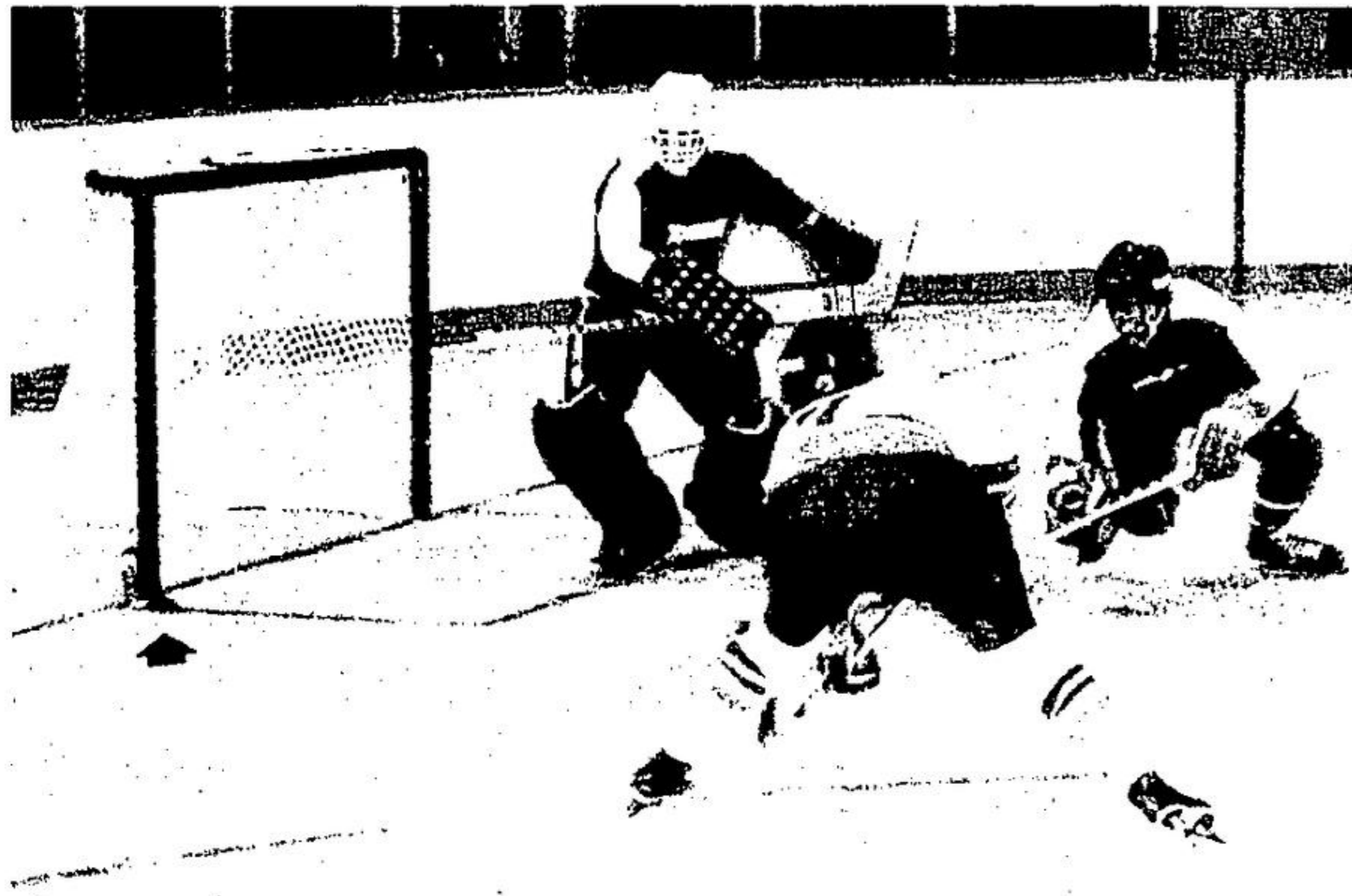


# The Acton Free Press

## Sports & Recreation

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1978  
One Hundred and Fourth Year--No. 10.  
Second Section



ALL ALONE in front of the London net Acton Sabres Jeff Shields took a pass and flipped toward the empty net. Shields missed on this occasion but scored one late in the third period as

the Sabres went down to London Diamonds 7-4 in an exhibition contest last Sunday in Georgetown. Next Sunday the Sabres host Port Colborne at Guelph's Memorial Arena. Game time is 7:30

## Acton continues old habits five goal 2nd sinks Sabres

Acton Sabres haven't changed much over the summer. The Sabres, of the Central Ontario Junior 'B' League, had a bad habit last season of playing two periods of hockey, falling asleep in the middle frame.

It happened again Sunday night as the Sabres hosted London Diamonds of the Southwestern Ontario Junior 'B' League at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott arena. Acton allowed the visitors five goals between the five and fifteen minute marks of the second period as London defeated the Sabres 7-4.

