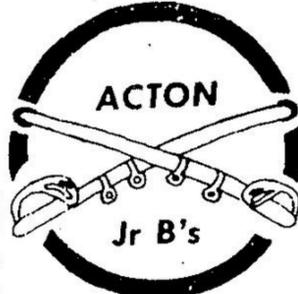


The 1980-81 Sabres



by Diana Waltmann
Two events always happen around this time of the year. Motor car companies unveil their new lines with bigger and better promises and Acton Sabres coach Jules Russiani unveils his hockey team, with no promises.

The Sabres take to the ice Friday for the first home game of the season; a new team, says Russiani.
But he stresses he's not promising the championship and he's not promising the playoffs, but he will say the team is improved.

Just in case you need to be reminded, last year the Sabres were, well, awful. They won only three games, tied one more and finished in last place.
Their worst problem was defence.

This year, though Russiani has bolstered his defence with several additions. Gary Williams was brought up from the juveniles several times last season, but this year he's here to stay. Williams, a defenceman, signed with the Sabres and is a big part of Russiani's six-man defence squad.

Mark Duval and Rob Vermeulen are two more additions, although they've signed minor hockey cards. Russiani says he plans to bring them up as much as possible.

Returning is Bob Allison and Denis Charbonneau. Both Allison and Charbonneau are "looking good" says Russiani. They'll add experience to the backline. The

sixth defenceman may be cut Tuesday night.

Steve Kruk has become the number one netminder for the Sabres. He'll most likely get the nod for Friday's opener.

Russiani says he used his rookies in the first two games last week (losses against Brampton and Orillia), including former midget goaltender Dave Anderson. Anderson, he adds has real potential.

If the Sabres have any weakness this year states Russiani, it will be the defence. When we can't use the midget boys (Duval and Vermeulen) we'll be down to four defencemen. That might leave a hole.

But the Sabres strengths, he continues, is up front. Pat Fung is returning as centre. Russiani has put him on a line with Roy Dollman at left wing and Glen Murray at right.

There was some doubt Murray would be back this season since he signed with the North York Rangers, but Russiani says he's definitely suiting up for Acton.

Mike Monahan is another Sabre newcomer. He was the highest goalscorer for the midget team last year, a flashy, fast skating centreman, equally good on the wing.

Kenny Relf from Brampton, has also signed with the Sabres. He played for the juvenile team in Brampton last year. Russiani is putting those two on with Barry

Trood, who's in his sophomore year with the Sabres.

Russiani has also signed Denis Kirton and Donny Brown.

Kirton played for the juveniles last season while Brown played on the juvenile squad from Guelph. Russiani is centering them with Artie Currie, who has been with the Sabres for several years.

The ninth newcomer to the team is Art Keating, a juvenile from Guelph.

Russiani says he did have problems putting together a team. When the club held their dry land training sessions and try-outs, very few local players showed up.

Despite his efforts to ice a local team, Russiani says he had to go outside Acton to get players. He did sign several from Guelph since the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) office rules state they would not be considered imports. (Acton is the closest junior B centre to Guelph).

But Thursday, when Russiani attempted to register his players before the season opener, the OHA told him Guelph was considered import country to Acton and therefore he had too many imports on his team. The limit is seven.

Two more players were cut.
The Sabres held their try-outs in Guelph, the only place, says Russiani, they could find ice time.

Russiani blames the weekend losses to lack of practice time. "Before Thursday's game we only had one practice after the team was picked." The Sabres had no customary exhibition matches also because of lack of ice time.

They had a practice last night between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m., the only one before Friday's opener.

And there you have it. The 1980-81 Sabres. Russiani's better idea.



Sabres in action last season. This year with new blood the Sabres hope to improve their record. They got off to a bad start though, with two losses in Brampton and Orillia. Friday they play Dixie.



Jules Russiani (coach)



Pat Fung returns

Sabres drop first two matches

The Acton Sabres started their season much the way they finished the last one. They lost their first two games in Brampton Thursday 9-5 and in Orillia Saturday 10-1. But let's not jump to conclusions.

