



Where'd it go... This net-minder tries to follow the puck blasted over him during a scrimmage Tuesday night in Guelph.

Jr. B tryouts begin

Russiani is starting to rattle his Sabres

by Dave Dorken

To the 65 odd hockey players trying out for the 1981 Acton Sabres roster the season is just beginning.

For coach Jules Russiani it is far from the beginning of an endless drive for the Ontario Hockey Association Jr. B. championship.

The beginning for him was when he signed on as Sabres mentor. The job was difficult but successful last year as his crew battled league leading Burlington Cougars through seven gruelling playoff games before running out of gas.

"When you lose people the calibre of Glenn Murray, Barry Trood, Pat Fung and Steve Miller they're hard to replace. We have no weaknesses this year in holes we're still trying to fill—with the quality of players we've lost we have holes we'll never fill," said Russiani.

"They were the best in the league, they're hard to replace. Your only hope is to replace them with raw talent—someone who comes along that you can teach."

Russiani may have lost some talent, but he has about 14 players returning from last year and another two locals, Todd McIntyre and Wade Vickery are both trying out this season.

Defence back

The defensive corps of Mark Duval, Rob Vermuelten, Rob Alsop and Denis Charbonneau are back to help our veteran goaltender Wayne McDougall.

Forwards David McGilloway, Mike Monihan, Denis Kirton and Don Brown are also going to be skating for Sabres.

Another seven or eight players are at Provincial A camps for tryouts, but still could be back.

The coach is busy looking over the 65 players during tryouts at three arenas in Guelph. Like most coaches, Russiani was critical of the play of his new changes, but wasn't disappointed at the recruits.

"We have a lot of talent, it's just a matter of picking it apart," said Russiani.

He also has hopes of filling the rather large shoes of last year's leaders—Murray and Fung.

"We're looking for Dave McGilloway and Mark Duval to provide the leadership. We have a good backbone for the team, a good solid base to build the team on," he said.

Few good ones

"We have a few really good players moving up from the (Acton Minor Hockey) system, we're looking about two years away. Duval, Denis Kirton and Mike Monihan are back so we have good talent this year. Randy Coverdale is working really hard—he's got the determination and desire, Tim Ferguson is the same—they like playing hockey and it shows," said the coach.

Worse last year

The club was in a worse boat last year. They went into the pre-season after a dismal season of cellar dwelling.

"Acton was re-building last year, we had six good seniors, we had to put the rest of the onus on the midgets," said Russiani.

This year the club is looking healthier—they have come off their best season ever, the first time they've ever made it into the playoffs, went

This year Sabres' first game of the season is fittingly against those same Cougars—October 1.

The teams may still have the same names, but many of the key individuals of the past year's Sabres squad have changed, —names like Glenn "Motor" Murray, the league's top scorer and MVP. The two premier penalty killers in the league according to Russiani—captain Pat Fung and Barry Trood. Roy Dollman, Art Currie and net minder Steve Kruk are all over-age this season.

through their longest winning streak (of 12 consecutive games), and, best off all for Russiani, have finally earned respect as a team to be contended with.

With this respect the club has also picked up some drawing power. A young player would think twice to get into a team like the Sabres of old, unless he enjoyed living in the cellar. This season Russiani is having no problems drawing talented new recruits.

For a team like Acton this is of most importance.

