

# Firefighter bantams toast of Halton Hills following Georgetown tourney victory

Acton Firefighter bantams are the toast of Halton Hills this week following their championship victory in the "C" division of the Georgetown International Bantam Tournament on the weekend. Firefighters rebounded from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Valley East 6-3 in the "C" division championship game Saturday morning and very

nearly pulled the biggest upset in tournament history in their grand championship semi-final against the "A" division champion Detroit Bosquette team in the afternoon. Although they had controlled most of the play, the American team, which includes some of the best 14 year olds in the city of Detroit, plus suburban

Fraser, Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores found themselves in a 2-2 tie with the spunky Firefighters at the end of the second period. Crowd The highly partisan Acton crowd nearly raised the roof of Georgetown's new Alcott Memorial Arena, when Detroit defenceman Al Taurance accidentally deflected the

puck into his own net, giving Acton a 3-2 lead with only seven minutes left to play in the game. Dave McGilloway, the closest Acton player to the goal, was credited with the goal. Faced with the possible humiliation of losing to a team from a town of 6000, the slick Detroit team bore down and scored three times in the

final seven minutes to win 5-3. The Acton game was the closest of the tournament for Detroit, which went on to destroy "B" division champion Belleville Kinsmen 10-2 in the grand championship game Saturday night. The Americans led that game 6-0 at the end of the first period and 9-0 at the end of the second. The third period, originally scheduled for 20 minutes, was cut to 10, presumably to save the crowd of 1,200 the boredom of watching more one-sided hockey.

McGilloway and Malcolm teamed up on the winning goal, which drew a lot of "oohs and ahs" from the crowd early in the third period. McGilloway faked a Valley East defender out of his pants and passed to Malcolm, who gave the same treatment to the northerners' goaltender. McGilloway, who finished the game with two goals and four assists made it 5-3 and hard-working defenceman Shane Withers wrapped up Acton's first bantam tournament title with a long drive later in the period.

Lead Detroit took a 2-0 lead in the first period of the game against Acton. Rick Gibson and Dave McGilloway scored power play goals for the Firefighters in the second period to tie the score. Pete Muselius, Wade Vickery, Scott Malcolm and Randy Van Fleet earned assists in the game. The best player on the ice, however, may have been Acton's pint-sized goalie Steve Mitchell, who never shied away from the heaviest Detroit slapshots. Mitchell was mainly responsible for keeping Acton in the game.

Firefighters delivered coach Harold Townsley his first ever tournament championship against Valley East in the "C" division title game. Townsley took Acton bantams to the first Georgetown tournament in 1961 and has been at the tournament every year since, with the exception of last winter, when he took a year off from coaching. Before Saturday, Acton teams had never gone beyond the division semi-finals.

Acton had numerous good scoring opportunities in the first five minutes of the game, but Valley East scored first following a tripping penalty to Shane Withers. The visitors from the north made it 2-0 on a slapshot from the point, which went in over Mitchell's shoulder.

Second In the second period, Acton took advantage of a penalty to Valley East and got on the scoreboard on a goal by Pete Muselius. The northerners regained their two goal lead, however, when the Acton defence allowed Danny Bourassa to completely circle the net and stuff the puck past Mitchell on the opposite side. Perry Robidoux and Luc Valade scored the first two goals for Valley East.

When Dave McGilloway intercepted a pass in the Valley East zone and scored on a picture deke, Firefighters caught fire. Minutes later captain Scott Malcolm deflected McGilloway's shot in mid air into the Valley East cage to tie the score 3-3.

Coach Townsley threw his arms in the air in celebration at the final buzzer and raced on to the ice to congratulate his charges. Captain Scott Malcolm accepted the Georgetown Dairy "C" championship trophy from Councillor Russ Miller in a post-game ceremony.

Townsley asked for the floor for a moment in the noisy Acton dressing room later and paid his tribute to a classy group of hockey players.

"I want to thank you guys for one helluva good season," said the Firefighter coach, who'd been on the losing end of the handshake line at every other tournament. "Mind you, we should have still been in the OMA playoffs, but this helps make up for that."

Assistant coach John Goy Jr. and manager Gus Holmes are among the many former Acton bantam players, who played for Townsley in past Georgetown tournaments. A third, Peter Marzo, was in Denver the same day helping his Boston University team finish third in the NCAA hockey championships.

Defence Although they didn't score in Saturday's action, the bantams' second line of Bruce McPhail, Wade Vickery and Trefor Gardner played fine defensive hockey. Behind the blueline, Shane Withers, George Brown, Randy Van Fleet and Rick Gibson dished out some heavy checks. Wingers Steve Van Der Eyken and Pete Muselius contributed their share to a total team effort.

