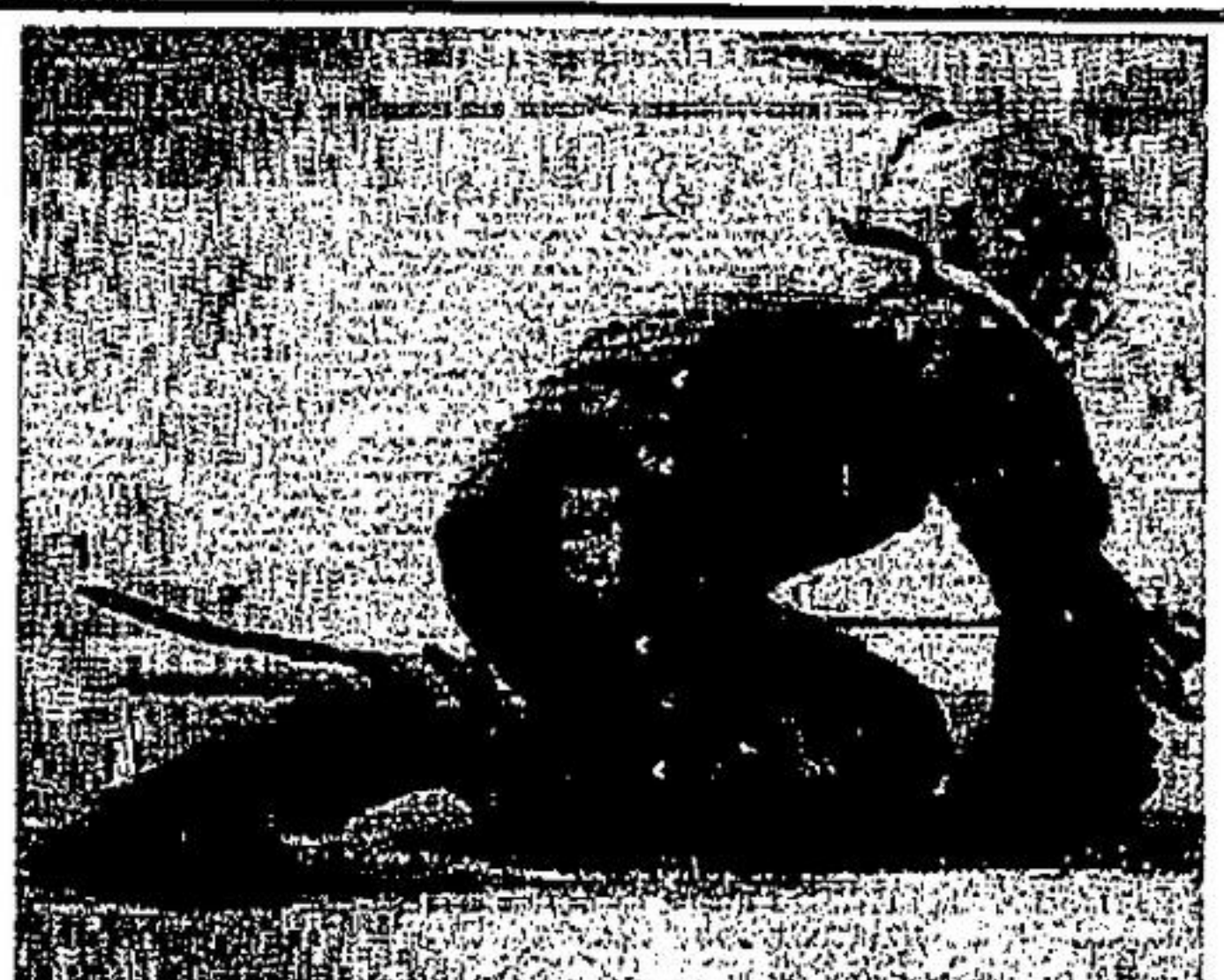
