

Series on the line in weekend games

Two days from now the Acton Sabres will be skating onto the ice at the Central Recreation Centre in Burlington to play the most important game of their existence yet.

Friday the Sabres meet Burlington Cougars in the fifth game of best-of-seven central junior B quarter-finals, both teams even at two games apiece.

The Sabres surprised everyone, perhaps even themselves by winning the second and third games of the series. They could have wrapped it up by Friday, had the Cougars not come back Monday to tie the quarter-finals.

But let's start at the beginning of the saga. The playoffs started last Wednesday night at the Community Centre with Acton taking a 6-3 beating. It was a terrible game by both teams.

Burlington had jumped into a two-goal lead by the end of the first period, but the Sabres came back to tie it early in the second. Glenn Murray potted the first one on a powerplay at 7:17. Barry Trood and Dave McGilloway assisted.

Twenty seconds later Tony Dullisse tied it up assisted by Trood. The Cougars went ahead two minutes later on a powerplay goal and then increased their lead a minute after that.

Dennis Charbonneau put the Sabres back in the game at 11:35, but with only 48 seconds left the Cougars scored again. And again with two seconds left, making it 5-3 at the end of the second.

Sabres were jittery all night but by the third period they had dissolved into confusion. The Cougars outmuscled them and putplayed them, scoring shorthandedly several times.

They also got a little chippy, prolonging the final four minutes of the game with several fights. Only one major penalty was given out, to Gary Williams of the Sabres and to the Cougars, as well as a couple of minors.

McDougal was the lone Sabre who played well, or as well as he could under the circumstances, as Cougars outshot Sabres 43-35.

End result: Cougars up by one.

Friday night in Burlington, Sabres turned the tables. They not only handed the Cougars a 9-3 loss on home ice, but did it convincingly, thanks to a third-period explosion.

Sabres were down 4-2 by the end of the first, with Murray and Mike Monahan scoring at 5:47 and 6:04. Murray's goal was on the powerplay, assisted by Denis Kirton and Mark Duval. Rob Vermuelen and Dullisse aided Monahan.

But Cougars came back scoring at 13:40, 16:18, 17 minutes on the powerplay and 19:02.

Sabres did a complete turnaround after coach Jules Russiani got them cranked up in the dressing room between periods. "The boys just decided they could beat them," stated Russiani. So they did.

Murray connected on two goals in the second, giving him the hat trick. He scored on the powerplay at 5:44 and again at 8:12.

Then in the third, Steve Miller popped in a shorthanded goal unassisted, to take the lead.

Murray counted his fourth goal, once more on the powerplay at 2:51; Dave McGilloway, Trood and Duval rounded out the scoring. McGilloway, Monahan, Trood, Charbonneau and Roy Dollman assisted.

Cougars scored the final goal with eight seconds left in the game.

The tally - all even at one game apiece. Back in Acton Saturday night, with a crowd of 800 behind their team all the way, the Sabres skated away with their second victory - this time on a 6-5 score.

It was an unusual game that saw both teams awarded a penalty shot. Cougars were the first to score, on the penalty shot at 17:48 of the first.

They took a 2-0 lead early in the second on a shorthanded goal by Marty Prowse, but Sabres fought back. Pat Fung brought the crowd to its feet with his goal at 7:12 with Dollman aiding.

Then Monahan was awarded a penalty shot after being pulled down from behind with less than two minutes left in the second period. He scored, tucking the puck in the left corner after faking the goaltender Brian. Once more the crowd was on their feet and the Sabres never looked back.

With a second left in the period Duval picked up a rebound to make it 3-2. The Cougars tied it briefly in the third, but Miller connected on a wrist shot at 4:39, via Dollman and Fung.

Less than a minute later Murray showed why he was voted MVP of the league coming through with the Sabres fifth goal, assisted by linemate Trood. Trood scored

the eventual winner, aided and abetted by Murray only eight seconds after that.

The possibility of overtime rose after the Cougars scored on two powerplay efforts, the last one with only 23 seconds left in the third, and an extra attacker. But the Sabres hung on, taking a one game lead in the series.

Russiani said prior to Monday's game he had hoped to wrap the series up by Friday, although the Cougars would have the home ice advantage. Russiani said the Sabres play better on larger ice surface; their game plan works better.

Besides he added, the Cougars get nervous playing in Acton and the smaller ice hinders their skating style.

But first-place Cougars came through in the crunch Monday. Russiani said afterwards he couldn't fault his team.

"We were just tired. The boys tried to get themselves up but they were emotionally and physically drained," he said.

