



SABRE SCOTT MALCOLM (left) just missed registering the team's first goal in an exhibition match against Port Colborne Bs Saturday at Guelph. A pair of other Sabres swoop near the

net, as Port goalie Tim Klauk sprawls to stop the shot. Port Colborne won the game 10-0. Acton plays another pre-season game against Markham Thursday again at Guelph.

Port Colborne gives Sabres hot welcome to B style

The Sabres got a hot welcome to Ontario Hockey Association Junior B brand of game when they were seared 10-0 in pre-season exhibition play Saturday by Port Colborne Bs at Guelph.

"We weren't surprised we lost, but we are surprised it was by that much," Sabre secretary Bill Campbell said Monday.

The forwards and goal positions were not that bad, but the defence was right out of it, he said.

Sabres which were granted B status this summer to replace their Junior C designation, looked out of place against the Port team. Port Colborne finished fourth in the six team peninsula league last season. They have seven players returning.

Streetsville Derbys hosts Acton Friday in the '76-'77 season opener. Sabres first

home game is October 8 against Burlington Mohawks.

One of two signings from Monday may directly help bolster the Sabre's inexperienced defence corp. Reed Campbell, who was trying for the Dixie A club, will wear a Sabre jersey. The 16-year-old hails from Mississauga.

Signal

Also signing a Sabre card at the start of the week is former Junior C Sabre Ed Lange. The left winger was with Orangeville Stone Crushers last season and scored 18 goals and eight assists in 32 games. He played for Acton two years ago.

Sabres have at least a second tune up before the season. Acton plays Markham in Guelph's Memorial Arena Thursday at 8.15 p.m. Tuesday's game at Markham was cancelled because Markham has too many games this week.

In the Port Colborne exhibition game half the goals came when Sabres were short handed. The defence was caught out of position. The scoring by period went like this: four, three and three.

Gain

In the third period the Sabres began to gain some composure and to find the mark. Ed Lange and Don Richard both bounced pucks off the post and Dave Chapman was robbed on a breakaway.

Sabres used the game to test several tryouts. Mark Davidson, who was signed, started the game in goal. He's a 17-year-old from Harrison midgets. He came out of the Mississauga system.

Ken Eckroth played the second period in Sabres' nets, and Rick Juneau took the third. Eckroth was Gemini's

back-up goalie last season. Neither have so far been signed.

On defence Sabres used Bud Buchanan, Rob Millican and Jamie Vickery, all of whom have joined the club. Steve Taylor, from last year's team also played as did Ken Dool and Paul Officer. Kent Kentner, who has signed, was away from the game on vacation. He's expected to play Thursday.

Dave Chapman, Steve Buchanan, Don Richard, Joe Gardin, Paul Antonelli, Derek Cleary, Ed Lange and Al Coone all played forward for Sabres against Port Colborne.

Bone

Gardin may be out of action for a couple of weeks because he broke a bone in the back of his right hand.

Also injured and not ex-

pected to play Thursday's encounter with Markham is defence prospect Lloyd Moore. Moore was a rear-guard with the final edition of the Sabre C's.

The most cohesive unit on the ice for Acton was the midgets Scott Malcolm, Dave McGilloway and Bruce McPhail. These former firefighter bants were joined by mate Wade Vickery in the Port Colborne game.

Robin Incoe, Sabre's first line goalie last season, probably will dress for Thursday's exhibition match against Markham, Mr. Campbell said.

Still missing from a Sabre card, but not from their plans, is ninth highest scorer in the Junior C loop, Charlie McCrae. The former Sabre captain isn't expected to join the Junior B team until after the first university semester.

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Colonials take aim at inter-county series

Rockwood Colonials aim at their first playoff championship in five years when they start the Inter-County Fastball finals at Cambridge tomorrow night.

Rockwood gained a berth in the finals by virtue of their four games to two best of seven series wins against Orangeville in the semis. Colonials wound up the series Sunday when they edged the pesky Orangeville squad 3-2 in the sixth game.

Orangeville staged off elimination Thursday, when Colonials had a three to one lead in games, by defeating Rockwood 1-0 in Orangeville. Cambridge earned a turn in

the finals by ousting Fergus four games to none in their best of seven game round.

Contest

The second game in the final series best of seven contest may be played Sunday at Rockwood. All games start at 8.15 p.m.

Rockwood's Paul Parkinson connected for one hit Sunday, but it was enough to bring home his brother John and the winning run to put Orangeville out of contest.

John Parkinson had two hits, while Phil Shrive and Chick Milne had one each. Norm Beattie had a triple for Colonials.

Don Myer hurled the

winning game for Rockwood in the first, third and sixth. Orangeville's second run came in the 9th frame.