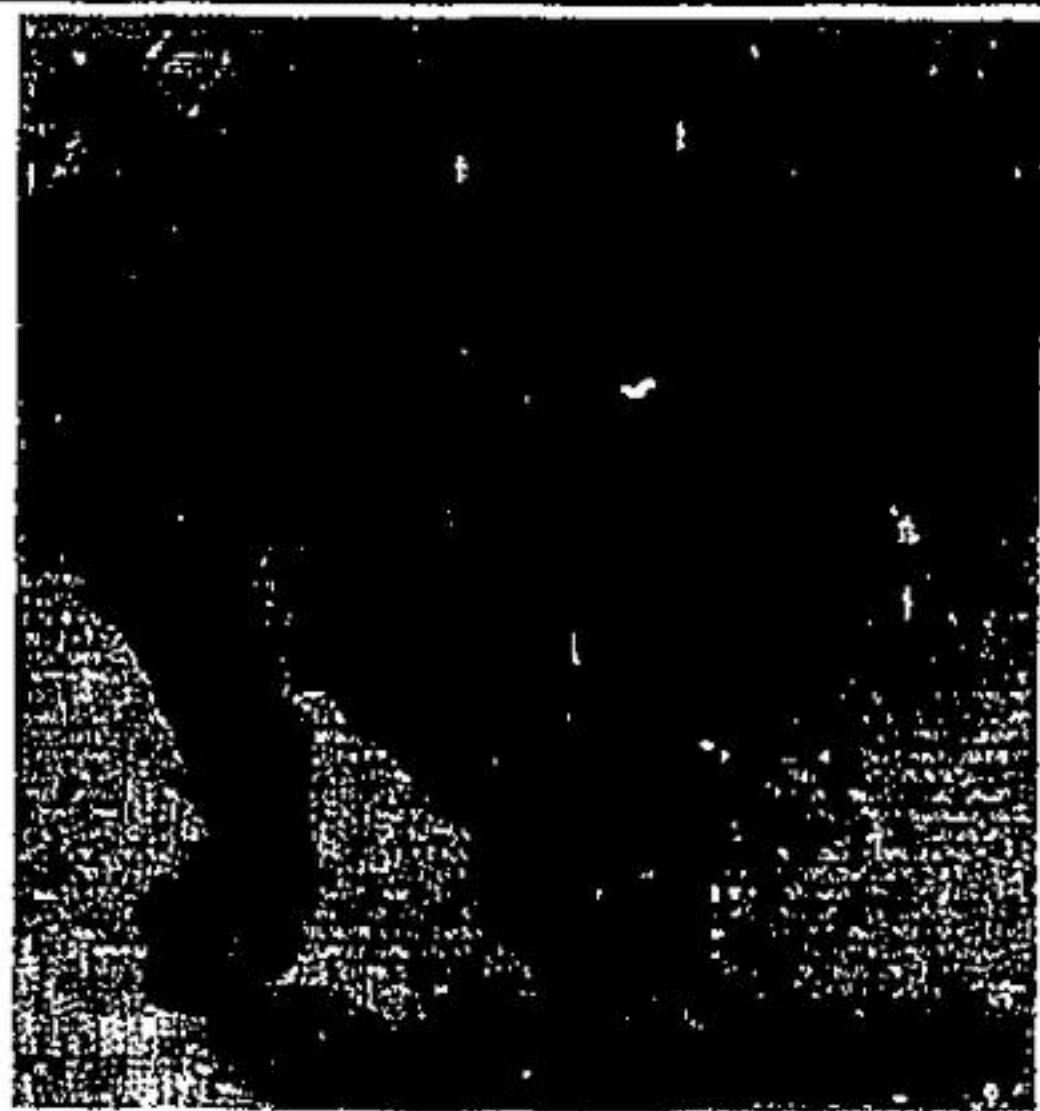