A major problem of the Sabres over the last couple of years has been the defensive core. This season seems to be no exception. Acton coach Fred Buchanan said he is looking for a couple of big rugged defencemen to shore up the problem but the good defencemen are becoming scarce.

The game itself was a rough one as players are trying to prove themselves to their respective coaches. London took 55 minutes in penalties through the game while Acton took 59 including a misconduct to defenceman Denis Charbonneau. Three sets of fighting penalties were handed out by referee Wendall Brown while a couple of skirmishes resulted in double minors.

Pete Wicklum opened the scoring in the game at the 6:04 mark of the first period when he connected, with Neil Anderson and Mark Schinkel. Peter Palmer of London

finally got the puck past Acton goaltender Rob Bremner on an unassisted effort with 26 seconds remaining in the period. Bremner came up with a solid effort in the first frame and robbed London shooters to keep Acton close.

In the second period London counted five times within ten minutes while Acton could net the twine only once, that coming off the stick of Paul Pickard.

Pickard played the last two seasons with Brockville of the Ottawa Valley Provincial Junior 'A' League. Acton is currently trying to obtain his release so he can join their club. Pickard is a big rangy forward with speed and could definitely help the Sabres in their attempt to improve on last season's record.

London scored early in the third period and then held Acton off the scoresheet until the last two minutes of the contest when Jeff Shields scored from John Bruni and Brad Buchanan and Pickard got his second of the night from Derek Cleary.

Paul Hopping and Bremner split the goaltending duties for Acton while London used a goaltender in each of the three periods. London outshot Acton 47 to 36.

Coach Fred Buchanan said he was very pleased with the team's play against London squad and feels that the team has the talent but they must work hard and concentrate on the game.

Buchanan pointed out that Bob Allsup, who played for Acton Midget Sabres last season, played well on the blueline and Brad Buchanan seems to be adjusting to his new position at forward. Brad

has moved up from the blueline to help provide a little size in the corners.

Sabres played Sunday's game without returnees Scott Malcolm, and David McGilloway or newly-acquired Glenn Murray all of whom have been at Junior 'A' camps. Malcolm and Murray were out with Sudbury Wolves while McGilloway went to

Brantford. Murray along with Neil Anderson and goaltender Bremner, all from Orangeville, have signed on with the Sabres for this season. All three played for the Orangeville Stonecrushers Junior 'C' last year. The Stonecrushers will not be in operation this fall.

Also inked for the 1978-79 season are Jeff Shields from

the Acton Juniors and Wade Vickery of last year's Sabres.

The next game for the Sabres is Sunday when they meet Port Colborne at Memorial Gardens in Guelph for a 7:30 p.m. game. The following Friday the Sabres are in Port Colborne and the Sunday they host New Hamburg at Exhibition arena in Guelph.

## Bantam boys down Fergus drop first game to Simcoe

Acton Bantam Boys baseball team came from behind to defeat Fergus in the third and final game of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association playoffs to win their zone championship.

Acton downed Fergus two games to one with a 14-9 win in Acton last Thursday.

Since that time the bantams have met Simcoe in the first game of the OASA semifinals. Simcoe won the match 6-4.

In the Fergus game the visiting Fergus squad led 4-0 after the fifth and 5-1 after six.

Acton didn't come to life until the eighth inning when they scored six times to take the lead. Rob Vermeulen and Mark Duval were given credit by coach Steve Marshall for laying down perfect bunts and starting the eighth inning rally.

Base hits by the pee-wees that were in the lineup, Brian Canary and Paul Cargill, and bantams Tim Evans, Gord Thompson and Paul Nolan kept the big inning alive.

Marshall stated that despite playing badly for the first four innings that the boys did not give up and came back strong in the last few innings.

The pee-wees, Canary and Cargill, were also commended on their play and strong bats.

Winning pitcher Rob Vermeulen recorded nine strike-outs and walked only two.

Against Simcoe, Marshall said the team played one of their strongest games defensively but could not get their bats going until late in the game. Tony Sheppard scored for Acton in the fifth

and the bantams scored three times in the ninth on base hits by Gord Thompson and Rick Greenly and a long triple by Vermeulen who scored on a Paul Nolan sacrifice.

Simcoe scored two in the first on a long homer by

Chuck Brimmer, who hit a pair before the game has over.

Marshall said that the Simcoe team is big and strong with most of their boys being second year players.

If the defence plays as well and the Acton bats come to life Marshall feels his team will force a third game in the series.

The second game has been scheduled for Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in Acton.



BIG SWING! Acton Merchants catcher Les Deforest gets ready to squeeze a ball from pitcher Norm Topping. Rexway Towing batter took a big cut but couldn't make contact. Merchants lost the game 4-1 and finished in sixth place in the

Georgetown Industrial Fastball League standings. Merchants meet Rexway in Acton Thursday night at 8:30 p.m. in the second game of their quarter-final series.

## Harley's win pennant

Harley Motors won the Georgetown Industrial Fastball League regular season pennant with a 1-0 sudden victory win over Georgetown Chrysler's, last night (Tuesday).

