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Sports & Recreation

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Jock Tock

By John Bottomley

Atom tourney this weekend

Acton major atoms are a solid choice to take the championship trophy in this year's Atom Centennial tournament, being run this weekend by the Acton Minor Hockey Association.

Sixteen teams take part in the tourney, including the last year's champion Glanbrook and the champs from two years ago, Beamsville.

Minor atoms are registered as a back up team, in case one of the other teams cannot attend.

Last year the major atoms, then minors, put up a strong showing as they topped Caledon 2-1 in overtime and fell 4-1 to Elmira after holding them to a 2-1 lead until the late minutes of the final period.

This year the atoms went 27 games without a loss and have matured to the point where they will be a real threat in the tourney. "I will be very surprised if Acton doesn't take it," said tourney organizer Bill Knight. "I'm hoping they will. They never have yet."

Knight is expecting good close competition this year. The organizers screen the teams and try to set up even games. In last year's event, three of the first four games went to overtime, and the champions Glanbrook won all their games by single points.

Approximately 300 to 320 players will take part in the tourney. Some will be billeted with Acton players but most will make the trip in and out.

This year there are four teams from the Metro Toronto Minor Hockey Association entered: Martingrove, Warren Park, Humber Valley and Cooksville. Other teams are Orangeville, Thornhill, Stouffville, Flamboro, Beamsville, Glanbrook, Bradford, Burford, Penetang, Leamington. Waterloo are coming in place of Milton.

The weekend promises to provide some fine atom hockey, and with a strong Acton team to root for, it could be fun. Come on out to the arena and support the Acton atoms. With some crowd support they should be unbeatable.

Industrial and non-contact

This week marked the first time this season I have watched either industrial hockey or non-contact hockey, and I must admit I was pleasantly surprised by both.

The industrial game was fast, hard hockey, and the Sabres could have learned a lot about aggressive play around the net by watching. A.T.W. edged Family Cleaners 7-6 in overtime in the game, and the last five minutes of regulation time as well as the overtime period were among the most exciting games I've seen all year, including the ones I watch on my broken down television.

About 100 people showed up to watch, although that may be a generous estimate, and they all got good entertainment value for their money. They would have even if they had had to pay to get in.

Only one person showed up the next evening to watch the Acton Tigers, who finished their first season in second place in the Wellington-Dufferin-Halton non-contact league. That was me. The game was played at 10.20 to nearly midnight so the lack of fans is not surprising. Especially since very few people knew about the game.

I did not know what to expect at a non-contact hockey game, and rather expected to see a crew of tubby out-of-breath gentlemen moving gingerly around the ice in a game closer to ringette than hockey. I was quite surprised at what I saw.

Non-contact is actually a bit of a misnomer for the sport, since there is plenty of contact involved. You just cannot play a game of hockey at full speed and not expect to hit somebody sometime. It would be better to call it reduced contact hockey. The players still check and they still clear the opposition from in front of the net, but the checks are not in the same league as what goes on in industrial play, and tempers stay puf.

What you get in the end is a very fast and very clean game of hockey, which gives the lie to an oft-repeated truism that refs slow the game down by calling penalties.

Acton was playing with only six players and a goaltender but still threatened in the second period to make a game of it as they held their opponents to a 2-1 count in the frame. Unfortunately, six players cannot skate with a ten player team for three periods, so the Tigers lost. They will have a full team Friday when they face the same team in their second game playoff at 8.30 in Hillsburgh. The team has indicated that they would not complain too loud or too long if some fans made the trip.

Going on vacation

For the next week I will be on vacation so any sports news you can think of, bring it in to Eric Elstone.

Defence is key for Redmen in OFSAA championship play

Acton high school will be hosting the O.F.S.A.A. "A" basketball championships this year, March 16 to March 18. Acton high school will be competing against eleven other teams for the All-Ontario championship. The nine players representing Acton in the tournament are Dan Webster, Gord Bruce, Rick Van Fleet, Martin Osso, Brad Buchanan, Mike Morris, Don Coats, John Hogenbirk and Mike McGregor.

During the past five years most of these players have participated in over 200 games and have spent approximately 850 hours playing basketball. This is quite a commitment for any person to give to a team and Acton high will be represented by the school's finest players.