These aren't the same Sabres as last year's. This year's version has new blood injected into them, thanks to nine new players. And the scores aren't indicative of the play either, stresses Sabres coach Jules

Russiani.
In Thursday's game the Sabres were tied 5-5, 10 minutes into the third and final period. That's when coach Russiani pulled goaltender Steve Kruk out and put in rookie Paul Morgan "to see what he could do."

Brampton scored the other four goals on him.
But there was plenty of good news Thursday too for Russiani. His goal scorers were courtesy of new players. Denis Kirton, who played last year with the midgets, scored two, Mike Monahan, who played midget last season, scored one and rookie Paul Starr from Guelph netted one other.

"We were in the game all the way," said Russiani. "They got four quick goals on us, but I was very happy with the team and their performance."

"We were moving the puck well and we have some good additions."

"Most of the teams are bigger than us and it tends to intimidate us, but there was very little rough stuff."

It was a different story Saturday though, as Orillia Travelways tried to bully the Sabres.

"There was a lot of fighting," said Russiani, "especially in the third period when they tried to push us around."

"One good thing came out of it, though. The guys stuck up for one another. We were a unit on the ice. That was something

lacking last season.
"I'm not proud of the fighting, but at least we fight as a unit."

One key player was missing however. Goaltender Steve Kruk was off getting married, leaving Morgan and Dave Anderson to share netminding duties.

Morgan was in net for the first two periods. The Sabres were still in the game at the end of the first, outshooting and outplaying Orillia. But they were down two goals.

Orillia scored another before Roy Dollman got one back for Acton, making it 3-1 midway through the second frame.

Then Orillia unwound, scoring five more goals before the end of the second.

Russiani sent in Anderson in the third and again, says Russiani the Sabres outshot and outplayed Orillia, but the home squad scored three more goals to make it 10-1.

Acton did outshoot Orillia though, 27-25.

"Goaltending was a problem," admitted Russiani. "Morgan is just a rookie and he was having problems. Anderson didn't look too bad. I'll be pulling him up from the juveniles occasionally."

Orillia is another large, intimidating team, said Russiani, while the Sabres are relatively young and small in stature. But he added, Acton won't get pushed around.

Russiani hopes to change the Sabres' luck Friday, when they open at home against Dixie.

Season opens Friday

Keep Friday night open.
That's when the 1980-81 Sabres hit the ice for the first home game of the season.

Sabre executive Frank Allison says no special ceremonies will be held, besides introduction of the players, but they will have a musical entrance and familiar music each time an Acton goal is scored.

One minor change will be in their uniform. This year Sabres have nine or ten sponsors who have advertised on the back

of the sweaters.
Admission Friday and all season is \$2 for adults, \$1.25 for students, 50 cents for children under 12 and \$4 for a family.

Season tickets will also be on sale—until November 14. Family pass for two adults and two children is \$35, a single adult pass is \$25 and a student pass is \$15.

Game time is 8 p.m.
Sunday the Sabres face Barrie in their second home match. Game time is 7 p.m.



Kelly White and Ken Kavanaugh have won the Peel-Halton mixed tennis championships for the second year in a row. The pair defeated Central Peel and Lorne Park last Wednesday at Bronte Creek Provincial Park courts. See story inside.

Youth helps midgets in Industrial tourney

Players on Ed's In-N-Out midgets are between 15 and 16 years old.

And it's impolite to say how old players in the Industrial ball league are, especially those on the teams the midgets defeated enroute to the final of the Industrial tournament Sunday night.

Unfortunately for the midgets though youth and exuberance ended there and the experience of the league and playoff champions Freedom took over. Freedom won the tournament title with an 8-1 victory.

At the other end of the spectrum, Unisal took the consolation final 10-7 over Firestone Oldtimers.

In the bone-chilling final game, Randy Takeda of Freedom hammered a homer knocking in Dave Boycott for the first two runs of the game.

Ed's came back in the second after a single by Tom Shannon drove in Roy Spear.

But Bob Little and Ruddy Holmes crossed the plate after a triple by Rick McArthur to widen the score. From then on it was Freedom's game.

