

Scoring six-packs

They say two heads are better than one, for Baltimore two hat-tricks are better than one too. Last week the Baltimore club relied on a pair of three goal efforts from Kevin Blakeman and Mike Peters as they dropped Rochester 8-1 in ALMH peewee action. David Paul and David Roden rounded out the scoring for the winners. Wayne MacEachren scored the lone Rochester tally.

In other peewee play Cleveland edged past Tidewater in a narrow 6-5 decision. Sean Fitzgerald and Emanuel Kriticos split the pipes twice each. Mike Arbic and Jeff Jackson were good for a pair of singles.

In and Out done

It usually takes time for a hockey club to get into top form. Acton Ed's In and Out midgets only needed one week to get into the winning groove, but it was none too soon.

Midgets dropped a pair of exhibition games, a 6-1 decision to Milton and a 9-4 loss to Galt. They also tied Galt 4-4 in pre-season play.

In their first game of the HUB League midget season, Ed's finally put everything together and dropped Hesper 6-3.

Bill Morrison fired three markers, and claimed an assist. Wayne MacMillan, Lorenzo Civerio and

hockey

Rick Dodds were accurate with singles. Clint Watts scored Acton's lone marker in the 6-1 loss to Milton. Morrison had a pair, and Watts and Mike Yalowica rifled one goal each in the 4-4 tie with Galt. Bruce Canary, Gino Fronteddu, Gary White and Watts put singles on the board in the 9-4 loss to Galt.

Midgets host Woodstock, Saturday 5 p.m. at the Acton Community Centre.

Fill in blank

The power in the atom division seems to be in the crease. Both atom ALMH games were scoreless as Oshawa tied London 0-0 and St. Kitts and Hamilton played to a scoreless draw.

Clean and pressed

Hellers were just taken to the Cleaners. Family Cleaners doubled Hellers on the scoreboard and skated away with a 4-2 win in Acton Industrial Hockey League play.

Russ VanFleet connected with a pair of goals, Steve McIntyre and Mike Morris slipped a couple of singles across the goal line for Cleaners. Jim Hurley and Jim McNabb for Hellers.

Lakeview Centre just doesn't play hockey to win, they play to torment the opposition. Acton Travel must have felt like the Toronto Argos after they dropped a 4-3 lead with just three minutes left in the game and came away with a 5-4 loss to Lakeview.