Rick Van Fleet has been playing basketball for five years on the school team. He is 18 years old and in his last semester of grade 13. Rick is 6'2" and weighs 205 pounds. Rick was awarded the outstanding athlete of the year award in 1975 in the Athletic Society. Rick, who plays forward, feels his strongest point is rebounding and his weakest is shooting.

Brad Buchanan a 6'4" centre, has played on the team for four years. In 1977 Brad was voted the most valuable player. Brad weighs 200 pounds and is in his last semester at the high school. Brad is active in team sports both in town and on school teams. He is a member of the Sabres hockey team and enjoys playing on the tennis and track team at the high school.

Gord Bruce is one of the team's top defensive player at 6'1", 150 pounds. Gord is good at his job as a guard for the team. Gord is 18 and has played on the basketball team for four years. Gord feels his strongest point is defense and his weakest offense. He plays on a soccer team for the town in the summer.

Eighteen year old Dan Webster is co-captain of the team this year. In 1976 Dan was voted the school's most outstanding athlete in the school and in '77 he became

the most valuable player for the senior basketball team. Dan is 5'9", weighs 150 pounds and plays guard for the team. Dan feels his strongest playing point is defense and his weakest is offense. Dan also participates on the track and field team in the athletic society.

The youngest player on the team is Martin Osso. Martin is 6'3", 165 pounds and plays right forward. He is in grade 11 and was the most valuable player in the midgets. Martin says his strongest point is rebounding, his weakest dribbling.

Mike Morris is enjoying his first year on the team. Mike is 5'11", 150 pounds and plays forward position. Mike is 18 years old and enjoys badminton and tennis as well as basketball. Mike says his strongest point is anticipation and his weakest is his inexperience in playing on the team.

Don Coats shares the responsibilities of co-captain with teammate Dan Webster on the team. At 6'2", 170 pounds, Don is the leading scorer on the team. In 1978 he

was the most valuable player on the junior team and in 1977 he was awarded the outstanding athlete award. Don says his strongest point is shooting, his weakest is defence.

Known as the mean machine of the courts, John Hogenbirk is the most aggressive player on the team. John is 6' tall and weighs 170 pounds. He is 18 years old and has played on the team for three years. John's strongest playing points are rebounding and defence.

Standing 5'10", at 140 pounds, Mike McGregor is one of the team's top defensive players. He is very quick and is known as the basket-

ball thief. Mike is in grade 13 and is 18 years old. Mike says his strongest point is defense and his weakest is offense.

These nine players are the Acton high line-up for the All-Ontario basketball tournament. Coach Rick McArthur shows a positive attitude towards his team and is proud of them all. He considers them one of the stronger teams at the tourney and feels, with the home court advantage, they can go all the way.

The team is solid in experience, playing in a league of "AA" and "AAA" teams. The strong opposition gives them the edge over other "A" teams.

Tournament needs billetes

Rick Boychuk, assistant director of the "A" division Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations basketball championships, is looking for parents to help with the billeting of 150 young athletes during the tourney being held at the high school March

16 through 18. He cited the lack of hotel space in town for the need to billet.

A letter has been distributed throughout the school with information concerning responsibilities of billetes.



ACTON REDMEN LOOK FORWARD to a successful weekend when the All-Ontario "A" division basketball championships are hosted at the high school. They enter the tourney hot on the heels of a championship trophy award at the Walkerton tourney two weeks ago.

ATW, Lakeview win

Shouting match, overtime win highlight AIHL semi-final play

Bill Severenski scored the tying goal then added the winner in overtime play as Acton Terminal Warehouse

edged Family Cleaners 7-6 Sunday in the first playoff game of the 1977-78 industrial hockey season and Lakeview

topped Blow Press in the second game of the evening. ATW benefitted in the second period when Cleaners'

Ernie Waller, trying to block a shot by Henry Toebes, inadvertently tipped it into his own net for the fourth ATW score.

It proved to be the difference as Bill Severenski tied it up for the winners with just 16 seconds left. ATW took a 3-1 lead in the first period as Toebes connected twice and Peter Morrison once. Toebes and Larry McAfee assisted on Morrison's marker and Morrison got an assist on Toebes' first.

Floyd Hillier notched the only Cleaners' goal of the period, getting an assist from Gary Coulton.

