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Jr. B teams ready to dethrone Derbys

This week the Acton Free Press and the Million Champion have pooled their resources to present a preview of the 12 teams that will vie for the Central Ontario Junior 'B' League title.

The defending champion, Ontario Champion Streetsville Derbys will be vying for their fourth straight championship with 11 other squads attempting to knock them down.



The other 11 teams in the Central Ontario Jr. B loop have their eyes set on Streetsville Derbys.

The Derbys have an enviable record among all provincial Jr. B teams, advancing to the Ontario finals the past three years and winning it all last year knocking off St. Catharines in four consecutive games to take the trophy.

However, the Derbys won't be as strong this year. They've lost quite a few players to overage and other teams and will start the season with just seven returnees.

The loss of players doesn't ever seem to hurt the Derbys. Coach Tom Barrett who has taken the reins for the past 11 years seems to have more contacts in sports than many Major A teams and he has always managed to come up with the players he needs.

Coming back in an effort to repeat as provincial champions are goalie Les Williams, defencemen Doug Trimble and Ray Dube and forwards Bob Darling, Graham Hall, Steve Wicklumy and Steve MacDonald.

The bruisers have dampened their image and lost many of their brawlers from last year.

Making the team this year is Mississauga native Mark Peirog who completed a term with Richmond Hill Rams of Provincial Junior A.

Streetsville plays their home games on most Tuesday nights including a Boxing Day bash with Milton Flyers.



It will be a rebuilding year for the Burlington Cougars after coming as close as any to dethroning the powerful Streetsville Derbys last season.

The Cougars will have an almost new line-up as they head into the 1979-80 campaign with only five players from last year's squad currently inked. Even the coach, Phil Cameron, is new to Junior 'B' ranks.

The Cougars lost several key players at the end of the last season, including possibly the best one, two goaltending combination in the league. Todd Pearson has departed the Cougar cage to attend the University of New Hampshire while Mitch Lovelock has received a hockey scholarship at Cornell.

Other key players the Cougars will miss this year include the team's leading scorer of the last year Mike Carr, and Mike Kinear. The pair, along with Bob Dolman, went overage last year. Also missing from the Cougar den at this point in time are Mark Litton, Emilio Iobizzo and Ron Krochuk. Litton is in the camp of the Kitchener Rangers, Iobizzo is with Niagara Falls and Krochuk the Guelph Platers.

The coach of this year's edition, Phil Cameron, is not new to Burlington. In 1974-75 the 32 year old RCMP officer held the reins of the Burlington Midgets. Cameron has also had Junior 'A' experience coaching the Moncton Beavers in New Brunswick's Tier Two League.

Returning to the Burlington line-up this season are Rob Rose, Jim Cochrane, Rob McConnell, Steve Crocker, and John Rea. "We will be coming all year" says McCauley, "we may not start out fast but we have a good coach and we'll be there at the end of the year."



Former Oakville Blades' player and last year's assistant coach, Ray Chisolm has his hand at the helm of Junior 'B' Blades this season. Chisolm played for the Blades as a midget a few years ago and has returned to help in a different capacity. He replaces Eric Smith.

The Blades, who finished alone in third spot last season, 13 points ahead of the fourth place finisher and 18 points out of second have their work cut out for them this season with as many as 10 of last season's regulars either going overage or looking to make other clubs.

The Blades lost only three players, Bill Barnes, Mike McElroy and Frank Carnevale, to overage last year. Carnevale wound up the Central Ontario 'A' as the league's leading point getter.

Two other players from last year's squad, Mike Richmond and Grant Gillam, are working out with the McMaster Hockey Team while Reg Taccione has inked with the Markham Waxers of the Tier Two Junior 'A' league.

Despite the players Blades will lose this year they must still be considered a contender. Eight players with Junior 'B' experience will be in the line-up including six



Central Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey league begin action this week in the hope of knocking off the Streetsville Derbys and winning the league crown. Pictured here are the Acton Sabres and the Milton Flyers in a game last season.

former Blades.