Slippery when frozen

This sure isn't like riding a bike... Acton's Wayne Bousfield looked like he was having a little trouble remembering how to do the smooth skating he was able to just five months ago, when the Novices took to the ice to tryout for the Acton rep clubs on the weekend. Then again, he probably just forgot to get his blades sharpened.



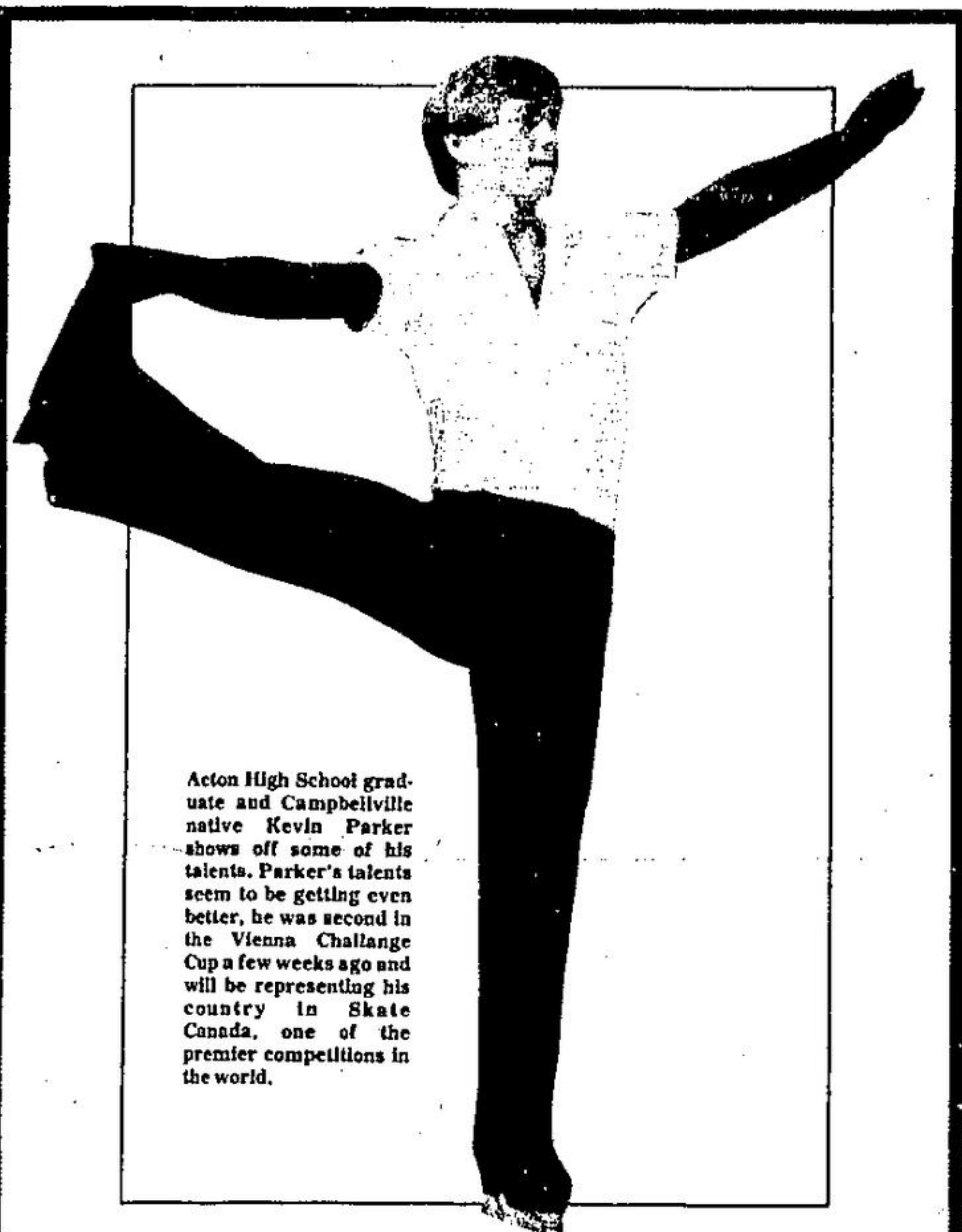
Free Press

sports and recreation

One Hundred and Seventh Year — No. 13

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1981

Second Section



Acton High School graduate and Campbellville native Kevin Parker shows off some of his talents. Parker's talents seem to be getting even better, he was second in the Vienna Challenge Cup a few weeks ago and will be representing his country in Skate Canada, one of the premier competitions in the world.

Kevin figures fine in Skate Canada

Kevin Parker has finally put his figure skating plans on ice.

For 12 years now, the Acton High School graduate and Campbellville native has been preparing for the 1984 Winter Olympics in Yugoslavia. Last week Parker came just one step closer to fulfilling his dream when he was chosen to represent his country in another prestigious event, Skate Canada October 29-31 in Ottawa.

Experience

"Basically I'm going for the experience of skating in front of international judges, not to place in the medals... I just want to show the international judges what I can do," explained Parker.

Two weeks ago Parker had an outstanding performance in the Vienna Challenge Cup and came home with a silver medal.

He felt he was skating his best ever—so must the Skate Canada people. Three Canadians are chosen to compete in this top international event, second only to the World's.

Top in world

Parker may only be ranked eighth best in Canada, but he was still picked to go to Ottawa and compete against some of the top skaters in the world.

Knowing he could be skating against the World Champion doesn't seem to bother the 20-year-old Parker.

"I know I can do good, I wanted to prove I could do it (in Vienna). I've been working hard for it, I think all the hard work will help in Skate Canada," he said.

Skating is more of a thinking man's sport—besides spending five hours a day on the ice honing his routine, Parker has also been working on his mental attitude.

"Like more and more sports, skating is physical but it takes a lot of mental pre-

paration—in the dressing rooms the other competitors are trying to psyche you out," he explained. "It doesn't bother me much, I relax as much as I can, but I'm still a little nervous. I've been working with a psychologist and that's helped a lot."

According to Parker his psychologist, Dr. Wendy Brown, has helped him learn relaxation techniques and has built his self-confidence.

"I'm a little older and more mature too, now all the hard work is starting to pay off, I'm learning some little tricks, I'm seeing how other people are training and talking to international judges," said Parker.

