

# The Acton Free Press

## Sports & Recreation

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Second Section



EYES CLOSED. LAURA Raine still makes the catch at first base. Minor softball teams are practising now in preparation for the upcoming season.

## Merchants' roster set, team drops exhibition game

Acton Merchants, the fast-ball team that will be representing the town this year in the Georgetown Industrial loop, have made their final selections and are optimistic about their chances for the season.

"We will make the playoffs, and you can quote me" said team manager Ron Hachey. "Why not shoot for the works."

He feels the pitching staff will be a big help in the team's play, pointing out that two of the three pitchers, Norm Topping and Chuck Peavoy, have pitched in the Georgetown league before, and that Frank Daley, "old

faithful," pitched three shut out innings in the Merchants' 8-3 exhibition loss to Milton Sunday.

If the Merchants had brought a gun and shot Trevor Houston of Milton, they would have had a much easier time of it in that game. Houston drilled three home runs in including a grand slam in the top of the ninth, accounting for all eight Milton tallies.

Bill Routledge was the big bat for Acton, popping a three run homerun down the third base line.

Backing up Topping, Peavoy and Daley in the field and with their bats will be

Jim James, catcher, Gord Standbridge, shortstop, Les Deforest, catcher, Terry Cole, first base, Dan Allen, first base, Terry Masales, second base, Danny Fields, second base-shortstop Steve Marshall, third base, Don Archibald, Gary Wilson, Bob Jarrett and Bill Routledge, outfield. Coach is Ray Graham.

Each team in the Georgetown loop is allowed to sign 20 players, but the Merchants have held themselves to 15 so far, preferring to wait until the Acton Industrial league is operating to see if any good players emerge there and

then try to sign them to the Merchants' squad.

The team is looking for all the support it can get out of the town, and the local fans will have plenty of opportunities to see the team in action. They play 15 games at home, most on Thursday evenings, plus the games they will play as part of their three game tournament, to be held June 16 through 18.

They have already had good support from local businesses agreeing to act as sponsors. Manager Hachey thanked Station Hotel, Van's Welding, Family Cleaners, J&T Sports, Nielson's Clothing, Family Restaurant,

Olympia Drive-In, Ed's In and Out, Acton IGA and Gordon Dawe Real Estate for their support.

Each merchant bought one or more uniforms for the club at \$50 each. The team figures umpiring fees for the season will amount to about \$400, and they will have to supply five dozen baseballs at \$5 a shot, for another \$300 in expenses.

They held a fund raising dance April 8 which earned \$280, and are planning to hold another August 28, just after their regular season ends.

The team first made an appearance last year, playing in a few exhibitions in the area, and this year they

began working out in the McKenzie-Smith gymnasium as early as January. Tryouts have been going on for the last few weeks and Hachey said "we had to cut some pretty good players."

In addition to their regular season games and the Acton Merchants' Tournament, the team is looking into the possibility of playing in other tournaments, including a big one in Campbellford.

Exhibition games with Milton Staggs Thursday and with Hornby Sunday are planned. Thursdays game will be played at Prospect Park.

## Soccer registration good but practice pitches limited

One hundred and sixty-four boys have signed up to play soccer this year with the Acton Minor Soccer Association, with more to come, according to association president Fred Blain.

"A lot of people don't attend gymnasium play until they see people playing soccer outside." Then they get moving and join up themselves, he added.

Five teams will be playing in the Mid Ontario rep league this year, and the rest will be divided among the house leagues.

Choosing rep teams is going to be difficult this year, according to Blain. The Board of Education does not want soccer players on the school fields until May 15, and the season starts May 23, giving the local association only eight days to select rep teams and register them with the Halton Youth Soccer Association so they will be able to play in the Mid Ontario league.

Blain told the Free Press the club will try to use other areas, including the areas alongside the school fields, and the Prospect park fields, which are a little too small for proper play.