"We will have a young fast skating club," says Walker.

Oak Ridges Dynes

The Oak Ridges Dynes can only be termed a team in a constant state of transition. It seems the only constants on the team are coach Peter Artemchuk and manager Bill Woloski who are back for their fourth years as a tandem.

Despite finishing fourth in their first season in the league, Dynes expect to start the year with as few as seven returning players.

"It's not unusual for Oak Ridges to make changes," explained Woloski. "We've always gained when we've made changes and we're not going to stop this year."

The changes are unusual in that the squad lost just two players to overage.

The Dynes also completed a three-for-one deal with Provincial Junior A member Richmond Hill Rams which brought the Hills' top shooter, Phil Wood, over to Oak Ridges.

So far, the squad has encountered trouble signing the talented youngster but, Woloski is confident he can get his name on a card. Dynes lost one player to the draft. Star blueliner Craig Halliday was picked up by Cornwall Royals of the Quebec Major A League.

As things stand now, Oak Ridges will start the season with returnees David Heisey in goal, and skaters Andre Damnze, John Murphy, high-scoring Brent Dobson, Errol Dormond, Carl Taylor and Glenn Wright.

The squad has a variety of youth and experience on the squad. "I think we'll move up in the standings because of more balance on defence and a stronger offence," Woloski added.

Orillia Travelways

The Orillia Travelways opened the season Monday night in Thornhill with nine returnees from last year.

Despite the early starting, the squad had not settled on a starting lineup and may make further changes within the next few weeks.

As a result, Travelways manager Don Dale was reluctant to name his players, preferring to wait until later in the year to settle on a starting lineup.

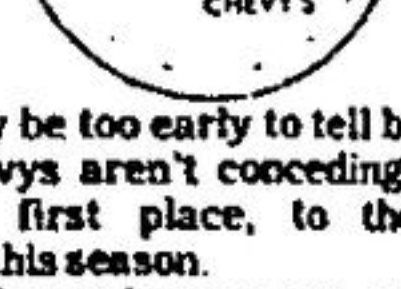
"If what you've got doesn't improve," he explained, "then you've got to adapt."

One player who won't be back is high-scoring Bruce McDonough. He took a full scholarship at Clarkson University in the U.S.

Travelways have a new coach in the person of Mike Grube who coached the provincial champion Orillia juvenile team last year.

Orillia, which finished fifth last year, is working on its defensive record which it hopes will help the team move up the ladder. Perhaps the key returning player is goaltender Bob Morley who will anchor the defence.

The nucleus of new players will be comprised of midget and juvenile players within the Orillia Minor hockey association.



It may be too early to tell but the Brampton Chevys aren't conceding anything, including first place, to the Streetsville Derbys this season.

The Chevys have a new coach this year, like many of the Central League teams, but according to team president Dave Dickson he is unlike Brampton coaches of the past. Ken Will is a 30 year old school teacher who believes in summer work-outs and active

training camps.

An unusual feature surrounding the Chevys is the team's owner, Brampton Minor Hockey sponsors and runs this team with the idea that the Brampton boys are given top chances on making the club.

According to Dickson the plan works. The Chevys finished in sixth spot last season, three point out of fourth, with 14 regulars for Brampton. This season the Chevys have already signed 14 local boys with 10 coming from last year's squad and four midget graduates.

On defence the Chevys will have three players returning. Rob Parkinson, Randy Hunt and Brent Baldry will all return to the line-up with graduating midget Jim Gabel filling out a fourth defensive position.

Dan MacDonald, Mike Brics, and all-star John Luimes return up front for the Brampton squad with Rob Montgomery, Jim Cassidy and Ralph Kelly adding power from the midget squad.

The Chevys' exhibition season has been an up and down affair splitting home and home series with St. Michael's, North York and Seneca.