Freedom chucker held Ed's to three hits for the rest of the game, while their sluggers jumped on Ed's hurler Dave Wilson. Takeda, Holmes, George Wallis and Mike McGregor all crossed the plate in the third.

Ed's held them in the remaining four

innings, but the damage was done. Freedom won the title.

McArthur was chosen most valuable player for the tourney.

Unisal had built a commanding lead in the consolation, final, with Rick Coe, Al Bousefield, Terry O'Brien, Ian Campbell, Ken Pilgrim and Bruce Cunningham crossing the plate in a run infested second inning.

They added three more runs in the fifth by Glen McKenzie, Ian Campbell and Bill McGrath to make it 9-0.

But Firestone rallied in the bottom of the fifth scoring five runs off hurler Ken Pilgrim.

Bruce McArthur, Don Archibald, Jim James, Harold Townsley and Fred Archibald all touched home.

Despite the fact the Oldtimers had last bat, they could only manage two runs. James drove in Al Avery and Don Archibald off a triple, but failed to make it cross the plate himself.

Bousefield scored the other Unisal run in the sixth after batting a double.

Freedom ripped Station Hotel in the semi-finals of the championship round Sunday afternoon. Other teams in the tournament were Van's Welding, Halton Hills Electric, Limehouse Hustlers and Foberts from the Condo league.



Diana Waltmann

Sailing towards the Olympics

Like any sailor, Mark Beaton is totally infatuated with the sport.

I mean he's knee deep in sailing and yachting magazines, file folders and newspaper clippings and books. "You can always tell a good sailor by his library," he tells me.

Beaton, 21, along with Don Coates, both of Acton and Dave Hobdon of Burlington are a team with Olympic aspirations.

The are the crew of the Obelix, a highly competitive Soling.

Obelix, a French cartoon character, was named by it's previous owners. Beaton and Hobdon, who own the boat, have kept it's name because the Obelix has gained a reputation in Olympic competition.

Olympic Soling is the largest class in sailboat racing and is known for it's tactical aspects. It's overall length is 27 feet and it's the only class using a crew of three.

The race, says Beaton, involves both physical prowess and mental sharpness. "It's the guy who's the smartest and has the most knowledge who wins the race."

Beaton, Hobdon, and Coates had enough prowess and sharpness to place sixth in the Canadian Olympic race in Kingston in August. The Brazilians took top honors but the trio were the third fastest in Canada.

Beaton says he's not sure, but that may have placed them on the Canadian Sailing team. As it is they are on the Ontario team.

Their goal is to obtain B Card status under the Canadian Olympic game plan. To get it, they have to place in the top 16 in the world championships, held next May in Italy.

Right now they have C Card status, which means they are tops in the country. An A Card status means top seven in the world.

Gaining C and B card status is not just an ego booster. It means the government pays the expenses. Beaton said the trip to Italy is going to cost about \$6,000. The overall campaign for the Olympics, including a new boat, he figures will cost around \$100,000.

But he says, they are going to Italy whether they are on the national team or not. Because they want to go to the world championships in Australia in '82 and Los Angeles in '84.

But let's start at the beginning.
Beaton began his sailing career off the shores of Tobermory where the family has a cottage. His grandfather was a captain of the Great Lakes and his father, Reverend Chuck Beaton of Trinity United Church, is also an avid boat person.

Beaton got involved in club racing and it mushroomed from there. He's only been racing since he was 17-years-old.

Both Beaton and Hobdon postponed their university educations to pursue their goal. Beaton is a sales representative at Erie Iron Works.

Hobdon is in the construction business and Coates is a student at Waterloo.

Together Beaton and Hobdon bought the Obelix from a Canadian racer at the beginning of 1980. The boat was shipped from Puerto Rico to Florida where the three were going to race it.

Problems with customs prevented them from racing that time but Beaton says they plan to return to Key Biscayne and the U.S. Soling championships.

They've also competed in regattas in Milwaukee, Anapolis, Sarnia, Rochester, Montreal and Chicago. They are going to Long Island Sound off the coasts of New York and Connecticut states in November.