In Orangeville's one-to-nothing game over Rockwood last Thursday, Dwayne Donaldson pitched for Orangeville and helped his cause by hitting an unusual homerun.

Donaldson smashed the ball into left field in the bottom of the eighth when the ball bounced away from fielder Charlie McCrae.

John Thatcher took the loss for Rockwood to bring his record to nine wins against seven losses.

Rockwood hitters were Don Myer with a pair and John Parkinson with a single. Orangeville earned one run from six hits.

Cambridge placed second in regular season play, eliminated fourth spot Fergus. Rockwood took out the league champions from Orangeville.

Rockwood last won the playoffs in 1970.

Preseason roundup

Central Junior "B" clubs

With the Central OHA Junior "B" hockey season scheduled to open this weekend, Dills Publishing sports editors, Eric Elstone of the Acton Free Press, Lee Fairbanks of the Milton Canadian Champion and Denis Gibbons of the Georgetown Independent have been busy scouting the league's eight teams at their training camps. Acton Sabres have joined returning teams from Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown, Dixie, Brampton and Streetsville to form the eight team group for the 1976-77 season.

This week, the three scribes preview the clubs for North Halton sports fans.

Milton

Coach Gerry Inglis is optimistic about the chances of his Milton Flyers improving over last year's last-place finish. His optimism is based on the memory of how the team seemed to pull together after he took over near the end of last season and by the number of players—12—who are returning to the team this year.

If they are going to improve this year, the Flyers will have to shore up their defence and Inglis thinks this might have been accomplished with the addition of some new players. Last season the Flyers allowed 237 goals against them, the worst in the league.

Two of the defencemen he's been pleased with so far are Brent Murray and Steve Hannon.

Inglis also pointed out the goaltending was weak last year and he admits they are still looking for help in that area.

Two players who have shown Inglis something in net are Craig Jubb and Paul Douglas, but the biggest surprise has been the play of midget Ian Roberts.

"I'd have to say he's the best I've seen so far," admitted Inglis. "But we don't really want to rob the midgets because we have to be fair to them too, you know."

As to where the scoring for the Flyers is going to come from, Inglis was a little hesitant to put the finger on anybody.

Inglis did mention he was considering putting Rick Bridgman, Ken Fay and Ron Twiss together as one of his main lines. He pointed out, however, that Fay is suffering from a wrist injury which will keep him out until mid-October and Twiss has had trouble getting ice time because of heavy school commitments.

Also not expected back until mid-October are Murray (school commitments), Bruce Ellison (work commitments) and Pierre Pilote (foot injury).

The Flyers still have last year's leading scorer Rod Gooding returning, as well as Dave Turner, Keith McKinnon and Ray Love. Rookies Paul McCann, who scored more than 50 goals for the major midgets last year, and centre Derrick Griffith have also played well in the exhibition games.

Overall it looks as if the Flyers have improved this year.

Burlington

Burlington may have changed its name from Mohawks to Cougars, but there's little hope for the rest of the league that the team which coasted to first place last year has changed much.

The Cougars lost centres Terry Bovair to Kitchener Rangers of the OHA, Major A loop, and Jimmy Lawson to Brown University. They also lost goalie Bob Ryan, defenceman Bob Crawford and winger John Wooley because of age, but they could possibly be even stronger with the replacements.

Coach Jack Perkins reports that as of Monday night, only three players from last year's team have been signed. They are league's Most Valuable Player Rick Katchanoski in goal, 15-year-old defence star Bob Goodish, and centre Mark Lipnicky, the league's second-highest scorer last year.

The others may not be good enough to make the team.

Top rookies include a complete forward line from Burlington's major midget team, centre Dan Poliziani, Kevin Charbonneau and right wing Wayne McCloud, who was drafted by the Kitchener Rangers. Tony Vesta, a former Hamilton Fincup, also looks good on right wing.

Acton

The newest team in the Junior B central division is the Acton Sabres. The club switched to B from C this summer. It has an advantage signed from last year's central division Junior C club.

Sabres have so far signed one goalie, Mark Davidson, from the Harrison midgets.

Centre Paul Antonelli came Acton's way from Mississauga.

From the Acton system, Sabres inked Bud Buchanan, Jamie Vickery, Joe Gardin and Jeff Townsley.

Grand Valley-Hillsburgh defenceman Rob Millican, who played midget last year signed as has Derek Cleary from Guelph.

Kent Kentner who played with Gemini's joined Sabres defence.

Sabres signed two players Monday. Ed Lange, who played for Acton two years ago and Orangeville Stone Crushers last season has taken a left wing position.

Defenceman Reed Campbell from the Mississauga system

Oakville

It's rebuilding year for the Oakville Blades, which should make the season more pleasant for the other seven teams.