A gentle blend of youth coupled with a healthy shot of experience highlight the Milton Flyers as they try to rise back and be a dominant force in the league once again.

After storming through the league and advancing to the finals for two consecutive years, the Flyers fell to seventh last year in what could only be termed a disappointing year.

The Flyers may start the season with as many as 11 players from last year although the final roster will not be made up until later this week.

Key returnees are goaltender Mike Shepherd, defencemen Mike Murray, Tod Sheppard, Joe O'Grady and Joe Todd and forwards Eric Ellison, Jim Court, Brett Paterson, Dave Harnden, Marty Venner and Paul McCann.

Flyers had high hopes for midget Joe Gaetan but Gaetan has played well with the Toronto Marlies and even if he doesn't crack the Marlies' lineup, will probably play with Markham Waxers in Provincial Junior A.

In goal, Flyers still have to decide between midgets Eric Pinkney and Rob Goencz. Pinkney, the most acrobatic of the netminding trio, seems to have the inside shot if he wants it.

On defence, Flyers have signed big, hulking Jay Caulfield who played all his hockey in Pennsylvania. Caulfield, 19, starting skating when he was just 15 and shows weaknesses with the blades. He stands six-foot-five and weighs 230 lbs.

Flyers have also signed Blair Phillips from last year's midget team for the blue-line.

For the first time since the '60s, Flyers will operate the juvenile team which will be coached by former Flyer Rod Gooding. The Flyers will be able to draw as many players as they like from the team throughout the year without signing the players to Junior B cards. This is seen as a big advantage when injuries and suspensions cripple the Flyers as they usually do, during the year.

One player who impressed the Flyers Friday night was 19-year-old Mario Bujold from Halleybury who has more moves than Allied Van Lines. Flyers' general manager Vern Gooding said he was eager to sign the smooth-skating centre but had not inked his name on a player's card yet.

Thornhill Thunderbirds

Backed by an experienced defence, Thornhill Thunderbirds will start the season with a youthful array of forwards and a

young goalie.

The Thunderbirds who placed eighth last year, have 10 players returning from the past season. They lost two of their better players to Major Junior A teams.

High-scoring centreman Curt Pearson, only 17, was selected by Oshawa Generals while budding goaltender John Morris, also 17, has become the starting netminder for the Toronto Marlies.

"We're going to have a better skating team this year," said Thunderbirds' coach Al Morris who is back for his second season behind the bench.

"We're going to make a lot of mistakes but hopefully, the experienced defence will cover up some of the forwards' errors."

Anchoring the defence will be the pair of Hob Browning and Mark Wiltshire. Browning, a five-year member, is the only surviving member of the squad's first year. Wiltshire, 17, was drafted by Windsor Spitfires of Major Junior A but chose to return to Thornhill.

Youth will also take the form of three midget-aged players on the forward lines. Bill Chappel played last year with Toronto Red Wings, Murray Downs with Thornhill midgets and Rob Humphries also was with Thornhill.

In goal, Thunderbirds are going again with youth. Seventeen-year-old Dan Hartley was termed a real find by Morris. He played last year in the outlaws Scarborough Hockey Association.

Thornhill plays its home games Sunday nights.



Dixie Beehives dropped to ninth spot and out of play-off contention last season scoring 14 wins in 44 games and are looking to move back up the ladder this time around.

Norm Dowdall, who coached the Beehives to a surprising second place finish two years ago, is back at the helm after a one year absence.

The Beehives could be a contender this time around losing no players to overage. Although the team has lost the services of goaltender Orest Okpysh and Rob Spath to Junior 'A', Doug Brown to the University of Western Ontario and Chris Boucher to the Tier Two Junior 'A' Aurora Tigers, the team will have a basic resemblance to the team that finished last year.

One player who joined the Beehives at the end of last season and should help them in the new year is former Streetsville Derby Les Smith.

