

# Thunderbirds find Sabres too tough on home ice



Big Stop! Acton Sabres goaltender Rob Bremner got a pad on this shot from a Thornhill Thunderbird forward during the Sabres third win of the season at the community centre last Wednesday night.

The win moved the Sabres out of the Central League cellar two points ahead of the Milton Flyers.

With the exception of a couple of outlandish scores, Acton Sabres have been playing their best hockey on home ice this season. No one knows that better than Thornhill Thunderbirds.

The Thunderbirds are in a battle for one of the remaining play-off spots in the Central Ontario Junior 'B' but have had a particularly rough time on Acton ice allowing the Sabres to record wins on both Thornhill visits.

The latest Sabre win over the Thunderbirds came last Wednesday evening as the Sabres picked up their third win of the year and the second in as many home games scoring two goals in the final minute for a 6-4 victory. The points move the Sabres ahead of the Milton Flyers and out of the league cellar.

In their only other game of the week the Sabres continued to cause havoc on their own ice as the Brampton Chevys were pressured into scoring a 5-3 win.

The Thunderbirds opened the game's scoring at the 2:26 mark of the opening frame but Pat Fung netted the twine

from Neil Anderson before the frame had ended sending the teams to the dressing room tied 1-1.

Thornhill regained the lead in the second only to have Denis Charbonneau fire his first of a pair from Anderson and Fung. Thornhill took the lead for a third time but Steve Miller netted the equalizer this time around with Anderson and Fung again earning helpers.

Barry Trood's goal with just under five minutes remaining in the stanza gave the Acton side their first taste of the lead. Wade Vickery and Bob Alsop earned assists.

Thunderbird pulled back even with a powerplay effort at the 6:19 mark of the final stanza and the two squads settled down to scoreless hockey until the final minute when the Sabres notched a powerplay goal from Charbonneau to give them the lead and the win. Neil Anderson and Pat Fung picked up another assist each for the locals giving each a four point night.

Brad Buchanan fired an insurance marker 14

seconds later from Trood and Vickery.

Sabres' coach Jules Russiani was pleased with his team's performance for all but about ten minutes of the contest.

Russiani praised defenseman Denis Charbonneau for his solid effort in the contest on defense as well as netting a pair of markers including the game winner.

Russiani was not as pleased with the effort his team put out against Brampton although they gave the visitors all they could handle.

"It was a different type of game," said Russiani. "We had no hustle or enthusiasm for the second game in a row against the Chevys (Brampton)."

The Sabres fell behind 2-0 before Steve Miller netted his first first of two from Brad Buchanan late in the opening frame.

Acton evened the count in the first minute of the second stanza as Miller connected with Pat Fung.

Brampton pulled ahead by two before the second stanza ended leaving the Sabres to fight from

behind if they wanted the win.

Acton played what Russiani considered ten minutes of hockey in the final frame pulling to within one on Wade Vickery's marker from Barry Trood at the periods mid-point but a final Brampton goal with put the icing on the cake.

Steve Kruk was between the Acton pipes for the contest facing 32 shots, while the Sabres fired 35 at the other end.

The game marked the return of Sabre Art Currie to the line-up. Currie toiled with the Sabres two seasons ago and decided recently to try a comeback.

The Sabres got another surprise on Monday night when the captain of last year's Sabres, Kelly Shaw, showed up at practise. Shaw has been attending University in eastern Canada but will be in an Acton uniform for the next month or so, according to Russiani.

The Sabres will take on the Buffalo Junior Sabres in an exhibition contest this Friday night in an

8:30 p.m. contest.

Saturday the locals return to the serious league action when the Dixie Bee Hives are in town. The game time for the contest has been changed to a 7:30 p.m. start from the regular 8:30 p.m. time.



Kelly Shaw - returns to Acton lineup.

## Free Press

# sports and recreation

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Second Section

## Van's Welding surprises Centre Blow Press takes over top spot

The streak couldn't last for Lakeview Centre but very few people felt it would be Van's Welding that knocked off the undefeated league leaders.

Last placed Van's provided what may be the upset of the season in Acton Industrial action at the community centre Sunday night, scoring 7-3 win over the Centre. In other action, Acton Terminal Warehouse stalled the improving Heller's team 7-5 and Blow Press moved into sole possession of first place with 7-1 triumph over Family Cleaners.

Van's used four second period tallies to their favor as they scored their second victory in nine games.

Garv Moore paced the

Welder attack netting three goals, while Steve Townsley, Gary Pickles, Oliver Cooper, and John Snow tallied singles. Cooper and Brent Irwin netted a pair of assists each for the winners with Bob Brenton, Steve Townsley, Gary Moore, Evan Hayter and John Snow earning singles.

Bart Jacobs scored the Lakeview goal giving them an early lead but Jim Haggitt and Floyd Hillier were the only other Centre men able to beat Charlie "Pylon" Payne in Van's goal.

Glen McKenzie, Ron Mellon and Ron Schmidt earned helpers for the losers.

