

# Sabres no pushovers this season

The Sabres have passed the halfway point in their season and it seems a good time to take a look at the team and see how they stack up.

General opinion is the Sabres are a greatly improved team this year. Fans point to the number of close games which could have gone either way as proof. Last year the Sabres were being blown out of the rink in most of their games.

This year most Sabre games have done exactly what new coach Bruce Chapman promised they would when he took over the reins:

they have provided good, exciting, competitive hockey for the fans.

Coaches around the league are in agreement: this year's team is superior to last year's. Burlington's Bill Elliott commented the team has played well. "If last Wednesday's game was any indication they are very much better. We had to go like heck to get them."

Tom Barrett, who should know a good club since he coaches the Streetsville Derbys, said "they are a much better club, better coached. They pass as well as

anyone in the league, and play their positions as well as anybody in the league."

Vern Gooding of Milton was more qualified in his praise. "They started off well, but they're kind of depleted. They were skating well, playing as if they might be moving."

What happened? "The bottom's fallen out. You can't build if you don't keep the good ones."

He was referring specifically to Brian Walker, who left the team after a disagreement with coach Chapman. "Walker was making that line (McArthur,

Chapman and Walker) work."

Attitude

He did have good words about the Sabres' attitude, a problem which bothered the team last year. "They are working their butts off" he said.

This opinion is also shared by most people watching the team. Sabres have learned from last year, when they spent much of their time in the penalty box, and have come out playing this year.

The feeling on the team this year is one of a winner. One player said the team is not so much discouraged at losing so many games as disappointed at coming so close so often without getting the wins. They are still looking to get into the playoffs this year, even though they are deeply entrenched in last place at this time.

Turnaround

Coach Chapman has done a remarkable job in turning the team around. It is not possible to build a winning club in one year, but he has instilled his own winning attitude, as well as his clean playing philosophy of hockey into the club, and it is paying off.

Sabres are doing much of their scoring on powerplays as they consistently average 50 percent-70 percent the amount of penalty time their opponents get. Chapman has

taught the team something which it appeared they did not know last year: you have to be on the ice to score and win.

Spirit and interpersonal relationships on the team are much improved this year. Insoce commented "we're a much closer knit team." He feels that makes them a better team because "we work with each other."

Playing for lives

One of the big differences in this year's team is that they are, in a sense, playing for

their lives. Because they are depending on the gate for survival, they have to play well to attract fans, or they go down the tube financially.

So far this year the finances are working out alright. The team is paid off to date, according to secretary-manager Bill Campbell. "We seem to be generating enough to keep open," he added.

He admitted the team is not exactly rolling in money. A little extra cash could be very helpful in bringing players to the town. While there is of-

ficially no rule in the books about release fees, some teams do charge for a release.

So, the team must produce in order to draw, and while it hasn't shown in the standings yet, they have indeed been producing. Their games have been close, with a few exceptions, and fans have been satisfied. The teams "goals for" average at the halfway point was a respectable if not earthshattering 3.5 per game, while the "goals

against" was just under 6.2. With younger players getting better all the time, those two figures should grow closer to each other during the rest of the season. The team has already won as many games as they did all last year, and have lost enough close ones to turn a coach's hair gray. Sooner or later the breaks will go their way and their improved play will show up in the standings. Six teams make the playoffs, and Acton would like very much to be one of them.



COACH BRUCE CHAPMAN has brought a whole new philosophy of hockey to Acton Sabres, just as he promised last year. This year's team has shown a great improvement in attitude over last year's squad, and demonstrated a willingness to stick to hockey on the ice.

# Blow Press take over top with 4-2 victory over Cleaners

Blow Press finally caught up to front running Acton Terminal Warehouse with a 4-2 win over Family Cleaners Sunday in industrial hockey action.

An A.T.W. loss would have given the pressmen a point advantage in the standings but a fired up Hellers club could manage only a 7-1 tie. Lakeview kept in the race with a 5-2 win over Vans Welding.

The pressmen took a 2-1 lead in the first period on a pair of goals by Mike McMahon. Evan Hayter, Jeff Goy and Ken Owens picked up assists on the markers.

The Cleaners' goal was scored by Lorne Gordon with an assist from Bart Jacobs.

The lead widened to 4-1 in the second period when Hayter and Ed Hillier connected. McMahon and Sid Barnes were credited with assists on Hayter's point.

Jacobs broke through the Blow Press defence at the start of the third period with assists from John McCutcheon and Gordon, but Cleaners were unable to gain any more ground.

There were 39 minutes of penalties called in the game.

Even game

Hellers—A.T.W. contest was even from start to finish as the last place

Hellers took a 3-2 lead in the first, fell behind 5-4 after the second and fought even again in the third.

Steve Townsley scored after only 10 seconds of play to give Hellers a quick lead. Assist on the goal went to Allan Hall.

Wayne DeForest, followed from Bill Fabian to widen the lead but Bruce Cooksley came back to narrow the gap from Henry Toebes and Bren Irwin.

