

# Lack of executives is (a)pathetic

A shortage of executives may spell the end of rep soccer in Acton next season. While the number of players and coaches grow every year, people wanting to be on the executive have become virtually extinct. About one month ago a general meeting was held to elect a new executive committee. Only 14 parents attended so the elections were postponed. Last week the meeting was again held—this time only six people attended. When a similarly poor attendance occurred last fall president Richard VanderWal decided to stay on for a second term. This year he is tired and frustrated from the demanding chores he has had to perform as president and has stepped down.

"I'm just not prepared to remain on as chief executive. I'll only stay in an advisory roll," he said. Since the club can't be run without an executive, VanderWal said he would have to decline when forms are sent this spring asking if the Acton league will be putting any entries in the Rep loop. VanderWal still tries to remain optimistic about the entire situation. He feels the last meeting may have had such a dismal turnout because of the foggy, cold weather, and since most people in the soccer league are too busy with hockey to worry about summer sports. The only chance of seeing rep soccer next season he said, would be if a quorum of members call a meeting and elect a new executive.

It shouldn't be too difficult to fill the half dozen or so spots on the committee, after all the league has been continually growing and this year 320 players should be facing up the cleats. Unfortunately this isn't the case. Even with the rapid growth of the club, VanderWal hasn't found interest in the executive growing. "Many parents give a lot of time to the league, they follow their sons and daughters, doing all the nitty-gritty things like bringing oranges to games. It's not all dark... then again, it's not all light," he said. All VanderWal is looking for is a group of people to follow the league's constitution, and look after

the players best interests. "I want someone to keep the continuity of the system going, to fulfill the club's mandate. I don't want a group of friends to get together just for the sake of soccer. There has to be a certain amount of commitment, not only from the executive, but from the parents too," he said. As far as individual players go, the club is still stronger than ever. The league has been growing by about fifty players a year for the past three years. Also the hamlets of Rockwood and Eramosa have become more important to the system. "The organization is far from dead, it's the ex-

ecutive that's dead," said VanderWal. Hopefully the soccer club will fare as well as the ball league has. When the Acton Ball League held its meeting only 18 people showed up, and managed to fill only 8 of 13 executive positions. Last week newly elected president Elmer Dunn said almost all the positions open had been filled without having a second meeting, although there are still a couple of openings. "That's what I get for being an optimist," said Dunn.

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Second Section



## Redmen duo on the run to OFSAA's

What may be a small step for the AHS cross-country team is going to be one long run for Redmen's Doreen Uranick and Heather Thatcher. The pair qualified for the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association cross-country championships at the Boyd Conservation Area in Woodbridge this Saturday. "In the past couple of years we haven't had anybody (compete in the OFSAA's)," said AHS coach Bruce Andrews. "These two ladies have done quite well." The pair qualified after strong finishes in the Peel-Halton cross-country championships at Kelso Conservation Area last Wednesday. Uranick was fifth quickest in the Junior girls 4,000 metres. Thatcher was eighth in the senior girls 5,000m.

"They're going to be facing really tough competition and won't win, but if they make the top 20 runners then they'll have run quite well," he said. "Doreen Uranick should be in the top 15 and Heather in the top 20—which would be an achievement in itself."

With the exception of the two OFSAA contenders, Andrews and his cross-country team have wrapped up another season.

"The Junior boys were our best team, but two injuries on the team were a disappointment. It might have been a better team if not for the injuries, but the job they did was quite good," he said.

Despite injuries, the junior boys still managed to finish 11th in the OFSAA 6,600m run.

Midget girls Sherry Willisie was 14th and Pam Manal was 25th in the 3,000m. Junior Karen Kilner was 37th in the 4,000m. Elke Zeissig placed 37th in the senior girls 5,000m.

Ted Mayse was 53rd, Jamir Thatcher 55th and Todd Andrews 86th in the midgets boys 5,000m. Tony Wright was best junior for Acton with his 26th place finish in the 6,600m. Scott McDonough was 60th, Scott Allonby 74, Richard Kilpatrick 79th and Al Peterson 82nd.

Norma Bourassa led Redmen's senior boys in the 7,800 with his 28th spot finish. Rob Warrington was 64th and Tom McDonough was 66th.

### Tourney trouble

Acton junior girls proved to be too congenial hostesses in the third annual Redman junior girls basketball tournament.

The club won its first game, a 27-14 decision over Central Wellington of Fergus, but fell to Aldershot in the second round 46-31.

"We played well (against Aldershot) but we just couldn't put the ball into the basket," said Acton coach Anne Lepick.

In the first game Lepick played everyone on the team and they still came up winners.

"Everyone played—it's the only way the kids can develop. I had them all out to see how well they can do," she said. "In the second game the girls were tight. They played well, but we didn't get any breaks."

The junior girls start the first game of the playoffs one week Thursday.

### Second chance

The senior girls had to rely on a little help from Oakville Trafalgar to get a chance at making the playoffs.