Heller's had been the hottest club in the league over the past few weeks earning two wins and a

tie in the past three weeks after going pointless for the first five games. But their streak came to an end Sunday as Acton Terminal Warehouse came back from a 3-1 deficit to score a 7-5 win.

George McPhail, Bruce McPhail and Chris Tennant fired two goals each for the Warehouse with Gary Marsh counting the other while George McPhail and Tennant picked up a pair of assists each. Bruce McPhail and Ken Hurren earned solo helpers.

Dave Thompson and Jeff Townsley shared the scoring honors for Heller's with a pair of goals each while John Ashley counted the other. John McCutcheon picked up two assists for the

losers while Bob Jarrett, Randy McIntyre, Dave Thompson, Lorne Gordon and Townsley earned solo assists.

Heller's led 2-0 after the first 20 minutes of the game and 4-3 after two but let ATW score a 4-1 third period victory.

Blow Press jumped into first place in the industrial standings with their 7-1 win over Family Cleaners Sunday, and Lakeview's loss.

The game was never really in doubt as the Pressmen built up a 3-0 first period lead extending it to 5-0 before the second stanza ended.

Bill Field paced the Blow Press attack with three goals while Bruce MacPherson was close behind with a pair. Henry Tuebes and Wayne Allan

fired the other Pressmen goals.

Bruce MacPherson had a big night for the Pressmen earning four assists to accompany his pair of goals while Dave Paul picked up helpers on three occasions. Bill Field counted two assists and Rick Henderson a single.

Ernie Ruck netted the only Cleaners goal unassisted.

In action this Sunday night Family Cleaners and Van's Welding do battle in a 7:10 p.m. contest. At 8:20 p.m. Lakeview will try to get back on the winning track when they meet Acton Terminal Warehouse and at 9:40 p.m. Blow Press meets Hellers.

## Sabres vs Sabres in exhibition

This Friday night is going to be a special occasion for the Ontario Junior "B" as they will meet Buffalo Junior "A" Sabres in an exhibition confrontation at Acton Community Centre.

For the Acton team it is a chance to meet competition from outside the Central league and for a few it will be a chance to renew an acquaintance with former Acton Sabre and now Buffalo Sabre Joe Hurley.

Hurley was a member of the Acton team two seasons ago, despite being a resident of Buffalo. Hurley played most of the season with the Sabres that year until an untimely check in a game in Burlington sidelined the forward for the rest of the year with a broken leg.

The Sabres' executive is looking to make the game a memorable one. Buffalo is in second or third spot in their league according to Sabres spokesman Lee Vickery behind a team from Detroit. "The report is that they are big, good skaters," says Vickery.

Former Buffalo Sabre Jim Lorenz is the coach of the Buffalo team.

The Acton group went as far as asking for what may be considered the most colorful referee in the Ontario Hockey Association in Bill Devorski to officiate the game. Devorski is considered by many to be worth the price of



admission on his own with his unique style of game calling.

The Sabres executive couldn't get an answer on whether Devorski will be here but the OHA says they may have no choice on who they send. "It's their busiest time of year," said Vickery and most officials have been assigned games for Friday.

The Acton people are also hoping the Sabres will be able to bring some autographed hockey sticks from their NHL Sabres to distribute but Acton says there will definitely be sticks signed by the Junior Sabres.

At press time it wasn't confirmed but the game may even be carried on cable television. Final details of that arrangement were to be made late Wednesday.

Sabres president Vickery has a copy of the American national anthem that will be played prior to the contest but is looking for help in locating a United States flag for the occasion. He is asking that anyone having or knowing of a flag that may be available for their use to contact him at 853-

3679.

The game itself should prove interesting. It has been said that U.S. Junior "A" is equivalent to our Junior "B" hockey and this is the Acton team's chance to prove they belong in Junior "B" hockey.

The two clubs are currently planning a return match for the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium in January or February and Vickery is hoping arrangements can be made for the locals to stay for a Buffalo game after playing their contest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every contributor, coach, manager and player who has helped me in getting games sheets and other facts in print each and every week.

The Acton Free Press is a community newspaper and without the people of the community informing the news staff of what is going on around us we would be missing several of the items that appear on our pages weekly.

To each and every one a very Merry Christmas and the Happest of New Year's.

Anytime there is something going on related to the sports and recreation area give me a call.

Again, may you have the happiest holiday season. Keep those reports coming in.



## Water show sparkles

Hutton Hills Recreation Department's Sixth Annual Water Show entertained many parents and friends at the Lion's Club Pool Friday. Included in the program were demonstrations of diving and swimming skills by many youngsters. Highlights of the entertainment were the displays of synchronized swimming, especially the candle lit routine which completed the evening. All staff took part in the Santa Claus sleigh and "sea reloader" skit which combined water safety messages with seasonal greetings. According to Judy Paterson, who narrated much of the show, this was the last water entertainment to be arranged by Karen Brading. Mrs. Brading, assistant supervisor of the Acton pool, is leaving. Mrs. Brading was also a substitute assistant supervisor and teacher at the pool for two years.

Photos by Eric Elstone