McMahon, who is starting his third year with the Beehives is hoping his club can finish in the middle of the pace this time out. The Beehives were involved in a couple of exhibition matches with Henry Carr before bearing down against St. Michael's of the Metro Toronto Junior 'B' league. The Beehives managed a 5-5 tie in the first meeting of the two clubs but dropped a 7-3 match the next time around. Dixie took the first game of a home and home with the Acton Sabres 5-4 with a rematch in Dixie slated for last Saturday night.

Barrie Colts

Barrie Colts have added five players from last year's Ontario finalist major midget team to their 10 returning players in their effort to improve over the tenth-place finish last year.

The midget squad went five games with eventual champion Richmond Hill. They are blessed with several talented players which have easily made the jump to Junior B.

"We have the team settled down," said manager Jim Short. "We're going to be a respectable team this year and a force to be reckoned with."

Among the key returning players are two goalies, Dunc Brunelle and Dave Campbell which should shore up the Colts' woeful defensive record.

Colts were also helped by the decision of star player Steve Bouchey to stay with Barrie despite being drafted by Aurora of Provincial Junior A.

A couple of defencemen have been added to the blue-line corps. Scott Johnson who played with Slayner, (Junior D) and Mark Nikkanen (Junior C) are welcomed additions to the defence.

Colts will be unveiling a new coach. Gary McMillan who played professional hockey in the minor leagues will be behind the bench.

He formerly coached Barrie Flyers of the now-defunct Canadian International Hockey League and also in Barrie minor hockey.

Colts play home games Thursday nights.



Last year, for the first time in three seasons, the Acton Sabres escaped the basement of the Central Ontario Junior 'B' league finishing a total of nine points ahead of last placed Georgetown.

The Sabres head into their new season with very few returning players. Paul Salvisburg and Matt Lambert were the only two Sabres to go overage at the end of the last season but several others have attended Junior 'A' camps and have yet to return to the Acton team. Kelly McArthur, a 17 year old, spent two seasons in Acton before heading to the Provincial 'A' circuit. He has been signed to toil with the Markham Waxers this season.

Two other players still eligible to return to Acton, Paul Henderson and Drew Gareau, were still in the 'A' circuit at press time with major teams while the team's leading scorer of last year, Glenn Murray, and Wade Vickery were still with the Guelph Platers.

This is the first year the Sabres will start a Junior 'B' season with the coach that wound up the previous year. Fred Buchanan will be back behind the Acton bench trying to improve on their nine win and three tie record of last year.

Returning to the Sabres' fold this year include defencemen Brad Buchanan, Bob Allsop and Denis Charbonneau. In goal the Sabres will retain the services of one of the league's top performers of last season in Rob Bremner. Neil Anderson returns to the

CENTRAL ONTARIO JUNIOR

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	P
Streetsville Derbys	40	4	0	354	120	80
Burlington Cougars	38	4	2	277	124	78
Oakville Blades	30	14	0	288	204	60
Oak Ridges Dynes	20	17	7	236	229	47
Orillia Travelways	20	19	5	234	242	45
Brampton Chevys	20	20	4	211	204	44
Milton Flyers	16	23	5	215	277	37
Thornhill T-birds	14	22	8	180	233	36
Dixie Beehives	14	24	6	205	227	34
Barrie Colts	15	27	2	192	257	32
Acton Sabres	9	31	3	170	286	21
Georgetown Gemini	5	36	2	149	309	12

Sabres as one of the few returning forwards. Jamie Vickery, who started last season with the Sabres, had reported to camp only recently, while several other local players have travelled elsewhere.

The Sabres, who according to coach Buchanan are still looking for some size to bolster their line-up, have signed two members of last year's Ontario 'AAA' Juvenile finalists from Bramalea to help in their attack: Pat Fung is touted as the next Sabres' Dave Chapman (Central Ontario scoring leader in 1976-77). Linemate Greg Hartman is the other member of the Bramalea team with the Sabres.