Which poses the next problem says Beaton. Employers of Olympic sailing hopefuls have to be very understanding. The three took the whole month of August off work to race in Kingston and Chicago and will be taking more weeks off for other races

next month.
If they make the national team and qualify for the '84 Olympics, Beaton said, each of them plans to take the whole year off and just sail.

Races or regattas, are actually five to seven races. A triangular course is set up with as many as 53 boats competing. Boats jockey for position on the starting line 10 minutes before the race.

When the race has finally started, boats zig zag up to the first marker against the wind, trying to stay in clean air. That means they will attempt to stay in front of the pack or away from other boats that might take the wind.

Then they spinnaker (put up the spinnaker sail and cruise with the wind) to the next marker, zig zag again and spinnaker back. Courses are 12.5 nautical miles.

This is where team work comes in, says Beaton. The crew must become one with the boat. Coates sits in the foredeck and is in charge of getting the spinnaker up, reads the compass to know what the wind is doing, watches for other traffic, keeps the cockpit clean and 20-odd ropes untangled.

Hobdon as steerer, makes sure the boat is going as fast as possible. He listens to information both Beaton and Coates are feeding him about wind and other boats and then makes tactical decisions, all in a split second.

Beaton is in charge of sail trim - developing as much speed from the sails as possible.

"It's like chess on water," he comments.

The other element of sailboat racing is psyche. Beaton says someone is always doing something to psyche-out everyone else, whether it's a new chemical on the bottom of the boat or new rigging system.

"Sailors," he adds, "have very fragile egos."

The sport is governed by rules of course, with limits on size, height and weight. Any infractions are dealt with by a committee after the race, much in the way a court of law deals with crime.

At the North Americans one guy wouldn't take his boat cover (a tarp covering the bottom of the boat) off until two hours before the race. Then we saw he had a special compound on the bottom of this boat. So we went out and bought Woolite and put it on the boat.

"And the boat goes faster."
"We also started washing the bottom of our boat after each race. Now everyone is washing their boats, so they'll go faster."

"Our boat is special," continues Beaton. "After we bought it we spent a week getting the bottom redone. It was wet-sanded with large battens so the bottom would be completely smooth."

Usually boats have ridges, says Beaton, which causes friction. That slows the boat down. Sail boat racing isn't exactly fast with top speeds around eight or nine miles and hour, so seconds count. A sanded-down hull punches the waves better.

The keel of the Obelix was also sanded and the entire bottom was painted with algrip, a fast, hard paint. Only four other boats in Canada use this method.

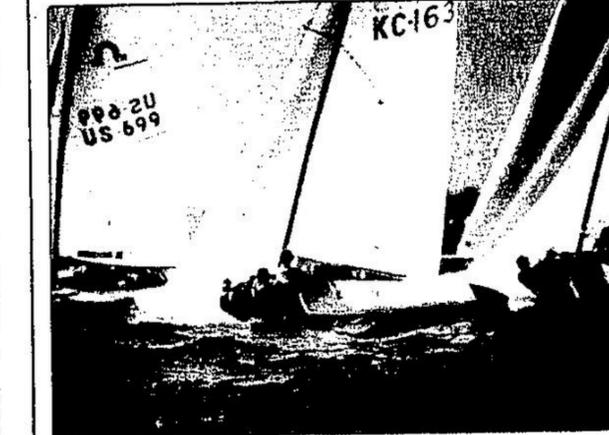
Beaton said there are about 80 or 90 solings in Canada with only 12 to 15 competing. Of the 725 in the U.S. only 50 are competing.

It's an expensive sport too.
Beaton, Hobdon and Coates own 15 or 20 sails for Obelix, but half of them aren't good enough for world competition. A jib (balloon like sail in front) is good for only 20 races or four or five regattas. They get twice as much wear from the main sail and the spinnaker or chutes will last up to 30 races.

Jibs cost \$317 and spinnakers and mains cost \$600.

In the course of an Olympic campaign which takes about four years, sailors will replace their boats worth anywhere from \$14,000 to \$16,000. Beaton

(Continued on B3)



The Obelix (centre) and it's crew in action.