"It took a lot of them to win the two games. We can't expect too much," Russiani said he was more surprised with the results of the first game than with winning two straight. "I knew we would be nervous but I didn't think we'd be that bad. We weren't playing hockey at all."

"But we'll be okay by Friday," he assured. "They just need some sleep and rest." The Sabres practised in Georgetown last night (Tuesday); they can't secure ice time in Acton this week, something about which Russiani isn't pleased.

"Here's a team in contention for the OHA championship and we can't even get ice time," he fumed.

Then he added, "We have a lot more confidence in ourselves than the fans."

Still the fans accompanied them to Monday's match. The game was tied 1-1 after the first period, but the Cougars jumped into a 3-1 lead by the second. Trood was the Acton marksman with Dullisse earning the assist.

Russiani stressed the importance of Friday's game, although they play again Saturday. A loss Friday would put pressure on the youthful and inexperienced Sabres. Chances are whichever team wins will take the series. And it's anybody's game.

Game time 8 p.m. Game time Saturday, 8:30 p.m. at the Community Centre. Seventh game, if necessary, Monday in Burlington at 8 p.m.



The OHA used Saturday's game to present their league awards to the Sabres. Sabres' Pat Fung won the most sportsmanlike player, beside him is Ray Graham. Glenn Murray won most valuable player, presented by Cougar president Harvey Ryan, Barry Trood won most improved player, beside him is presenter Rob Girdwood, president of the Gemini, and Jules Russiani was named coach of the year.

Single points separate four teams as industrial schedule winds up

The regular season of industrial hockey winds up this Sunday at the Community Centre with only a one point difference between fourth and final playoff spot held by Lakeview and Acton Travel and second place, owned at the moment by Heller's.

Lakeview pulled into contention with a dramatic late-season comeback, winning and tying the last two games. They dumped Acton Travel 6-3, forcing Travel to share their place in the standings and tied Heller's 4-4 Sunday.

Acton Travel dumped Nielsen's Clothing Sunday 11-2 and Family Cleaners nipped ATW 5-3 in other games.

On February 8, Heller's upset Family Cleaners 8-6, closing the gap between them, while ATW and Nielsen's battled to a 5-5 tie.

A last-second goal by Mike Morris kept Lakeview in the game Sunday. He scored with 33 seconds left in the game to tie it 4-4.

Ernie Ruck, Stan Rhynolds and Bart Jacobs were the other Lakeview marksmen. Bert Post, Ron Mellon, Ted Saltz and Jacobs picked up the assists.

Russ Van Fleet potted a pair for Heller's with singles from Bill Severinski and Bill Manes. Oliver Cooper, Jim Rogers, Bruce Cooksey, Brent Irwin and Severinski assisted.

George McPhail picked up a hat trick in Acton Travel's 11-2 romp over Nielsen's. Henry Toebes pocketed a pair of goals with singles from George Artem, Mike Petoff, John Ashley, Lorne Gordon, Claire Snow and Fred Crawford.

Petoff, Ashley, Artem, Snow, Ken Slaney, Gordon, Toebes, and McPhail earned the various assists.

Steve McIntyre and John Snow scored for Nielsen's. Randy McIntyre and Lloyd Smallwood assisted.

Wayne Allan counted a pair of goals as Family Cleaners beat ATW in a penalty-ridden game. Chris Tennant, Wayne Deforest and Kent Kentner were the other Cleaner goalgetters.

Jim Posiuck with two and Glen McKenzie scored for ATW.

Mike Fields, Deforest, Ken Owen, Dave Morris, and Tennant assisted for the Cleaners. Steve Townsley, Evan Hayter, Gary Moore, Jim Hurley and Gary Pickles aided.

Heller's upset Family Cleaners on Feb. 8, holding on to a 6-5 win despite two last-second goals by Wayne Allen and Mike Miller.

Van Fleet's four goals plus a pair from Severinski and singles from Tim McIntyre and Cooksey, took care of Heller's scoring.

Tennant potted a hat trick for the losing cause. Fields was the other goalscorer.

Miller, Morris, Sid Barens, Owen and Deforest assisted.

Irwin, Manes, Cooksey and Cooper, earned various Heller's aids.

Nielsen's Clothing rallied from behind to tie ATW 5-5 in the battle for the cellar in the other game Sunday, Feb. 8. Nielsen's did take a two-goal lead in the first period on

goals by Bruce MacPherson and Smallwood, but ATW came back to tie it up with Hurley and McKenzie scoring.

Ron Schmidt put Nielsen's ahead again but three goals by Bruce McPhail and Posiuck handed the lead to ATW.

Randy McIntyre and Smallwood tied it for Nielsen's with less than a minute to go in the third.