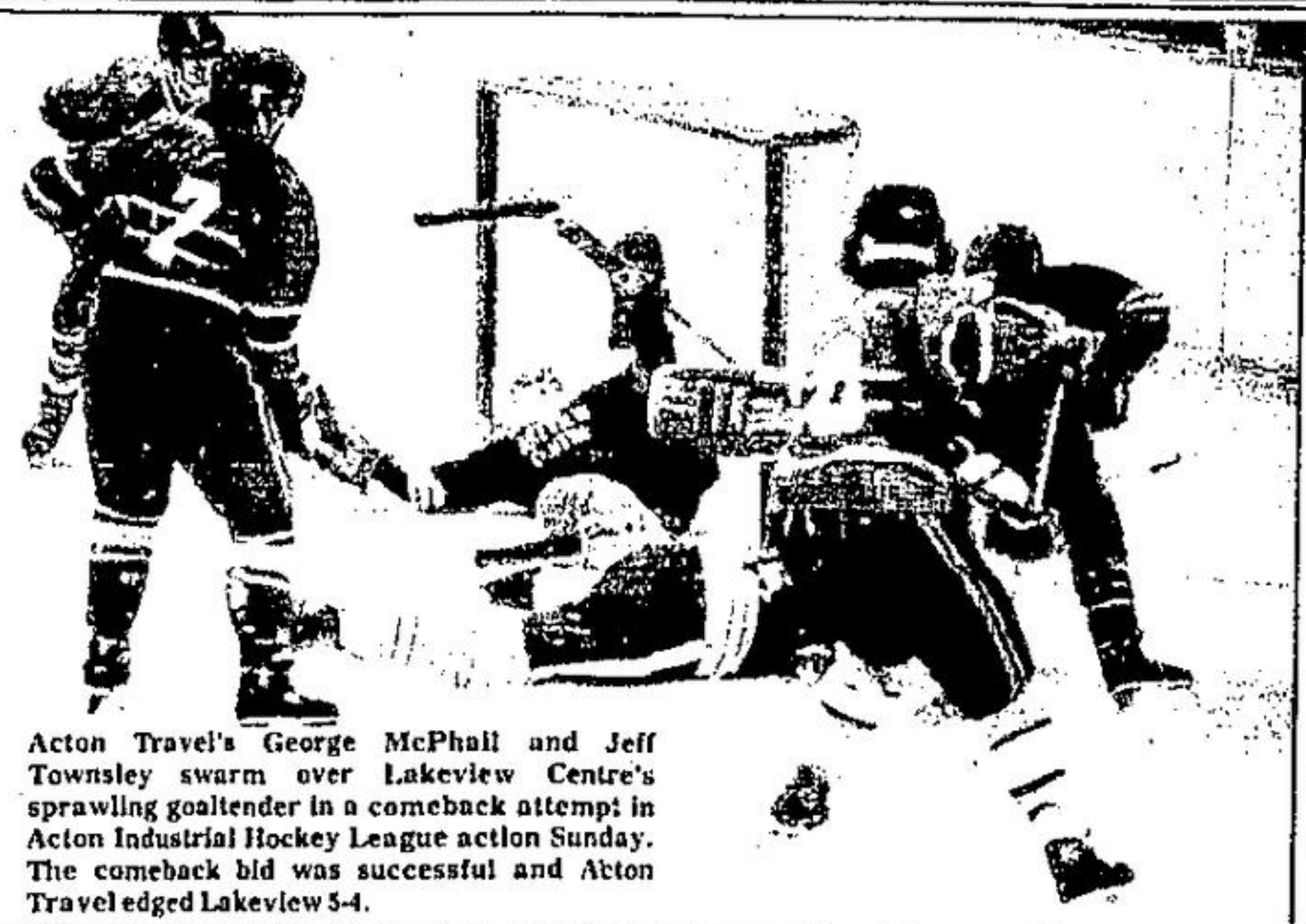
Glen McKenzie and Bill Manes each tallied twice for the winners. Bert Post scored once. Bruce MacPherson, Sid Barnes and Jeff Townsley scored one goal each for Travel.

A.T.W. dropped Nielsen's Clothing 7-4. Bart Jacobs and Steve Atkinson both had a two goal game. Chris Tennant, and Ernie Ruck and Wayne DeForest scored one goal each.

Henry Toebes had a pair for Nielsen's, Dave Morris and Dave Thompson had one each. This Sunday Family Cleaners meets A.T.W. at 7 p.m., Lakeview faces Hellers at 8:20 and Nielsen's plays Acton Travel at 9:40 p.m.

Hub-ba hub-ba

Acton Minor Peewee Hub League team knows how to play when it counts.



Acton Travel's George McPhall and Jeff Townsley swarm over Lakeview Centre's sprawling goaltender in a comeback attempt in Acton Industrial Hockey League action Sunday. The comeback bid was successful and Acton Travel edged Lakeview 5-4.

The club dropped a 4-2 exhibition decision to Burlington, but started on the winning track when things counted. Acton beat Hesper 4-3 and Guelph 7-1 in regular season play.

Craig Cadenhead and Carl Yaroschak scored for Acton in the loss. Cadenhead, Vince Rogers, John Van Dam and Troy Foster scored in the 4-3 win against Hesper. Yaroschak and Todd Lazenby scored a pair each in the 7-1 win. Rogers, Van Dam and Cadenhead scored one goal each.

The Minor Peewee's next home match is tonight (Wednesday) 7 p.m. against Georgetown.