Firefighters had to play both games Saturday without defenceman Rick Widmont, who received a suspension in Friday's semi-final action against Bowmanville. Winger Charlie Kinal and rearguard Ralph Bowen also missed the tournament since they were holidaying in the south.

The bantams have one more tournament, before they hang up their skates. They'll travel to Wasaga Beach for that one, April 10 and 11.

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ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1976

Second Section



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS were "C" series champions. Team members are front row l. to r., Rick Gibson, Shane Withers, Chris Swetman, captain Scott Malcolm, Steve Mitchell, Dave McGilloway, George Brown, Steve Van Der Eyken. Standing l. to r. are, coach Harold Townsley, Trefor Gardner, Bruce McPhail, manager Gus Holmes, Wade Vickery, Pete Muselius, Randy Van Fleet, Rick Widmont, assistant coach John Goy Jr.



ACTON captain Scott Malcolm accepts the Georgetown Dairy "C" championship trophy from Councillor Russ Miller.



FIREFIGHTER BANT DEFENCEMAN Shane Withers races for the puck during the Acton team's first game against Streetsville at the Georgetown International Bantam Tournament.



COACH TOWNSLEY whoops it up with happy Acton players.

### Firefighter Bants oust Bowmanville 13-9

The Firefighter Bants ousted two teams on their way to the level C championships at the Georgetown tournament last week. They eliminated Bowmanville in the two game total goals one day series 13-9. The Firefighters won both games. Previously the Firefighters removed Streetsville from playoff contention.

Leads In both the Bowmanville games played in the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, Bowmanville took early one goal leads. The Firefighters, however, poured on the rubber. In the first game put the rubber past the Bowmanville goalie five straight times, and in the re-encounter, six times, before the opposition fired

their second goal. Firefighter captain Scott Malcolm led the teams scoring with five goals. Dave McGilloway had four, Steve Van Der Eyken a pair and singles from George Brown and Bruce McPhail. Bowmanville's top marksmen were captain Wayne Preston with three and Paul Bedard a pair.



DETROIT captain Todd Gardiner accepts the Georgetown Jaycees championship trophy from Halton Hills Councillor Les Doby, former mayor of Acton, which gave the Detroit club their toughest tussle in the tournament.

### Junior C Sabres ask OHA for B rating

The Junior C Sabres are submitting an application to the OHA to move up the hockey alphabet to level B. A decision from the association will come from the OHA's annual meeting April 24 in Toronto. Team president Milt Ball said the main reason for changing the team's status is a desire to upgrade the brand of hockey in town. It's the first time the team has applied to go on the B level.

If accepted by the OHA brass an Acton Junior B squad may be playing teams from Georgetown and Milton next fall. "It's a wait and see situation," Mr. Ball said. The application has to be in

the OHA offices in Toronto no later than today. Talks on the switch from C to B have been carried on by team officials on and off through the later part of the season. A decision to make the application came from a meeting at the library last Thursday.

### Bronze for McGilloway

Dave McGilloway passed his bronze free skating test last Friday at Milton. Dave, who is a forward with the Firefighter Bant team, could not skate for his tests with the Acton Figure Skating Club because of prior hockey commitments. Acton held its tests on March 4th.

### Junior Sabres Campbell resigns as team manager

Junior Sabre manager Bill Campbell resigned his post with the team last week. No replacement has been found and team president Milt Ball said the chore may be left to the new executive. Mr. Campbell, who has been manager of the team for two years, cited business pressures as contributing to his decision. He sent a letter to the team president. Mr. Ball said he was sorry to see Mr. Campbell go. "He is a good manager who is also respected by the Sabre players and officials of other teams in the Junior OHA C and D loop. Mr. Ball expressed the hope that Mr. Campbell will remain on the team's executive."

### Cagers show potential at games

At the All-Ontario Basketball championships for class A schools at Mitchell over the school break, AHS Redmen received praise from opposing officials, but lost both of their games.

Acton Junior squad has gone to the All-Ontario competition.

The Acton team went for the experience, pitting themselves against grade 13 age teams. The Redmen are in Grades 10 and 11.

Burford won the championship by defeating Saltfleet 56-50.

In the first game, against Ernestown, the Redmen took their time getting untracked, but remained within ten points of their opposition for most of the game. Ernestown won 75-44. Don Coats was Acton's leading scorer with 15 points.

The Redmen surprised the Lakefield team by leading 20-17 after the first quarter. Lakefield, which won 71-51, took until the fourth quarter to put a lead on Acton. Redmen Brian Larsen led the Redmen with 17 points, Coats had 15 and Dan Webster six. It is only the second time an



SUPPORT RIGHT from home came from more than 100 fans, who travelled to root for the Firefighters.