The Oakville team had a game in hand, after last week's play. A win would have meant Redmen had to wait until next year to try for the laurels.

Fortunately OT lost, forcing a tie-breaker this Thursday. The location of the game will be decided by a coin-toss.

Even if they lose Redmen still have a chance to drink champagne. They host a Senior basketball tournament Saturday. Acton plays at 9 a.m. Saturday.

## Run around

In the running, Senior girls Elke Zeissig, above, shows the pains of cross country running. Heather Thatcher, below, found the run a little easier. She finished eighth in the senior girls 5000m and qualified for the OFSAA championships next weekend.

photos by dave dorken



Sprawling Sabres... Acton's Les Williams tries to get in front of a shot by a Barrie Colts player in Friday night's game. Sabres won the game 9-6 but had problems two nights later when they were humbled 12-3 Thornhill.

## Inconsistency is...

## ... only consistency

# Sabres still stalling

by Dave Dorken

It seems the only thing consistent about the Central Ontario Junior B league this year is inconsistency. Leading in the war of the wavering is Acton's own Sabres, a club whose dismal 4-6-1 record is fourth best in a league of 11.

"It's an inconsistent league, the only team with their feet on the ground is Oakville, Burlington and Streetsville are a little (nine and seven points respectively) better off in the standings but they're still inconsistent," said Sabres coach Jules Russiani.

The fits of inconsistency were once again felt by Sabres on the weekend. Friday night the boys in white, blue and orange managed a 9-6 win over Barrie. Just two nights later Sabres were thoroughly obliterated by Thornhill Thunderbirds, 12-3.

Coach Russiani is torn by this problem. Monday night he led his brigade through another 110 minutes of practice and was as despondent as ever.

"I've put on some added pressure onto the players the players because of frustration. Then the team can't play properly because there's too much pressure on them," said a worn Russiani.

"If we get two wins under our belts it would let us off," he explained. "I want us to keep respectable, not too far away from where we want to be come playoff time. I've been putting a little more pressure on and it's been very, very hard on the players."

According to the coach, the team isn't too far away from the championship in talent, only in time.

He has picked up a couple of local



Jules Russiani talks to goalie Les Williams.

players to help strengthen the club, Gord McArthur and Todd MacIntyre, but is going to stay with the rest of his players.

"We're still learning, we're not panicking now, it's just that there's so much to learn and there doesn't seem to be enough time. We've been trying to experiment and that's hurt us a bit," he said.

"The time element is a big factor. I just wish we had the facilities for four nights practice a week for the next month. Then we wouldn't have to practice during games."

Since the team is young confidence is a big part of their learning. Once the club

get it's plays down in practice then it still has to learn how to make use of them in a game situation.

"It's a combination of things, motivation, desire, are all part of it. Over all consistency... the team is very, very inconsistent which just blows the hell out of their confidence," said Russiani.

According to the coach he isn't asking for perfection, from Sabres, just some consistency.

"We have six plays to work on, power plays, break-out plays and penetration plays, we have six methods to move the puck around. We'll never get them down pat, we just want to get where they're going to work," he said.

"I've said all year it will take until mid-November (before the team starts playing well). It might take a week or two more though," he added.

Sabres games are consistent in one aspect, all the games have been high scoring. This too seems to be a trend in the league.

"The league is very high scoring and very tight, I believe everybody is in the same position. Like us beating Thornhill (4-2 October 9) then getting blown out the next time," he said.

Sabres face second spot Streetsville Derbys Friday night at home, 8 p.m. at the Community Centre.

## Kevin's nerves melt



Kevin Parker

Kevin Parker has spent the past two years trying to overcome anxieties of figure skating in front of an audience.

When the Acton High School graduate and Campbellville native takes to the ice in practice he is almost flawless. Unfortunately competitions aren't as lonely as practice.

Last weekend Parker gave his nerves the test of a lifetime and although he didn't conquer his opponents or nerves, he still feels he's improved as a skater, after competing in Skate Canada in Ottawa.

"I feel more confident with the experience I gained. I learned a lot being there and it's good to get international experience, it's a little more unnerving than nationals," he said. "There's a different class competing in Skate Canada, there's the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth best skaters in the world competing."

All of this tends to leave a young and international rookie like Parker a little tense.

His nerves cost a few marks, but Parker was still able to finish seventh in the figures competition.

He wasn't as in control in the short program.

"It was disgusting. I was awful. I didn't feel nervous, but when I got on the ice I went into a coma. I had a blank expression and my eyes went glassy - at least that's what everybody tells me. I didn't do what I was capable of," he said.

His performance didn't wow the judges, but it did give him some much needed confidence.

"I tried my triple jumps. I proved I was capable of triple jumps. In the past I've always chickened out and did doubles instead of triples," he said.

The confidence is apparent when Parker talks of his future competitions.

"I could have done better in Skate Canada, but I'm looking at the positive aspects. I hope to keep improving - then I'm going to dazzle them in the Canadians," he said.