Free Press

sports and recreation

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Second Section

A triple threat for Red seniors

Redmen senior girls' basketball club is hoping bad luck really does only come in threes.

If the old wives tale holds true, the AHS team shouldn't be due for any more bad breaks than they encountered in last week's Halton Basketball League play.

Redmen were battling for a shot at the playoffs in the tough East division, but ran into problems when they met up with White Oaks last Thursday.

The AHS girls were floating on a comfortable 24-1 lead before problems started to plague them. Centre Judy Vetricke, top rebounder on the club broke her ankle, scoring leader Lynda O'sso fouled out and speedster Mardie Phillips was hampered with a charleyhorse.

All of these problems combined to leave Acton just one point shy of White Oaks when the final buzzer sounded.

"We blew a game with Milton by two points, then lost to White Oaks by one," said coach Lyn McLaren.

Redmen's record of 5-3 isn't embarrassing, but it might not even be enough for a spot in the playoffs.

The only chance AHS has of making the playoffs lies, ironically enough, in the same team that may have eliminated them from post-season play—White Oaks. If the White Oaks team can beat Oakville or Trafalgar this Thursday then it will force a tie breaker between White Oaks and Acton.

Yesterday, Redmen's play was typical of the entire league as Acton played a strong game to edge Queen Elizabeth Park Eagles 40-37.

Coach McLaren was very liberal with his praise of the girls' play against Eagles.

"Mardie Phillips is always a major part of our offence, Lori Drysdale played well, all the other kids were all playing very well. Laurie Moreau was good on defence, Donna Robinson was rebounding well, Kelly White played one of her better games of the year and so did Mariane Case," he said.

Lori DeBruyn also had a good game, considering her shooting was impaired since she hurt her back skating.

The coach feels his team is playing well, but all the teams in the league are playing a good and steadily improving brand of basketball.

"The improvement in the calibre of ball has been fantastic, you can see by the closeness of the league. Even the Georgetown kids (a weaker team last season) have matured. They have two or three really good athletes. On any given day we could beat them or they could beat us," he said.

Of the nine teams in the league only Purdue and E.C. Drury are weak.

"The other five or six teams are all just a coin-toss," he said.

Hopefully Redmen will win this loss.

One of the biggest surprises for coaches Anne Lepick and McLaren has been the Junior girls' team.

Only four girls have returned from the squad of last year, but they've had a superb season for even a veteran team. The Junior Redmen have lost only one of their eight regular season games.

Tuesday Redmen beat Queen Elizabeth Park Eagles 42-30.

Teresa Dunn scored 27 points for Acton, Linda Thomson hopped seven points.



A grabber

There was some good aggressive basketball being played Tuesday night when Acton High School's Redmen girls senior basketball team met Q.E. Park Eagles for the season wrap-up. (Top) an Acton player tries to retain possession of the ball as an Eagles player tries to steal it. (Bottom) the tables were turned when Acton's Kelly White tried to get the ball from an Eagles player.



Fit to be tied... Acton Sabres' Mike Monahan gets tangled up with a Richmond Hill player Friday night. After Sabres lost the 8-5 decision it was coach Jules Russiani who was fit to be tied.

'B' in his bonnet

Green Sabre players leave Russiani blue

By Dave Dorken

There's something old, something new and something borrowed. All of this is making Acton Sabres coach Jules Russiani blue.

The Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League mentor is faced with the same worries of the fall past—his club hasn't made any considerable on-ice improvement since the start of the season nearly 28 days ago.

Unlike last year, Russiani doesn't have his mature, solid corps of experienced players. Instead he is faced with a group of young, green but hopefully highly talented players who need some time to mature, both individually and as a team.

Like last year, a few teams in the larger metropolis, have relatively flawless seasons thus far. Oakville has gone unscathed in nine games for first spot. Burlington and Streetsville are locked in a tie for second spot with a healthy 7-2 record.

