Dana Taras and the second by Tom Briggs. John Semenec opened the scoring for Rochester while Mark Staley got the second marker.

Tidewater took a 4-1 win over Springfield.

Bill McKenzie fired a pair of goals, one unassisted and one from Paul Hudson. Brian Holmes opened the Tidewater scoring in the first

period. Simon Ager got the winner from Danny Waites. Ken Death got the only reply for Springfield.

The teams each exhanged a

Swords passing act, colors Harriston blue

The Swords seem to have found a late in the season key ahead 1-0 with the first of his to win, by passing the puck. Instead of carrying the rubber disc, they threw it around the community centre Friday and handed the Harriston Blues a convincing 11-8 defeat.

McRae to score in the second

The Schomberg offence

was led by Paul Edwards

with a pair and singles from

Bob Shropshire, Dennis

Alderman, Monty Ponton,

Doug Westover, Rick Archi-

bald and Ron Smith.

frame.

Ben Doell put the Swords three goals at the 7:17 mark of the opening period. Harriston looked as if they would run away with the game after scoring three quick ones but ended the first period trailing the Swords 4-3.

goal in the first four minutes of the second frame before Acton fired four straight goals from which the visitors never quite recovered. Gary Turkosz, like Doell,

also earned the hattrick. Dale Fisher got a pair of goals and three assists Bill Fields nailed down a goal and a pair of assists as did Dan Arbic. Russ Coultrup registered a point in each column. Defenceman Fred Buchanan led in the assist department with four. Captain Brian Hurley collected a pair and Ted Harmer had a single.

Weber led the Harriston marksmen with three goals, Mock had a pair and singles came off the sticks of

Newman, Litt and Clunas. The Swords still finish out of the playoffs Intermediate C in spite of the victory, but the team has a pair of games left to play. Goderich is slated Stephen Pratt fired a hat- to play here on St. Valentine's Wednesday, Feb. 4, and the trick for Orangeville while Day, and Lucknow may play visitors took the victory Barry Sawyer and Bill host to the Swords in a make-

felt that few of the players Zamboni zips over Acton ice reached peak condition this season, and so dryland train-ing may start in August. Ice Mr. Buchanan indicated the Sheehan searches for ice time spring to Halton Hills for ice

time so that the team will not-Arena's Zamboni is shaving employees an opportunity to approximately 40 hours of ice the ice in Acton's community drive a Zamboni, Mr. Towncentre. The ice resurfacing sley said. The ice surfacing machine's arrival in Acton is machine in use until now was han said he has met 100 per one consequence of the clos- attached to the rear of a tracing of Georgetown's 54-year tor and pulled over the rink. old arena last week.

John Street, has prompted a Zamboni shaves the ice a search for alternative ice little faster, Mr. Townsley facilities, and the transfer of said. the Zamboni to Acton. Acton arena manager Har-

old Townsley picked up the Zamboni Thursday afternoon. He said the machine will be used on the community centre's ice until the end of the year. "We wanted to try it, we never used one here before", Mr. Townsley said.

expressed the club's apprec-The main reason for bringiation for the support it ing the machine here is to

Other Station scorers wee Ron Mellon and John Mason,

Van's Welding tripled the score on Blow Press in a 9-3 duel.

The score after 20 minutes of play was 1-1, but Van's added

Bruce Cooksley led the Van sharpshooters with a hattrick.

Ed Hillier popped In a pair as did Andy Berry. Cyril Rees and

Floyd Hiller notched a goal each. Fred Buchanan in the

Bren Irwin fired the Press's first goal, Ken Owen the

Heller's scoring was confined to the first and third periods, but it was enough to hand Lakeview a 5-2 defeat.

Jim McDonald and George McPhall each fired a first

four goals in the second and third periods.

second and Larry Kistner the final marker.

Bruce MacPherson replied twice for Lakeview.

The Georgetown Memorial give community centre Monday that he is looking for

The closing of the arena, on the same task, however. The

recreation facilities, said a.m. Another consequence

Pat Sheehan, supervisor of cott Memorial Arena at 5

time. In a search for alternative ice surfaces, Mr. Sheecent co-operation. He said enquiries were made at the The two machines perform community centre to see if there was any time available.

> . Minor hockey groups start their games at the Gordon Al

touches figure skaters. Their ice time may start an hour earlier than usual, and their season may be extended, Mr. Sheehan said.

Mr. Sheehan said the use of open air rinks would put a solution to the search for alternatives, no further ahead. You can't book open air rinks, because their use depends on the weather, Mr. Sheehan

Major peewees split games

The major peewees travelled to Collingwood Saturday for an exhibition tornament, and returned with a split

The Waterloo-Wellington league team trounced Collingwood 3-1 in a morning game, but Hespeler proved too much with a 6-0 win in an

afternoon match. Brent Vickery broke a 1-1 tie on a third period goal from Mike Monahan and Mark Duval. An unassisted goal by Gary Lumbers put the game on ice for the visiting team.

Acton had taken a first period 1-0 lead on Paul Campbell's goal on a play that involved Rob Vermeulen and

Team coach Barry Inscoe said that Collingwood was a good one, and that the players played excellently.

The Cagers split with Perdue during regular season high school basketball play Thursday

The midget squad edged the visitors 50-49 in the first game, but the juniors went dawn to an on 74 defeat.

A BRADFORD BLUES player puts the arm on a Sabre during the OHA game here last Wednes-

period goal. Alan Hall, Gary Lewis and Jeff Goy put the game away with markers in the final 20 minutes. John

Cagers split pair

Mike Strong.