Steve Van Fleet connected for Hellers and Toebes potted one for A.T.W. to end the period's scoring. Van Fleet got an assist from Glen McKenzie and Ron Mellon on his goal and Steve Bennett picked up an assist on Toebes' marker.

A.T.W. controlled the second period but did not build up enough of a lead for safety. They outscored Hellers 3-1 in the frame but that only put them in front by one.

Steve Bennett connected twice for A.T.W. in the period and Larry McAfee added the third. Assists went to Toebes with a pair and to Ted Slatz, Dave Cooksley and Bruce Cooksley.

Hellers did not score until the end of the period when Fabian took it in from Townsley and DeForest. They tied it

back up at the start of the third period on an effort by Irwin, who took a pass from Toebes and converted it.

The two teams alternated goals from there on. Bennett and Bruce Cooksley connected for A.T.W. and Van Fleet took care of both Hellers points. Toebes and Bennett got assists on the A.T.W. markers and Mellon and McKenzie did the feeding for Van Fleet.

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Lakeview jumped out 3-0 in the first period and never looked back in their 5-2 victory over Vans. John Ashley scored twice in the first period, adding a third in the first frame to complete a hat trick.

Bill Fields fed him the puck for both first period shots. Jim McDonald added the third marker of the period from Ron Schmidt and Bob Jarrett.

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Vans finally broke through late in the second period when Doug Andrews pulled the trigger from Brian Lloyd. Lakeview came back four minutes later with a George McPhail goal, assisted by Schmidt and McDonald.

Andrews potted one for Vans in the third period from Gerry VanderEyken and Brian Lloyd, but Lakeview ended any thought of a come-

back with Ashley's third marker, this one from Tom Dickinson.

Standings

	W.	L.	T.	Pt.	Gf.	Ga.
Blow Press	5	3	2	12	38	30
ATW	5	3	2	12	56	51
Lakeview	5	4	1	11	42	40
Cleaners	4	5	1	9	46	43
Vans	4	5	1	9	39	43
Hellers	2	5	3	7	37	53

# Koeslag tames Acton Tigers

Outstanding goalkeeping by George Koeslag highlighted a 9-4 victory by Georgetown's Patterson Insulation over the Acton Tigers in Wellington-Dufferin-Halton non-contact hockey league action last week. The win gives the Insulators a five point edge over Acton in the standings.

Acton coach Mike Lalonde said that Koeslag was phenomenal in the nets. He stopped Buddy Thomas five times in one on one situations, deflected shots away from the open net while flat on his back and made several spectacular catches on what looked like sure goals. Two of the goals that beat Koeslag were scored in the last 88 seconds

# WHD non-contact standings

goal of the game 10 seconds into the second period for Acton. Buddy Thomas assisted.

WHD

non-contact

standings

	W.	L.	T.	Pt.	Gf.	Ga.
Georgetown	10	1	0	20		
Acton	7	4	1	15		
Meadowdale	5	3	2	12		
Milton	3	4	1	7		
Halton Hills	2	7	2	6		

when his team let down in front of him.

Bill Lightowers, not to be outdone by Koeslag, played his best game of the season as he scored two goals. He scored one of his goals unassisted on a spectacular effort while Georgetown was two men short. Lightowers took the faceoff deep in the Acton end, went into the corner then circled behind the Acton net to the other corner. He skated to the front of the net and shot the puck past Acton goalie Phil Bailey, while falling.

Insulators opened the scoring with 5:34 to go in the first period on a goal by Brian Quinn, assisted by Sid Harris. Don Silk scored the second

# Poor periods sink Sabres drop three in Junior B play

Acton Sabres played only seven periods of hockey in their three games last week and the result was a trio of losses. They were sharp all the way but dropped a 4-3 decision to the Burlington Cougars, then played only 40 minutes in their 12-4 loss to Oakville and their 8-5 loss to Milton.

Sabres were playing good solid defensive hockey against Cougars and waiting for breaks, a plan which "worked perfectly" according to coach Bruce Chapman.

They kept the score even through the first two periods, although being outshot 28-21 in that span. Cougar netminder had to make a brilliant save in the third period to stop a Kelly McArthur penalty shot that would have given Sabres the lead.

As it was, they trailed 3-2 going into the last minute of play. They pulled Insoce but the plan backfired when Art Joyce slid the puck down the ice on target to make it 4-2 Burlington.

Insoce went back in and with 16 seconds left, the Sabres' Mark Schinkel put them back in striking range with a marker from John Bruni and newcomer Warren Barnes. Insoce came out again but Sabres could not score.

Insoce made 51 saves in the course of the game, compared with 37 for the Cougar's netender.

Cougars got the first score of the game in the first period as Dave Beckon connected. Dave McGilloway answered from Art Currie before the period was out to leave the score knotted.

Sabres went up 2-1 when McGilloway pumped in a powerplay goal from Scott Malcolm and Peter Wicklum in the second frame. The lead held for 12 minutes before Steve Billingshurst tied it up for the visitors.

Hal Monford put the Cougars on top to stay with a powerplay goal late in the third period, when Dave Chapman was off for a combination elbow and roughing charge.