Even his program is becoming more geared to international competition.

Triple threat

"I have more triple jumps in the program—basically five maybe six triple-jumps—international judges like to look at the over-all choreography, but they look mostly for the triple-jumps," he said.

Parker has been doing a lot of work to prepare for a heavy winter of competition. He's already competed in the Challenge Cup in Vienna, will be in Skate Canada, then goes to the Western Ontario Sectionals, Central Division Championships and the Canadians.

"You can peak for about six weeks, but I'm not peaking yet, I want to peak for the Canadian Championships in Brandon, Manitoba," he said.

Like most Canadian boys, young Parker started out playing hockey. He watched figure skating on TV and decided he'd like to try it.

"I just found something I liked and decided to stick with it," said Parker.

The local skater just kept on improving but had a slump when he was 17-18.

Hopefully he'll be able to continue improving, at least for another three years.



Acton Sabres' goaltender Les Williams looks on helplessly as Oakville Blades Peter Natyshak skates through the goal crease to score. Oakville dumped Sabres 8-1 in the Acton club's home opener Friday night.

A deja vu view from Sabre cellar

by Dave Dorken

It seems like only last week Acton's Sabres crawled from out of the dark damp corners of the OHA Jr. B. cellar—broke their 0-5 record and—finally—strung together a dozen wins in a row to battle Burlington Cougars in the quarter-final playoffs.

Back then Sabres were almost invincible, led by the scoring prowess of Glen "Motor" Murray and the strong power-play of captain Pat Fung and Barry Trood.

The Motor, Fung, Trood and another three Sabres are all gone, old men in a league of boys. All that remains of the club is the staunch defensive corps of old and the troubled mentor—Jules Russiani.

As a coach of Sabres these past two seasons Russiani has always been troubled. Last year, in his first full season with Sabres, Russiani had to attempt to mold a group of hapless hockey players into a winning combination—he easily succeeded.

This year Russiani feels he's in even better shape than last year at this time. The Sabres may be lacking names like Murray, McDougall and Fung but it has a more even mix of talent.

He isn't even overly concerned that to date, the club's record is identical to that of last fall 0-2.

In their season opener Thursday night Sabres once again faced those Burlington foes. This year they were humbled 13-5. Friday night was the same story as the club failed to entertain the few hundred bodies in attendance at the Acton Community Centre as Sabres dropped a 8-1 game to Oakville's Blades.

Russiani was undoubtedly concerned with the club's poor play, and dozens of bad penalties during the game, but doesn't think the showing will have any effect on its play this season.

The coach has experience in pulling off magic

tricks with hockey clubs—last year his crew went five games without a win before they finally started to play a little better hockey.

"You can't be too critical of them, the fact we haven't had enough ice-time and no exhibition games hurt, but we're not using that as a crutch. We just didn't play well," said Russiani.

"Two periods Thursday were pretty good, but Friday was just a disaster. Not having enough ice-time didn't matter—no team can look that bad," he added.

Looking back on the dismal Sabres' showing, it's not hard to tell why the club fared so poorly. In both games the club took far too many penalties, and had problems moving the puck out of its own end.

Even the solid goaltending of ex-Brampton Jr. A

net-minder Les Williams couldn't foil the onslaught. Friday Oakville outshot Sabres a massive 43-17 only a brick wall could stop that many shots.

"I thought Les played well except for a couple of goals in the Thursday game. Les is going to get a lot better with a lot more work. If it wasn't for him the scores could have been more," said Russiani.

The coach wasn't really pleased with the play of any of his 24 other players, but isn't preparing to change the roster or make any major line changes for a while yet.

He is looking at a right-winger from Acton, John Rockwell.

It was the rookies who were responsible for most

(Continued on page B2)



One for the money... Sabres Mark Duval blasts the puck past the Oakville goaltender to score Acton's lone tally in the 8-1 loss.



Sprawl... Sabres net minder Les Williams sprawls out of his crease in an effort to stop the shot of an Oakville player. Williams played a strong game, despite facing 43 shots.

Les goals on Sabres

Les Williams is one goaltender who can't complain about a lack of work.

The Sabres net-minder faced 43 shots last week in the 8-1 loss to Oakville Blades. He was also in net in Sabres 13-5 loss to Burlington.

After last week one would expect Williams to dread putting on the pads next week, but he's looking forward to it.

Last year Williams played for Brampton Warriors Jr. A hockey club. Saturday Sabres travel to Brampton to meet the B squad and Williams is looking for some revenge.

"I really want to beat those guys, it'll be embarrassing if we lose," he said.

Sabres are in Brampton Saturday and are at the Acton Community Centre Friday night, 8 p.m. against Thornhill.