Steve McIntyre, MacPherson, Smallwood, Schmidt, Bob Brent, Bob Jarret and Randy McIntyre assisted in the game for Nielsen's.

McKenzie, Gary Moore, McCutcheon and Bryan Lloyd picked up the ATW assists.

Lakeview upset Acton Travel in the final game Feb. 8, thanks to a hat trick by Steve Atkinson and Morris. Stan Rhynolds, Saltz, Ernie Ruck, Jacobs, Ron Mellon and Bert

Post assisted.

Artem, Snow and Toebes were the Travel goalgetters, assisted by Snow, Ashley and Petoff.

Sunday, the final day of the regular season, Cleaners will attempt to remain sole possessors of first place. A win or a tie against Lakeview will do it. They meet at 7 p.m. At 8:20 p.m. Acton Travel has a chance to jump into second place, or at least gain sole possession of third as they face ATW.

But only if Heller's which squares off against Nielsen's at 9:40 in the final match, loses. Heller's needs only a tie to stay afloat in second.

But even victories aren't enough to put either Nielsen's or ATW into the playoffs. With 14 points each both have five points behind fourth place.

Moms second in international tourney

Minor atom Moms returned from Tonawanda, New York with the runners-up trophy of a four-game international tournament last weekend.

The Moms reached the finals of the tournament but fell to their hosts, Tonawanda 4-2 Sunday, Feb. 8, despite eight powerplays.

Moms failure to cash in on scoring opportunities was the main reason for the final loss, says coach Bob Faseruck. He said they had the chances but didn't get the breaks.

Tonawanda was ahead 2-1 by the end of the first period. Steve Robertson was the Acton marksman. Rene VanKesteren and Colin Brackenridge assisted.

Moms tied it in the second when Sean Sears connected on a pass from VanKesteren. But Tonawanda rallied in the third with their two goals.

The game took on a special flavor when guest Bobby Hull arrived. Players were also treated to the NHL's Buffalo Sabres' practice at the Tonawanda arena Saturday.

Acton tied Wexford 3-3 in the first game and dumped both Niagara Falls and Waterloo in the second and third matches.

VanKesteren led the way in the first game Friday Feb. 6 with two goals. He opened the scoring in the first period, with Sears assisting. But Wexford came back to tie and then went ahead by two goals before

the end of the frame.

Faseruck said Moms played sluggishly until the third period when they came on strong. VanKesteren scored his second goal followed by a marker from Tim Tibbitts.

Robertson, Sears and Mike Williams collected assists.

An empty-net goal by Mike Browner with 1:41 left in the game clinched Moms' first victory in the tournament, a 3-2 dousing of Niagara Falls.

All the scoring came in the second and third frames. Niagara Falls was first on the scoreboard but a goal by Browner tied it.

Sears collected the third-period go-ahead goal before Browner clinched it. Niagara scored once more but with only one second left in the game.

VanKesteren, Williams and Robertson received the brackets.

Sears copped a hat trick in the third match of the series, the best game of the tournament says Faseruck.

Acton outplayed Waterloo and outscored them 4-3 but was felled by their goaltender. Robertson was the other Moms marksman, scoring the winning goal with 2:30 left.

VanKesteren earned two assists with singles to Ian Johnson and Williams.

Each member of the Moms was given an individual trophy as runners-up as well as a team trophy on display at the Community Centre.

Midgets alone in first

Redmen capture Stayner tourney

AHS junior Redmen fell to second place in Halton East basketball standings, although they dumped powerhouse Queen Elizabeth Park Friday in one third of a tripleheader at the school.

Juniors defeated QEP 54-44 Friday but lost earlier in the week to White Oaks 52-49. Before the two games QEP, WO and the Redmen were tied in first place.

But if QEP defeats WO (they played yesterday with results unavailable at press

time), the Redmen would be back in first place because of their record against the two teams.

Paul Gorjup was leading scorer in Friday's game with 18 points. Dave Entwistle and Glenn Scott each netted 12 and Bob Little hooped 10 points.

Gorjup led the offensive effort Wednesday in Oakville as well with 22 points. Entwistle had eight.

Redmen captured the Stayner tournament for the fourth year in a row after three undefeated games Saturday. First they downed Barrie Central 58-41. Scoring was spread out, but Entwistle managed 19 points.

Gorjup and Entwistle each hooped six points leading the Redmen to a 30-25 victory over Barrie's Eastview in the second game Saturday. Matt Vuk netted five points while Scott and Brent Vickery scored four each.

Redmen felled Collingwood for the championship 58-30. Entwistle, Les Doblisz, and John Lobello each scored 10 points. Matt Vuk netted nine while Bob Little scored six.