Cut lead Coulton cut the lead to 3-2 in the second period as he scored from Bart Jacobs two minutes into the frame. Toebes and Waller made it 4-2 but Larry Kistner ended the period with a score from Dan Hillier and Lorne Gordon to keep it close.

One minute into the third frame Coulton tied the count with a score from John McCutcheon. The two teams

played even until the 15:44 mark, when Ted Jowett gave Cleaners their first lead of the game. Floyd Hillier and Jacobs assisted on the goal.

The pace sped up at this point as Peter Morrison tied it up from Toebes with 2:13 left, Floyd Hillier got the lead back from Jowett and Jacobs with 1:50 to go and Severenski sent it into overtime with 16 seconds left.

Severenski was the marksman after four and a half minutes of sudden death play as he scored from Bren Irwin and Morrison.

Shouting match The second game proved to be as exciting as the first, if for a different reason. Blow Press' Ed Hillier and referee Ken Paisley became the center of some very heated debate after a match penalty levelled by the latter on the former.

Paisley wrote on the back of the game sheet "At 14:25 of 1st period there was an icing call. Number three Blow Press (Ed Hillier) started to complain for no good reason. He was told to button up at this point. As I was retrieving the puck he kept up his verbal abuse and was given two minutes unsportsmanlike conduct. He did not proceed directly to the penalty box and also kept talking. At this point he was assessed a 10 minute misconduct. When he finally went into the penalty box he kept on talking and making gestures, earning a game misconduct. He then returned to the ice. At this point he started to circle around me making threatening gestures and finally pushed me with his stick. Assessed a match penalty at this point."

Hillier's version is a little different. Talking in the stands afterward he said, "In this league it's icing as soon as it crosses the red line. He waited until one of our players crashed into the boards before he called it. I asked him why and he gave me two minutes. So I asked him if we weren't allowed to ask questions and he gave me ten. Then I got mad. After all, this is a playoff game. We should be allowed to ask questions."

Little trouble

With Hillier, the pressmen's second leading scorer, off the ice, Lakeview had little trouble taking a 5-2 win. They took a 1-0 lead out of the first period as George McPhail scored from Tim McIntyre.

The pressmen came back with two in a row in the second to take a brief lead. John McDougall and Gary Masters scored as Jeff Goy picked up two assists and Sid Barena a single. Ron Schmidt tied it up for Lakeview from Jim McDonald and McPhail.

The final period goals gave Lakeview their win as Bill Fields, McDonald and Bob Jarrett scored. Jarrett's score came on a long curving shot from outside the blue line. Steve McIntyre, John Ashley, Bob Brenton and McPhail got assists. Playoff action continues next week with the second games of the best of three semi-final series.

AIHL final

scoring stats

F. Hillier, FC	25	17	42
P. Morrison, ATW	23	18	29
H. Toebes, ATW	20	17	37
G. Colton, FC	16	20	26
M. McMahon, BP	25	8	33
T. Jowett, FC	11	20	31
B. Jacobs, FC	14	16	30
S. Bennett, ATW	16	12	28
E. Hillier, BP	15	13	28
D. MacPherson, Vans	18	9	27
B. Irwin, ATW	15	12	27
B. Fields, Lake	14	13	27
R. Melton, Helliers	13	14	27