Oakville finished second last year with 43 points, two ahead of Georgetown and seven behind Burlington. This year, however, the Blades have a raft of young inexperienced rookies.

"We're going to have a younger team, fast skaters, not big but a game bunch of boys," said club president Murray Walker. He wouldn't make a prediction as to how they would do, but he made it clear that he doesn't expect to be anywhere close to second place this season.

Back again

Top returnees are Doug Tingey and Sam Turini on defence goaltender Rob Parker and centre Gary Richardson, who was among the top 20 scorers in the league last year.

The Blades signed winger Ken Moodie from the Provincial A Ajax squad, and Walker expects him to be outstanding this year, and Edmonton goaltender Bob Sutton, who comes highly rated by the Edmonton Oil Kings.

Top rookies are speedsters Todd Inouye and Brian Marvel. Oakville's top asset may be in its coach, Eric Smith, who is one of the few Level Five coaches in Ontario.

In short, the Blades have depth in goal, two strong defencemen and will have average forwards. With Smith emphasizing a defensive approach to the game, they won't lose many games by large scores, but they won't win the close ones either.

Streetsville

Streetsville Derbys, last season's playoff champions and provincial semi-finalists, have six players returning to the team.

Jim Gibson, George Chandler, Randy Strong, Danny Sutton, Gary Venner and Gord Standfield will again wear Streetsville colors. Derby coach Tom Barrett says.

Derbys also had signed three midgets as of Monday: Dave Bodley, Leo Brideau and Steve Blair.

With 12-14 new players this season, Mr. Barrett said that the team has little depth.

Derbys have yet to ink a goaltender, however. Mr. Barrett said they would have strength in the nets. We have one of the best defencemen in Sutton, and one of the best lines in the Gibson-Chandler-Strong unit, he said.

The Gibson line played the latter part of last season, starting in January.

Mr. Barrett said that the Derbys were like many of the other central division teams in that they have to rebuild this season. Many Derbys were drafted in to the Major A ranks.

Asked where he thought the Derbys would place this year, Mr. Barrett said that they would place high and then cited a characteristic of the team—"We always start slow, but we're there at the end."

There is one change in the Derby front office. Rusty Evans replaces Bill Snarr as manager.

Brampton

Manager Gerry Henderson, an ex-Bramalea Blues president, claims his Chevys are shooting for fourth place, but with ex-pro Rick Hay training the club, a lot of young Brampton prospects might develop into Junior "B" hockey players very quickly. Chevys are relying on grads of the Brampton team, which won the OHA Minor Juvenile "AAA" championship, to take over for centre Ross Brownridge, last year's league scoring champion, who will play college hockey at Dartmouth in the U.S. and Gord Smith, Mike Krasnoson and Ozzie Lutera, all trying out with Major Junior "A" club. So far, Henderson has signed minor juvenile grad Dave Lowcock and midget defenceman Neil McLean. Returnees Craig Hartwell (13 goals), Steve Bronzowski (8) and Don Wright (8) have also been inked to cards and Paul Cook, who bagged 22 goals and finished among the league's top 10 scorers last season is expected to start skating immediately. Cook just finished playing lacrosse for the Bramalea Excelsiors in the Minto Cup final.

Rob Young, an 18 goal shooter last season, is a freshman at McMaster University, but should be in the Chevy lineup soon. Doug Armstrong, who averaged better than a point a game last year, has been transferred to Ottawa. Glen Hutchinson is

back with the team, but Lou Bodnar, who played the majority of the games last season, is still at a Junior "A" camp.

Dixie

Noting the success Team Canada enjoyed with the system, Ventures will use three coaches this season, as they try to climb up the ladder from sixth place. Norm Dowdall returns as coach, but he'll receive help from Rick Masters on offence and Jim Smith on defence. Vern Jackson, a veteran of hockey wars around Dixie Arena, is team manager. So far, Jackson has signed 21 goal scorer Steve Leggett, 17 goal shooter Rob May and Barry Carroll, who fired 11 goals last year. Also signed are Carroll's brother Rory, a left winger, Dave Bennett, who played with both Marlboro midgets and Markham Junior Bs last year, Jeff Andrews, who's dropping back from the Dixie Beehive Junior "A" squad and midget grad Bill Shutt, no relation to Montreal Canadiens' Steve Shutt. At least five Venture regulars won't be back. Bryan Ross (16 goals) and Kevin McMillan (14) are coverage. Pat Kennedy and Bob White have not shown up at camp and defenceman Bryan Cull is also coverage. Rugged Phil Gaidy, a Tier 2 Junior "A" all-star before he joined the Ventures for the playoffs against Georgetown last year, is still with the Junior "A" Bees. Venture goaltending will probably be looked after by either Grant Sloane, a returnee, who is still at a Junior "A" camp, or Dixie midget grad, Dave Jennings, now trying out with the Sault Ste. Marie Major Junior "A" Greyhounds. Ventures, who took the starch out of Georgetown Gemini's, even though they lost their playoff series in five games last year, looked impressive when they defeated Etobicoke 6-3 in their first exhibition game this year.