## Kevin Parker returns following successful European competition

If you gave Kevin Parker the chance to return to Europe to compete in more international figure skating contests, he'd probably be on his way in the morning.

The young Campbellville skater returned from a double competition tour as a member of the Canadian Figure Skating team which took him to St. Gervais France and Oberstdorf Germany.

Parker, teenaged son of Ernie Parker of Guelph Lane, said the trip was an "exciting

and good" experience. The competition was tough, according to Kevin, but he said he learned a lot from the high standards.

The team left Toronto International Airport Aug. 14 and returned last Wednesday. They flew to London, England and connected on a flight to St. Gervais for the Coupe des Alpes competition.

There, Kevin placed 11th after his figures, however with a brilliant freestyle program finished fourth in

the senior men's competition. Gary Bedcom of Canada finished fourth in figures and moved into third spot in the finals.

In Germany Kevin placed 10th in figures and again moved up several placings with the freestyle programs. He jumped to third place after the short compulsory program but was edged to fourth after the five minute performance.

"I could have skated a little better in Germany," he said. He explained that he thinks

he tried too hard and that the team was tired after an eight hour bus ride to the competition site. But he was still pleased with his showing.

Kevin wouldn't be hesitant about performing for Canada again and he said hopefully he'll be involved in international competition in the future.

He starts training for the sectionals Thursday with his coach John Caughall in Kitchener. He will also be returning to complete his grades at Acton High School.

## Acton distance runner takes Texas scholarship Houston to run at Abilene Christian University

Acton long distance runner Frank Houston will be attending Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas this winter.

Houston, who has been out of university for three years, applied for and will receive a full scholarship in the second semester at Abilene.

Houston attended Robert Little Public School, Acton High School and then Western University for six weeks.

Since leaving university he has been labouring and spent a good portion of his time unemployed. Houston also ran for the Scarborough Optimists track club.

Peter Cross, head coach of the Scarborough club, sent letters to East Texas State and Abilene on Frank's behalf. After talk with both universities Houston decided to attend East Texas in Commerce, Texas. Houston headed stateside to make final arrangements and get settled.

On arrival at East Texas, where he had been offered a full scholarship, he found what seemed to be poor coaching and no facilities.

In the meantime Abilene had been in touch with Houston's family and offered him a partial scholarship. Frank left East Texas and headed 300 miles to check things

out. At Abilene he found a half scholarship, excellent facilities, and a coach Houston thought to be the kind of man he would like to run for.

Frank said it was a private and expensive school and had some very strict rules, for example, no drinking, dancing, smoking or wearing shorts on campus. He was also to take a Bible class and attend chapel every day. For these reasons and that he could not afford to pay even half his tuition he decided against Abilene.

While there Houston entered two local races, the Abilene City Mile which he won in four minutes and 21 seconds and the State Meet in Dallas which he won in a time of 4:10.

Abilene coach Don Hood liked the way Houston ran and offered him a full scholarship at mid-term. Frank accepted the offer and prepared for summer classes. Houston found the people friendly and a team spirit that Frank said he had never seen before.

Each two concurring semesters at Abilene a student must accumulate a total of 24 credits. Frank was awarded 36 credits for his grade 13 at Acton High School but because of leaving Western and not receiving any credits for the

semester he spent there he needed 24 credits by January to qualify for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and be able to run for the school.

Houston spent 10 hours a day for the last month and a half in classes picking up nine of the credits he needs to have 24 by January which would allow him to compete in the NAIA.

Houston will be taking courses in track, bowling and golf, Bible, American history, English and accounting.

Frank is looking forward to spending at least three years in the States and feels that if he is going to improve as a runner he is in the right place to do it. He feels two Kenyan runners from the same school will give him the competitive edge and the facilities and the coaching will help him improve his times.

Houston is enthusiastic about his stay at Abilene and running for coach Hood. Frank said that Hood is a full time track coach and that the main reason he was there was to run. Houston considers Hood a top notch coach.

Hood, in a newsletter, said of Houston, "What an exciting runner this guy is. He is very aggressive and I believe he'll be a national class. He won't be eligible until mid-term so we

can't use him in cross country" but that's alright with Frank; he will concentrate on the one and three mile races.

Houston has set his goals on running the mile in 4:07 and three miles in 13:45 before the next year is over.

Frank, it passes all his classes in January, will be eligible to run NAIA. Houston is also hoping that sometime in the future he might get a chance to run in an NCAA meet. NAIA is affiliated with the NCAA, which is the level at which top ranked US university athletes compete.

Houston needs 120 credits, over three or four years, however long he decides to take to complete his major, Banking and Finance. Frank, with the 36 grade 13 credits and nine from the summer course has 45.

At present, Houston is paying his own way but if he can complete 15 credits in January he will receive a full scholarship which includes room, board, tuition, books, medical coverage and equipment.

The fall semester runs for 16 weeks starting September 4. Frank said that over the last three years he has had so much bad luck that he doesn't mind being away from home and that he won't have time to think about it anyway.



FRANK HOUSTON