The Sabres are looking to Guelph and Joe Holody for recruits this season. Changes over the past year have allowed Guelph players to play for the Acton team without being classed imports. The change in the OHA ruling makes it possible for the Sabres to pick up some late Junior 'A' cuts.

The Sabres will need some outstanding play if they have to start this season as well as they did last year. After eight games last year the Acton team was undefeated and surprising the league. This time around they will be hard pressed unless they can acquire the Junior 'A' talent they feel is coming their way before their league opener in Orillia this Saturday night.



Georgetown Gemini are hoping a number of significant off-ice moves made during the spring and summer will produce a better product on the ice this winter.

The Gem front office has five new faces who are aiming to get the club, which finished dead last in the 12 team OHA Central Junior 'B' last winter. Into the playoffs.

The first change came in the spring when Bob Girdwood moved into the president's chair after Bob Thompson declined a third term.

Next Girdwood went searching for a new bench boss to replace Hal Schooley. Girdwood came up with a young rookie coach, Tom Daley, 28, well known to Georgetown fans as a big, prolific scorer with the Intermediate 'A' Raiders.

The new prez and coach dipped into the club's past to find an excellent assistant, Chris Milne.

Milne skated with Gems their first three seasons of operation before joining Raiders last winter. A student of the game, Milne will continue playing with the Raiders as well as helping Daley. He's working on conditioning as a first priority.

Richard Thomas, former coach of the North York Rangers, a new resident of Georgetown, will also be on hand once the campaign starts to help tutor the young Gems.

Back for another try are the club's leading scorer, Andy Broadbent, his linemates Marty Power and Steve Crossman, blueliners Tony Giannini and Bob McCandless, forwards Mike McMenemy and Greg Thompson and goalie Brad Miller.

As for newcomers, the club has inked Dave McGilloy of Acton, Georgetown midget Bob Dean and defenceman Mike Shaeter, from Durham.

Sabre dates '79-'80

HOME SCHEDULE

Date	vs. Team
Friday, October 5	vs. Streetsville
Saturday, October 6	vs. Dixie*
Saturday, October 13	vs. Oak Ridges
Saturday, October 20	vs. Streetsville
Saturday, October 27	vs. Thornhill
Saturday, November 3	vs. Brampton
Saturday, November 10	vs. Barrie
Wednesday, November 14	vs. Georgetown
Saturday, November 17	vs. Burlington
Saturday, November 24	vs. Orillia
Saturday, December 1	vs. Oakville
Saturday, December 8	vs. Milton
Wednesday, December 12	vs. Thornhill
Saturday, December 15	vs. Brampton
Saturday, December 22	vs. Dixie
Friday, December 28	vs. Georgetown
Saturday, January 12, 1980	vs. Oak Ridges
Friday, January 18	vs. Orillia
Saturday, January 19	vs. Barrie
Saturday, January 26	vs. Milton
Saturday, February 2	vs. Oakville
Saturday, February 9	vs. Burlington

ROAD SCHEDULE

Date	In Town
Saturday, September 29	in Orillia
Sunday, September 30	in Georgetown
Friday, October 12	in Milton
Thursday, October 18	in Barrie
Monday, October 22	in Oak Ridges
Thursday, October 25	in Brampton
Tuesday, October 30	in Thornhill
Friday, November 2	in Burlington
Tuesday, November 6	in Oakville
Tuesday, November 13	in Streetsville
Thursday, November 29	in Dixie
Monday, December 3	in Oak Ridges
Thursday, December 6	in Dixie
Sunday, December 9	in Brampton
Sunday, December 23	in Thornhill
Saturday, December 29	in Orillia
Friday, January 4, 1980	in Oakville
Saturday, January 5	in Burlington
Sunday, January 13	in Streetsville
Sunday, January 27	in Georgetown
Friday, January 31	in Barrie
Friday, February 8	in Oakville

*All Sabre home games are slated for 8.30 p.m. with the exception of the October 6 match with Dixie. Game time for that contest is 7:30 p.m.