The facilities at Prospect Park are just a little small. You can't get a true concept of a team," he pointed out.

So far 34 squirrels (ages 5-8), 44 atoms (ages 8-10), 37 mosquitoes (ages 10-12), 40 peewees (ages 12-14), 14 bantams (ages 14-16) and one junior B player have registered.

Blain insists there are other junior B players interested, but they haven't yet come forward.

The soccer association is

hoping for lights around the field at McKenzie-Smith and are currently looking at prices based on what was installed at Cedarvale. Blain mentioned that Peter Marks is working with them on the project, and the club is also looking for a Wintario grant to help them. The club believes the project will cost them about \$5-\$8,000.

The club is trying to create an interest in soccer, according to Blain, and as part of their effort they will be showing two training films Thursday at McKenzie-Smith, and are hoping to get hold of a film from the European Cup championships as well, for the evening.

"We're trying to create an interest," said Blain. "In Europe it is similar to the hockey following in Canada. Kids have to have idols, the way hockey players idolize Bobby Hull or Borje Salming."

Elected to the executive in a 10 man race were Don Brooker of Dresden, Larry Clark of Willowdale, Bob McKinnon of Oakville, Bud Miller of Caledonia, Danny Poland of Bracebridge and Howie Stevenson of Lakefield.

Two former OHA Presidents were given special honors. Clarence "Tubby" Schmalz of Walkerton was named a life member of the OHA and Newmarket's Cliff Phillips, now vice-president in charge of minor hockey for the CAHA, was presented with the OHA Gold Stick Award.

### In OHA

## "Buying back" is out during regular season

by Denis Gibbons  
Voting delegates at Saturday's OHA annual meeting turned down an amendment to the constitution which would have allowed teams in the Senior "A" and Major Junior "A" categories to pay a \$25 in lieu of having players, who receive major misconduct and game mis-

conduct penalties, sit out two games.

The amendment, proposed by the Allan Cup champion Brantford Alexanders, was opposed on the floor by Murray Walker of the Oakville Blades and Stratford's Herb Parker, once a hard-hitting defenceman with the old Stratford midgets.

A similar amendment was defeated at last year's annual meeting, but the Senior "A" League acted on its own to give the rule a trial run in their group this year. Walker criticized the OHA executive for allowing the Senior "A" League to act on its own after an amendment had been turned down at the annual meeting.

The practice, commonly known around hockey rinks as "buying a player back", is permitted by the OHA during the playoffs.

Parker expressed concern that, if the Senior "A" and Major Junior "A" Leagues are allowed to pay fines in lieu of suspensions, the rest of the OHA's categories will eventually ask for the same permission.

The meeting was one of the mildest in years, an indication that teams are either satisfied with everything or have abandoned hope of having anything changed the way the OHA ignores member teams and runs its own show anyway.

Of the 17 constitutional amendments proposed, eight were proposed by the OHA executive itself. Five others, proposed by clubs, were withdrawn and one was voted out of order. That motion, made by the Stirling Intermediate "C" club, was initiated as a result of the Stirling team's loss to Chatham in the OHA semi-finals. Stirling officials couldn't believe that the OHA

would allow Chatham, a town of 40,000, to play in the Intermediate "C" category. Larry Robertson, convener of the OHA Central Junior "B" League, said there's a possibility Hamilton and Dundas of the Golden Horse-shoe League will be added to the Central League for next season.

Larry Bellisle of Penetang took over the presidency from Hugh McLenn of London. Moving up the ladder were Bill Ruddock of Toronto to 1st vice-president, Pat Doherty of Kitchener to 2nd vice-president and Jim King of Guelph to 3rd vice-president.

Acton minor lacrosse came one step closer to existing last week when 10 people showed up at an organizational meeting at the arena. Three more were unable to attend.