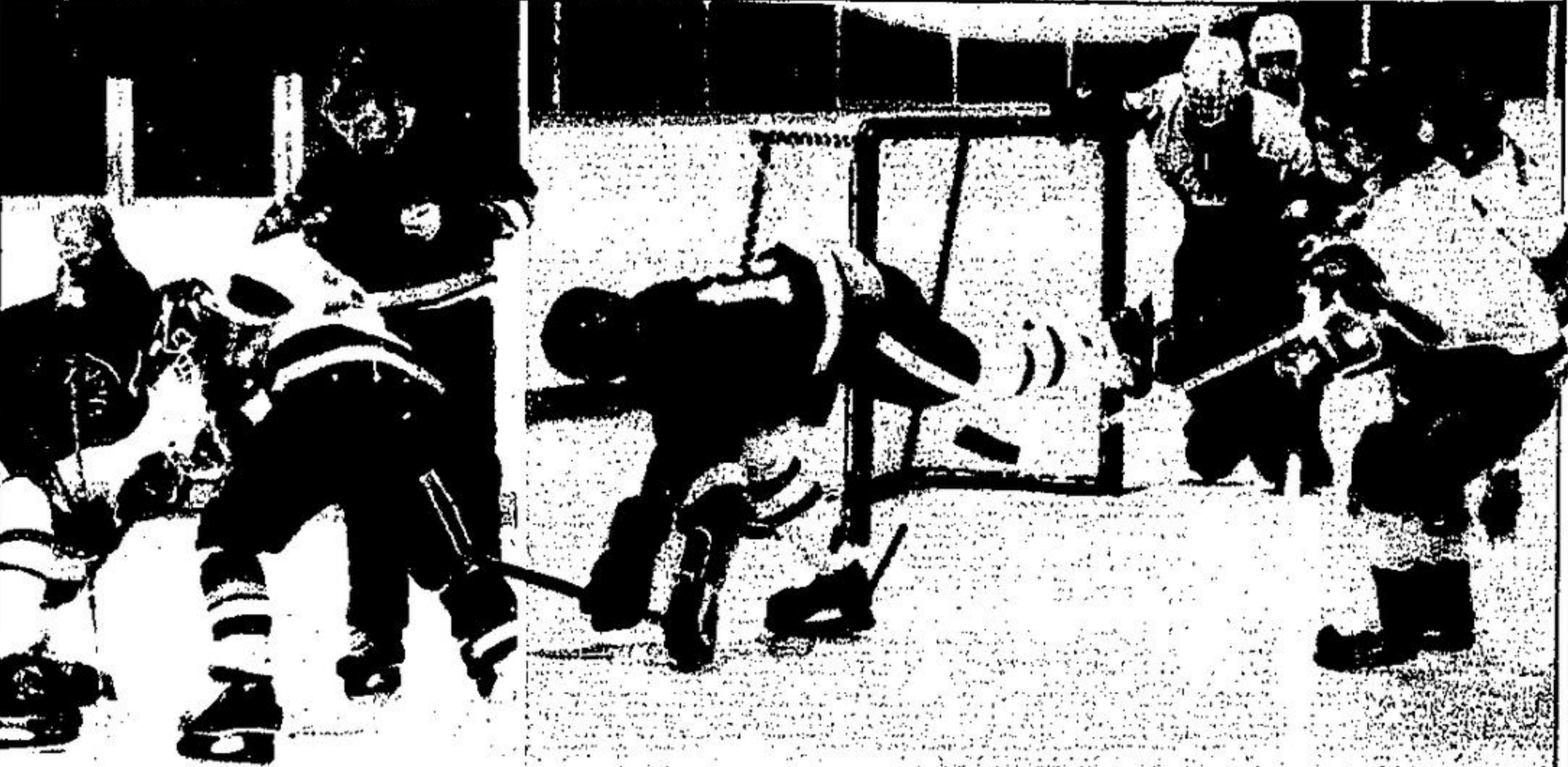
Small draw

"We draw players from Guelph, Brampton, Orangeville and Acton. It's a pretty large area, but the population isn't that great. Teams like Streetsville (Derby's) have players from Mississauga and Metropolitan Toronto. The same goes for Dixie, Burlington and Oakville."

One thing the coach hopes stays consistent with the club from last season is Russiani's ability to make predictions.

"Last year I was only out by one point, but it's still too early to tell this season, I'll wait until after camp," said Russiani.

Considering the club's talent this year, Russiani would have a hard time convincing anybody the club won't show at least as much success in the playoffs this season.



Last year's MVP, Glenn "Motor" Murray is helping coach Russiani sift out the top calibre players from the 65 at Sabres training camp this fall.