The midgets meanwhile were equally successful against QEP, last year's basketball champions. They defeated them 55-34. Scott Allonby was top offensive player netting 16 points. Randy Laver scored 14 and Dave Leslie nine.

Cliff Nibbs hooped eight while Ken Kavanagh scored six.

Last Wednesday's game against White Oaks was postponed until today. That wraps up the regular season. Yesterday the midgets travelled to Oakville to play Blakelock.

The seniors, who have already clinched fourth playoff spot, fell to QEP Friday 46-38. Rob Faber was top offensive player for the Redmen hooping 18 points. John Vuk netted 10. Their next game is tomorrow at Perdue.

They also played Blakelock yesterday, but not in Oakville. They played in Guelph as a preliminary match to the University game.



AHS midgets defeated Q.E.P. in one third of a tripleheader at the school Friday. Juniors also won their game but seniors lost. The regular Halton East basketball season ends this week with the midgets at White Oaks and seniors at Perdue.

Firefighters advance

The Acton Firefighters set New Hamburg ablaze over the weekend taking the first round of OMHA major bantams playdowns with two big victories.

Saturday they blasted New Hamburg 10-2 and Sunday nipped them 4-1. They won the series two games and a tie to one.

Gary Coverdale led the way Saturday with three goals and an assist.

David McKnight and Stan Smith each potted a pair with Lorenzo Civierno, Bill Morrison and Brad MacPherson picking up

singles.

McKnight and Smith also added a pair of assists to their goals, Civierno, Hicks, MacPherson, Brad Youmans, Paul Cargill and Rick Dodds nabbed the other aids.

Tim McKendry guarded the nets.

Sunday Coverdale continued his ways pocketing a pair of goals. Dave Milne scored the other two.

Dodds, Civierno, Morrison, Hicks, Todd Lalng and Vince Danagher assisted. John McGrath played in goal.

Peewees park it for meet

Friday marks the start of the 12th annual Legion Peewee House League Tournament, at the Community Centre.

Teams from as far away as Sault Ste. Marie, 18 in all will be competing in the A and B categories. Host team Acton and New Hamburg are returning; both have been competing since the tournament's conception in 1969.

The tournament starts Friday night with Oakville facing off against Galt 1 at 6 p.m.

Acton plays Galt 2 in the B category at 7. The opening ceremonies will be held Saturday afternoon; the consolation and championship titles will be determined Sunday starting at 11 a.m.

Last year Beamsville and Erindale won the tournament. Acton reached the consolation final only to lose to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For a complete tournament schedule see Scoreboard.

Soccer association to become incorporated

The Acton Minor Soccer Club is hoping to become incorporated said president Richard VanderWal after the general meeting last Wednesday at the Legion.

The old executive will be meeting lawyers to make necessary arrangements. Members of the club voted unanimously to become a corporation, said VanderWal.

The annual meeting was held to get the 1981 soccer season underway. VanderWal said registration for the summer season would be held March 7 and 14. There are five rep teams entered in the Peel-Halton Youth Soccer Association this year, including the Junior Bs, a new age group in the association.

Brian Saxon will be back as coach of the Junior Bs. Last year the Trojans won the league and playoff championship in Georgetown topping an incredible undefeated season.

Sandy Hudson will coach the minor bantams this year. Hudson brought the Astro peewees to the Beatrice Youth Cup Championship last summer.

Fred Blain, a former association president will be the minor peewee coach and Cyril Nibbs, who was last year's bantam mentor, will coach the major mosquitos. Derek Westway will coach minor atoms.

As well, VanderWal said he has a list of

12-13 coaches for nine teams in house league soccer.

The exact number of teams depends on registration, but the free structure has been kept the same as last year, he added.

The club is looking for sponsors and will be investigating Wintario grants.

The Club will be accepting registrations from both boys and girls. Girls' teams will be formed to play in a league with Milton, Pineview and Georgetown, if there is enough interest.

Otherwise said VanderWal, girls can play on boys' teams or have the option of a refund.

Carol Saxon, who is second vice-president of the club after Jim Richmond moved to first, replacing Peter Wall, is also the girls' co-ordinator for the league.

The season will start, said VanderWal approximately May 16, on Victoria Day weekend, depending on field conditions. In the meantime, the Club is having its annual indoor soccer, starting March 15 at Robert Little and M.Z. Bennett.

Monday squirts can practise from 6 to 7 p.m. at Robert Little. Wednesday at M.Z. Bennett, the peewees and bantams gather at 9 to 10:30 p.m. and Thursday the atoms from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and mosquitos from 6:45 to 7:30 practise at Robert Little.