Members of the minor lacrosse executive are Bob Turkosz, Howard Dwyer, Ian Campbell, Mike McMahon, Bruce Sears, M. Staley, John Povey, Ron McKnight, Chris

## Campbellville skater joins Canadian team

Campbellville skating ace Kevin Parker has been invited by the Canadian Figure Skating Association to join the senior Canadian team competing in France and Germany this summer.

According to his father, Ernie Parker, the offer came just at the right time for Kevin, lifting him up from the doldrums after the Canadian Junior championships in Winnipeg last February. "He was going to take a break, but with this coming up it's back

to the drawing board and full speed ahead, which he doesn't mind in the slightest, he's so excited."

Mr. Parker added that the whole family is quite happy, "what with Kevin being a junior and all," and they see this as an opportunity for him to get his skates wet in senior level international competition. "It's not like we're expecting him to win everything, but it's a good challenge for him. He can start to get experience and exposure

at world competition."

The C.F.S.A. will be paying for all his expenses there, including hotels, food, team outfits, trainers, etc. Right now Kevin is back working under his usual coach in Kitchener.

The letter informing him of the news was sent out April 27, and Kevin will be going to Europe in the summer, competing in France from August 16-20 and in Germany from August 23-27.



FINNIE VERBICK, KAREN Knickle and Linda Ross hold the Don Bexton trophy. Ladies' curling trophies were presented at a banquet April 20.

## Curling award winners



BANK OF MONTREAL trophy was presented by bank manager Earl Steckley at Saturday evening's curling banquet. Winners were, front row, Glen Gray and Pete Vidler; back row, presenter Mr. Steckley, Fred Archibald and Bill Cripps.

## More inside



THE PAUL NIELSEN TROPHY went to Anne Ridley, Lynn Franklin, Bev Appleyard and Susan Patrick. Phyllis Patrick did the presenting duties.



THERESA DUNN, WHO last year led the Olympia Drive-In squirt girls to the Halton rural championships, is warming up to do the same kind of job on opposing batters this year.

## Bantam girls winners

In the first minor softball action of the year, the bantam girls coached by Ken Pilgrim edged W.C. Woods' Ladies, an industrial women's team, by a 15-12 count last night at Prospect Park.

The game was tied at 12-12 after six and a half before Acton got their final runs in the bottom half of the frame. In ordinary action the score would have stopped at 13-12, but the teams decided to play out the entire inning.

Lori DeBruyn was the heaviest hitter for the bantams, belting a three run homer in the first and going four for five at the plate over the course of the game. In a game in which almost everybody hit, Mardie Phillips with a four for five performance and Cindy Brouillard, who went three for five, were offensive standouts.

Michelle Noble managed the game was umpired by Bob Paul.

The game was umpired by Bob Paul.

The bantams see action again tonight at the Prospect Park field, meeting a bantam team from Limehouse for another exhibition game.

## 500 Club winners

Winners of the Acton Minor Hockey 500 Club draw for the week of April 22 are as follows: no. 334 J. Povey, no. 428 G. Voss, no. 355 B. Cargill, no. 352 B. Badley, no. 285 G. Last and no. 414 J. Branagh.

Winner of the \$100 bonus was no. 35 Cliff Creasey.

Winners of the Acton Minor Hockey 500 Club draw for the week of April 29 are as follows: no. 384 G. Rowse, no. 3 L. Lindsay, no. 277 M. Lang, no. 250 B. Stuckey, no. 442 T. Moss and no. 363 T. Weir.

Winners of the Acton Minor Hockey 500 Club draw for the week of April 22 are as follows: no. 150 J. Gibson, no. 184 F. Salt, no. 188 I. Kilby, no. 388 Mrs. Paul Phelan, no. 297 D. Rogers and no. 301 K. Papillon.

Winners of the Acton Minor Hockey 500 Club draw for the week of April 29 are as follows: no. 144 H. Waterhouse, no. 333 L. Norton, no. 276 G. Civierno, no. 420 D. Staves, no. 418 J. Waterhouse, no. 400 A. Williams.