Started fast

Friday's Oakville game started out where the Cougar game left off as the Sabres were right in there for two periods. Midway through the second frame the score was tied 3-3, but everything fell

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score, assisted by McGilloway and Chapman.

Three stitches

Wicklum was dumped during the game, receiving a gash on his face that required three stitches. He sat out Saturday's game but should be in action by Friday.

Milton Flyers came into town determined to show what coach Inglis had called a lack of muscle on the team was anything but. "We took an awful physical beating" said coach Chapman. McGilloway and McArthur both suffered charley-horses in the game while Wade Vickery had to leave the ice after getting speared once and generally hammered every time he was on the ice. Flyers picked up 51 minutes in penalties. Acton kept their cool under the barrage as they counted only 29 minutes.

They started with two lines as the team has been cut down by injuries and the suspension of Rob Millican. Nevertheless, Sabres made

a game out of it in two of the three periods. The second period was the difference, when Sabres were outshot 17-5 and outscored 6-2. Insoce stopped 48 shots in the game to 27 for Milton.

They fell behind 2-0 in the first period but pulled up when Chapman potted a powerplay goal from McGilloway with two minutes remaining in the period.

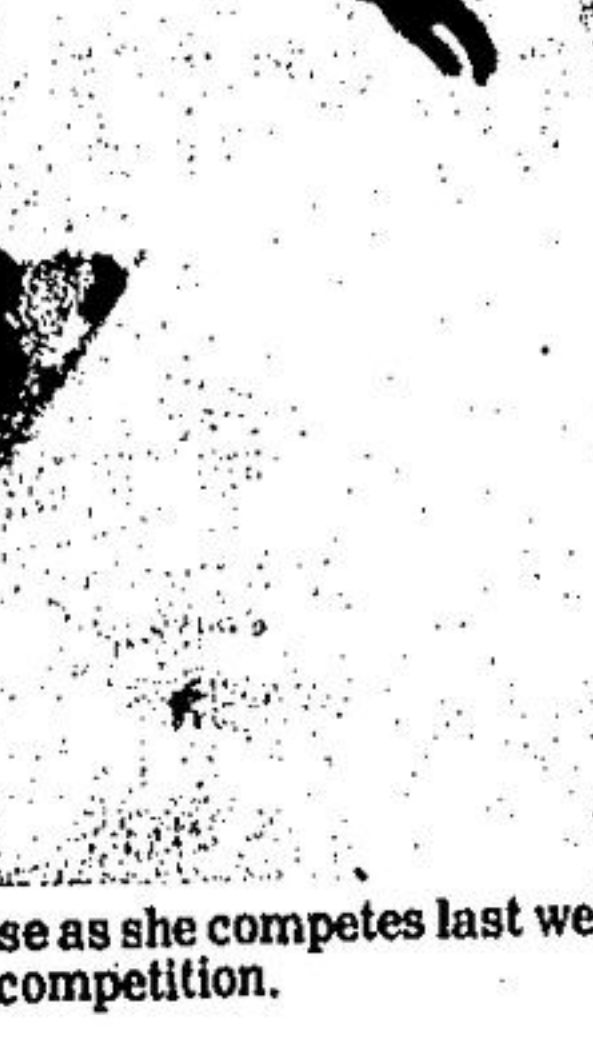
Hat trick

Malcolm was the only Sabre to score in the second period, and he did it twice. "He showed desire through 60 minutes of hockey," said Chapman.

Malcolm finished with four points on three goals and an assist for his most productive night of the season.

The first of his goals came when the Sabres were short-handed and he took it in unassisted for the score. The second goal was assisted by Barnes and Major with just 22 seconds left in the game. Midway through the third

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Other assists for the Insulators went to Merv Klein (2), Bob Monckton (2), John McNally (2), Wayne Houle, Ken Norman, (Walter) Arbuckle, Gord Nisbett and Bill Wells.

Acton took the lead with a marker from Bruni, who took the puck from Barnes to make the goal an all-defence team effort. Oakville tied it up just before the period ended.

Cartwright, back from a minor knee injury, connected on a powerplay from Vickery and Malcolm to give Acton the lead they had in the game. Blades slipped two more by Insoce and Wicklum tied it up 3-3 from McGilloway at the halfway point in the frame.

Oakville scored twice more in the period to take a 5-3 lead. They went on to net seven in a row in the final period before Malcolm broke through with Acton's final

period he got another break-away opportunity and made the most of it as he flipped the puck past netminder Ian Roberts to complete his hat trick. Assist on the goal went to Mark Schinkel.

Doug Elliott netted the final Acton marker with 1:37 left. Malcolm and Art Currie assisted on the marker.

Flyers outshot Sabres 48-27 in the game.

CENTRAL ONTARIO JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Gp.	W.	L.	T.	Pt.
Streetsville	27	21	3	3	45
Dixie					
Beehives	25	19	3	3	41
Burlington	24	11	11	2	24
Milton					
Flyer	25	10	11	4	24
Oakville					
Blades	25	11	13	1	23
Brampton	25	9	15	1	19
Georgetown	25	7	15	3	17
Acton					
Sabres	24	3	20	1	7