Leg go... This forward gets a little tied up as he crosses in front of the goal mouth during the first Sabres scrimmage of the year, Tuesday night in Guelph.

He's not Lion — they're Kings

Lions might be called the Kings of the jungle, but in Acton they're also Kings of the pitch. Last week Lions Lincoln Cassie booted a hat-trick to give his Lions soccer club a close 5-4 comeback win over Eramosa.

Wayne Bousefield connected on Lions other two goals. Lucas Mazurca found the opening twice for Eramosa. Mike Turner and Larry Zions rounded out the score with the singles.

Eramosa was first on the board, but Lions soon evened things up. The Eramosa club again jumped on top but couldn't stay there. Lions finally took control of the game scoring the winning goal and a security marker. Mazurca booted his second tally of the night but Eramosa's comeback just ran out of time.

Cassie, Bousefield and Jeremy Cooney all played fine games for the Lions.

Moving men

Acton Junior B's are on the move. Last year the junior club strolled off with all the laurels in the Georgetown Soccer League as they won both the regular season and playoff crowns.

The club looks like it might add a few more prizes to the old trophy case as it squares off against Rexdale in the semi-final loop of the tougher Peel/Halton Soccer League.

Chances at success this year again look promising as the B's have dropped a mere pair of games all season.

Soccer

The B's meet Rexdale in the semi finals Saturday, 2:30 p.m. at Central Park in Brampton.

No Angels

Where Angels go trouble follows... especially when they go onto a soccer pitch.

Last week Bob's Angels wrapped up the Acton Soccer League season with an impressive 5-0 blanking over Rockwood.

Phillip Williamson tickled the twine three times, Michael Kinnon and Chris McGeragie scored once each.

The win left the Angels with the best goals for and against average in the league as well as clinching first place. Jason Fun and Trevor Cheroniak each performed beautifully for the Bob's side.

Soccer blaze

Acton Blazers were fast, but it wasn't fast enough. Milton downed Blazers 4-0 in a hard and fast girls soccer game. Kim McCallum, Charlotte Walker and Sheila Bailey played an excellent game to keep Acton in the running. The girls had a good cheering section despite the foggy weather.

Semi-tough...

... in playoffs

It's Metros and Runners

It's been said that getting there is half the fun. The top two teams in the Acton Industrial Fast-ball league must have had a lot of fun getting into the finals—they both had to struggle just to get past the semis.

Monday night Metros squeaked past Harvey's Firestone 10-7 Harvey's was first on the board as they jumped to a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Roy Spears led a comeback surge as Metros evened things up in the next inning.

Harvey's again were on top after scoring one run in the third and another pair in the fourth frame to lead Metros 7-4.

In the fifth inning Metros regained their regular season form as they scored three runs in the fifth, two in the sixth and one run in the seventh inning to take the best of three series in two games straight.

Charlie Payne, Roy Spears and Karl Killingbeck all scored a pair of runs for Metros. Dick Spears, Joe DeForest and Frank Robinson all scored one run apiece.

Don Archibald and Jim James crossed the plate twice each for Harvey's. Jules Russiani, Vince Thornton and Gary Masales were good for one run each.

Unisal gave Roadrunners a scare in the second game of their best of three series as they came away with an upset win to tie the series at one game apiece. In the sudden-death tie breaker Monday night Runners were up to their old tricks and winning ways.

Chris Tennant pounded a pair of homers as Runners trounced Unisal 11-1.

Keith MacKinnon was the winner on the mound as he allowed five hits and fanned ten batters. B.J. Legate scored three runs for the winners, Bill Sunstrum scored twice, Don Richard, Bill Routledge and Bruce MacPherson each scored once. Denis Kirton scored Unisal's lone run.

They're punchy

Mackenzie Build-all's bantam ball club must know the old one-two punch.

Last week the team knocked Hespler out of the OASA semi-finals in two games straight. The club scored a decisive 13-5 and 11-3 wins to advance into the final round next weekend against Bracebridge.

The bantam boys used the same combination to humble Strabane in their regular league playoffs. Acton dumped Strabane 24-1 and 25-1 to advance to the next round of play against rival Rockwood White.