Second-rate

Meanwhile the rest of the "second division" are all stuck together in the basement with less than half as many wins. Sabres and Thornhill are tied for fourth, only two games from last spot.

"It's the same old thing, places with a big population have pre-season ice available. They get a jump on everybody," said Russiani.

The coach said his club was best in the league for the final half of the season, but spent most of the early season trying to make up for their 0-5 record.

While this lack of ice-time hurt Sabres, they're suffering from a far more serious ailment—inconsistency.

Sabres have four plays for moving the puck out of their end and into the opposition's side. In practice Russiani sees perfect execution of these plays, but when it counts, Sabres freeze up.

"I've seen this in bantam, but in bantam this is expected. You don't expect this from a Junior B club, they should be a lot more mature," he said.

The coach has been doing everything possible to try and rectify the problem, but it's been to no avail.

sabres

Last weekend Sabres played a pair of dismal games, but still skated away with a win. Thursday Acton beat Dixie 5-2. Friday, at home they dropped an 8-5 decision to Richmond Hill.

"We beat Dixie by three goals, but things just fell our way. At times we played well, but it wasn't one of our classic games," bemoaned Russiani.

The coach was even more critical of Sabres' 8-5 drubbing by Richmond Hill.

"That was probably the worst game I've seen since I've coached the Sabres," he winced.

Russiani said he's trying anything and everything to help improve the team's play. One thing he's doing is having the club get together every Wednesday for a little dry-land training.

"There's three reasons for the dry-land," explained the coach. "Number one the team's a little out of shape, number two there's so many new players we have to get the team together, number three is we have to get the team thinking as a unit."

Sabres' attitudes change quicker than Doctor Jekyll to Mr. Hyde.

"I'm a little confused, they show enthusiasm on the bench, in the dressing room and in practice, but in a game situation... I just can't put my finger on why we don't execute the enthusiasm we show in the dressing room when we get on the ice, I'm a little confused," mused Russiani.

Confidence could be the key to solve Sabres' problems, thinks the coach.

"We're trying to build on their confidence, with a lot of the young kids they're weak on confidence. The ability is there, it's just not coming out," he said.

One way to help the players improve their confidence is the use of plus and minus figures—the amount of goals scored on a player compared to the amount he helped score.

"Figures are a very important part of the game, when the boys see the figures posted on the board (in the dressing room) it keeps them interested in who's ahead of whom. They kid each other about it," said Russiani.

"It puts them into competition with one another, at this point I've got to try anything."

If this doesn't cause a change in Sabres on-ice game situation play then Russiani has just one other alternative—drifting in new players.

"We'll have to start looking to add players (if there's no improvement). We'll let some of the players sit out a few games, let their thoughts go in the proper directions," he said.

One player who has nothing to worry about is former Guelph juvenile Don Brown.

Self-centred

"Don is playing real well, he's skating and working well," praised the coach. "He hasn't really had proper coaching. He's starting to learn to work with his wingers and his strong skating and puck handling abilities make up for any mistakes he makes."

Brown had an assist in the Sabres' 8-5 loss to Richmond Hill Friday night. Mark Duval, Ken Relf, Wade Vickery and Paul Stark scored for Acton.

Bobby Allsop, Stark, Relf, Vermuelen and Mike Monahan scored for Sabres in the win over Dixie.

Sabres had a 2-2 tie going into the second period against Richmond Hill. Richmond Hill went up 5-4 in the second frame, and Sabres just didn't have any power to match Richmond Hill's third period surge.

Against Dixie, Sabres edged Beehives on the board in the opening round, then hit another three markers in the second and were able to keep the third period scoreless to hold onto the win.

Sabres will need more than a few breaks if they hope to have a successful weekend. They face the tough Barrie squad at home Friday night, 8 p.m. at the Community Centre. Sunday Sabres travel to Thornhill to play Thunderbirds.

With any luck Sabres will hear the theme song they borrowed from their Buffalo name-sakes.