Georgetown

Goalie Rick Tomkinson, the team's most valuable player last season, is back to anchor a club made up almost evenly of proven Junior "B" players and rookies. Best of the returnees are defenceman Larry Peterson and winger Doug Barnes, who scored 35 and 34 goals, respectively as first year Junior "B" players last season. Also signed off the '75-'76 roster are winger Charlie Knoepfl (18 goals), centre Kevin Reeks (18), pint-sized winger Terry Turner and reliable rearguard Bill Allison. Most impressive player in Gems' three exhibition wins over Thorold, Preston and Collingwood has been rookie Dave Robertson, who filled the net playing Junior "C" hockey in Merriton last winter. Manager Bob Toet has also signed defenceman Bruce Bailey from Richview and Ian Syme and Marty Weaven, two final year juniors, who chose to play industrial hockey last year, after performing very well for two seasons with the Georgetown Rotary juvenile squad. Nine of last year's regulars, it now appears, will not be back. Hard-working centre Chris Milne, one of the league's best forecheckers, will likely play Tier 2 Junior "A" hockey in North Bay. Captain Rick Becker (16) will play for Bramalea Blues in the Metro loop, backup goalie Ken Eckroth is trying out with Acton Sabres, the league's newest entry, and Bob Fotheringham (10) may decide to play Intermediate "A" hockey with the Raiders, after first attending the Bramalea camp. Centre Craig Fleming and defenceman Doug Pemberton are coverage. Winger Dale Mieczanec has moved to Sudbury where he'll attend Laurentian University, defenceman Bill Kirby will play industrial hockey and rearguard Kent Kentner of Acton will suit up with his hometown Sabres. Gems still have a chance of signing defenceman Joe South, who was the 16th round draft choice of the Kitchener Rangers. South was cut by the Rangers and is now trying to catch on with a Tier 2 Junior "A" club. Midget grads Brad Miller or Glenn Toet or rookie Greg Netton, who played in the HL last year, could become the club's backup goalie.



MILTON has improved, Streetsville and Oakville are rebuilding, Burlington changed its name but little else and Acton joins the league.

Industrial hockey registration Sunday

Acton Industrial Hockey League is holding a one chance registration Sunday between 1 and 3 in the afternoon. Sixty-six players will be signed with persons living or working in Acton having a preference. Six teams are to be led for the 15-game season. Games start Sunday October 17.

Contest

Four teams make the playoffs. There are two semi final series with the winner of the best of three games going onto the finals. The title series is also a two out of three game contest.

Registration costs \$60 and is payable in cash or cheque. Anyone who is unable to register Sunday is advised to phone Al Hall at 853-3504.

Sports pulse

by Eric Elstone

Several town hockey players realize now that there's more than a letter in the alphabet's difference between Junior B and Junior C hockey.

Many of the players dressed in Sabre colors for Saturday's first exhibition game are straight out of the minor system. Port Colborne won the game handily by dropping Sabres 10-0.

Getting the feel of the better class league is one part of exhibition games for Sabres. They were coming round in the third period after the initial shock of the first period.

Much better performances are sure to come once the players become a team and the team begins to click.

I'm looking forward to Acton's first win over the Gemini's. It'll come, and I'll be able to phone the news to a surprised Gibber in Georgetown.

Sabres start the season away Friday at Streetsville but play their first home game on October 8 against Burlington.

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Canada Cup series kept my prediction record unblemished.

I had the group from top to bottom going as: Canada, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Soviet Union, Finland and USA. The outcome looked like this: Canada, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union, Sweden, USA, Finland.

I also predicted that the Czechs would defeat Canada once, which they did. However that one to nothing win came in the round robin instead of the playoff section, as I had said it would because Team Canada would be overconfident.

My previous predictions? I somehow saw my way to tell folks that the Tories would clean up in last September's provincial election. The conservatives instead formed a minority government with the NDP replacing the Grits as official opposition.

Some 22 citizens, including a few planners, attended last Wednesday's Regional Planning meeting at the library even though Team Canada was having it out with the Czechs for the Canada Cup.

The meeting sounded out people's views on a planning document which will become part of the region's official plan. Recreation, though it received little mention at the meeting, is a large part of the department's plans.