Exhibitionists

Acton Transmission squirts are just exhibitionists.

Last week the Tri-county ball club blanked Guelph 7-0 in exhibition play. Frank Katsilleris and Scott Williams paired up to hurl a nine strike-out one-hitter for Acton.

Williams was also helpful on the offence with a pair of doubles. Craig Cadenhead poked a double and a pair of singles, Carl Yaroschak, John Van Dam, Evan Hayter and Katsilleris all drove in singles.

The Tranny boys weren't just as successful against Puslinch in the first game of the tri-county finals as they came out with a 12-0 blanking.

Williams and Katsilleris were virtually flawless on the mound as they fanned 11 batters. The pair had help in the field with a super catch by Doug Wilson.

David Roden connected on a foug bagger for Acton as well as a single. Yaroschak, Williams and Evan Hayter thumped singles, John Van Dam belted a pair of one baggers.

The Tranny Boys weren't as fortunate in the O.A.S.A. All Ontario Squirrel B Finals.

Acton squeaked past Pickering 7-6 in the first game of the double knock-out tourney. Scott Williams was the winner on the mound. Yaroschak slammed a homer. Hayter was good for a pair of singles. Van Dam, Roden and Katsilleris all had singles.

East Gwillimbury doubled Acton in the second game of the series 6-3. Yaroschak popped a triple and a single, Caden-

acton ball

head lined a double and a single, Hinz singled.

Acton took Cobourg to extra innings before exiting from the tourney with a pair of losses after a close 3-2 decision.

Cadenhead pounded a triple, Hinz and Katsilleris both had singles.

Mercy me

Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances showed little mercy as they humbled Puslinch 34-9 in only five innings in the first game of the girls peeewe consolation finals.

Tara Walker and Jenny McDonald each snagged fly balls. Diana Dunn pounded a pair of homers including one grand-slam scored on errors.

The 'mercy rule' went into effect after five innings of play.

Day of Champions for soccer and ball

Next weekend will be a busy one for Acton's athletes.

The soccer and softball house leagues are both holding their respective field days Saturday September 12 and the Free Press will be covering all the action in its special 'Weekend of Champions' edition.

BALL SCHEDULE

Diamond No. 3 (Lighted Diamond)

9:00-10:00 a.m.—T.C. Squirts vs. H. R. Peeewe Girls

10:15-11:15 a.m.—H.R. Squirt Boys vs. H.R. Squirt Boys

11:30-12:30 p.m.—T.C. Squirt Boys vs. H.R. Peeewe Boys

12:45-1:45—H.R. Midgets vs. H.R. Bantam Boys

2:00—Midget Boys vs. TBA

Diamond No. 4 (Block House Diamond)

9:00-9:45—Home Hardware vs. Glenlea

10:00-10:45—Larry's vs. Hammonds

11:00-11:45—Emily's vs. Leathershtown

12:00-1:00—H.R. Atom Boys vs. T.C. Atom Boys

1:15-2:15—T.C. Atom Girls vs. H. R. Squirt Girls

2:30-3:30—H.R. Peeewe Girls vs. T.C. Peeewe Girls

SOCCER

(Squirt finals at M.Z. Bennett)

9:00-9:35 a.m.—Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of game 2

9:45-10:20—Loser of game 3 vs. Loser of game 4

10:30-11:15—Loser of game 5 vs. Winner of game 6

11:15-12:10—CUP FINAL Winner of game 4 vs. winner of game 5

(Atom Finals at M. Z. Bennett)

1:00-1:45—Loser of game 3 vs. Loser of game 1

1:55-2:40—Loser of game 2 vs. Loser of game 4

2:50-3:55—CUP FINAL Winner of game 1 vs. Winner of game 4

(Peeewe finals at McKenzie Smith)

9:00-10:45—Game 1 loser vs. loser game 2

10:10-11:15—Loser game 3 vs. winner game 4

1:00-2:35—CUP FINAL Winner game 3 vs. Winner game 1