W-H-D

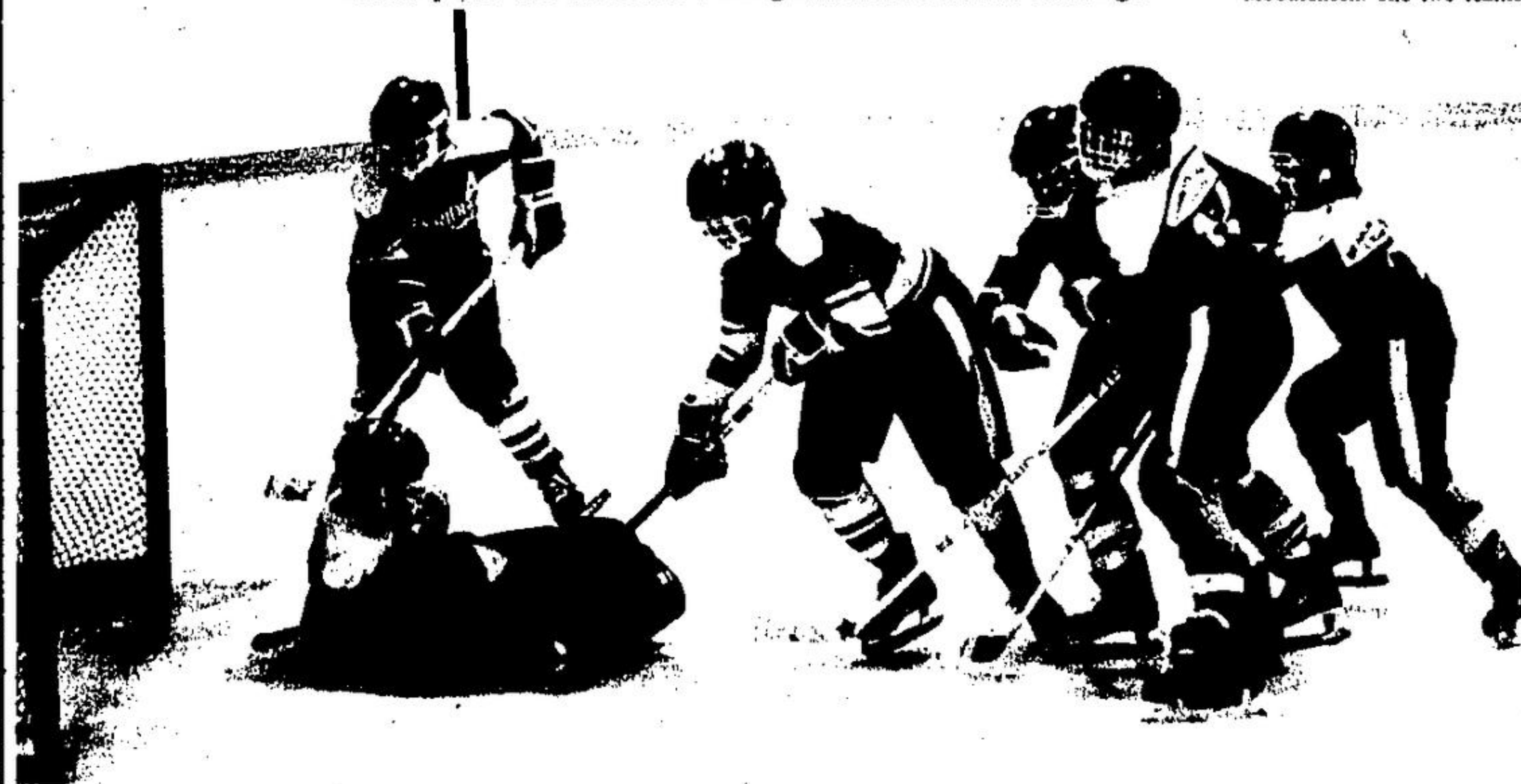
FINAL STANDINGS

East Division				
	W	L	T	P
Georgetown	17	4	1	33
Hellon Hills	14	5	3	31
Acton	13	7	2	28
Meadowdale	11	9	2	24
Milton	4	17	1	9
West Division				
Orangeville P.	13	8	1	27
Cedar Valley	10	11	1	21
Erin	10	11	1	21
Hillsburgh	9	13	0	18
Orangeville C.	7	13	2	16
Grand Valley	0	21	1	1

Final standings were adjusted at a league meeting on the weekend since at least four teams, Acton, Milton, Grand Valley and Orangeville Pirie had used illegal players on occasion.



THIS HAPPENED TOO often to the Acton Tigers Monday as they lost 9-2 to a tough Cedar Valley team in WHD playoff action. Tigers had only one man on the bench, and could not keep up with the visitors. Tigers made it to the playoffs with a 5-4 win over Hawaiian Tropics which gave them second place over all in the Wellington-Halton-Dufferin standings.



ACTON MINOR PEEWEES had their hands full Saturday when Oak Ridges came to town. The visitors took a 5-1 win in the first round of their playoff series. The only Acton goal of

the game came from Jim Richards on a shot from Paul Cargill. "If we tighten our checking we can give them a game" said coach Barry Insoce.