

# Just no room for crystal balls in Jr. Redmen mentor's baskets

Murray Kittmer feels his Acton High School Redmen junior basketball club will be competitive this year.

The coach can hardly be called an optimist. Last weekend his boys dropped a close 68-65 decision to Oakville Trafalgar in over-time in the finals of a tournament in Brampton.

"This year we're going to be competitive in the (Halton) league. We have a good complement of juniors back from last year and some midgets have moved up who have some potential," said the coach. "We have a good mix of second year juniors and new midgets."

The coach feels he has good reason not to expect the world from his club however.

"Perdue and Q.E. Park are strong, they've been strong for a number of years. I hope our club will be competitive with those two as well as the rest of the league," said Kittmer.

## his sports

The coach feels he has several solid performers on his squad.

"Bob Little and George Goodman are two strong players. Paul Nolan, Terry Ciafrani, Scott Allonby and Cliff Nibbs are all good ball handlers," he said.

The club isn't doing too badly in the height department either. There's no Sasquatches on the club, but the team stands about average in the league with one player standing 6'2".

"We have a full range (of height), it's not going to hurt us," said Kittmer.

Nibbs stands just over the five foot mark,

but the coach feels his ball handling abilities over-come any lack of size.

## Not same

Dave Boycott wasn't as fortunate with his senior squad.

The coach feels this season and even next are going to be hard on his club as they will be in a re-building process.

"We only have two players back (from last year's club). A couple of juniors have moved up. We'll only be keeping three players next year," said Boycott. "A couple of players have skipped grades and a couple are in four year courses and will be graduating. The next year through, we'll have the juniors (who have moved up) for two years. We'll get through this year and next year."

The coach hasn't even been able to get a good look at his players.

"We have three games this week, that will let me know how they'll do. We've played in one tournament and have had an exhibition game, but have had no victories. I hope we'll be able to work things around—we're still adjusting," he said.

The team has some strengths, but has its share of weakness too.

"We're missing one or two players, we have a solid front three. We're still one or two players short, but we're still recruiting," he said.

The coach isn't worried about his club's size however.

"We have the big men where we need them, the front three are about 6'3", said Kittmer.

The basketball clubs have a heavy week of play. The seniors met Burlington Central last night (after press time), the midgets and juniors played Milton. Thursday is a triple-header with Redmen at home against Georgetown Rebels.



Acton Redmen's Bob Little gives a mean grimace as he tries to snag a rebound from a Brampton player in a junior basketball tournament held Saturday. Acton won this game handily, beating J.A. Turner 81-32. In the finals they came up just baskets short, losing to Oakville Trafalgar 68-65 in overtime. (Photo by George Bershrl, Brampton Guardian)

# Free Press sports and recreation



Spearing... Acton Sabres Roy Spears tangles with a Milton Flyers player in Sabres goal crease while netminder Chris Martin concentrates on the play. Sabres were two goals better than hapless Milton, winning a 6-6 decision last Saturday night.

## Coach Russiani sees no humour in loss of respect



He's hip... This Acton Sabres' player went for a loop, after being checked by his Milton Flyer opponent in Saturday night's game. (Photos by Dave Dorken)

Rodney Dangerfield is a success because he doesn't get any respect. Acton's Central Ontario Jr. B contingent isn't getting any respect either, but Sabres aren't getting laughs or success.

Their uninspiring 7-11-1 record and sporadic bursts of solid hockey haven't been causing any chuckles from coach Jules Russiani either.

Last year the Sabres finally gained some credibility as a top notch hockey club with their 12 game win streak and exemplary performance in the quarter-finals against Burlington Cougars.

All this is in the past, even Sabres' long sought credibility.

"We've lost some respectability... credibility... that's one thing I won't stand for," fumed the coach.

Sabres' sporadic play was exemplified by their three matches last week. Friday night Sabres surprised Oakville Blades, the still undefeated league leaders, as they kept close in a 3-2 loss. Saturday the "Swordsmen" played what coach Russiani described as a "so-so" game. The club was inconsistent, but still skated away with an 8-6 come-back win. Monday night Acton was humbled by a 12-7 loss to fourth spot Richmond Hill Dynes.

Blades had Sabres scoreless after the first period. They put one more goal on the board before Sabre captain Dave McGilloway found the opening in the second frame. Dennis Charbonneau split the pipes in the third to close the gap, but Sabres couldn't even things up.

Saturday, Chris Martin faced 40 shots and turned back all but six in Sabres' win over Milton.

Sabres started off hot this time, jumping to a 4-2 lead in the first stanza. In the second they traded goals and then Milton scored an unanswered tally to move closer. Sabres went to the dressing room with a 5-4 lead.

Milton scored a short-handed goal to even things up five minutes into the last period. Acton replied with a short-handed tally of their own minutes later. With less than two minutes remaining Milton again set things even. Sabres came back with 1:11 left to move ahead and fired an insurance marker into the empty Milton net with 17 seconds left in the game. McGilloway scored three goals for

Sabres. Mark Duval, Wade Vickery, Tony Dulisse, Gary Williams, and Paul Stark scored singles. McGilloway also added three assists. According to the coach, it was tougher to prepare for their game against Milton than for the one against Oakville.

"Milton doesn't have anything to concentrate on, they don't have any one type of play," he said.

When Sabres don't feel they have to follow their game plan they usually don't. It's been when they meet up with teams like Oakville they finally play a thinking type of hockey.

This hasn't been true in their less illustrious games such as Monday's loss to Richmond Hill.

"It's stupidity, they're just not thinking," said coach Russiani. "I really don't know what to do with them. I've exhausted everything I know, all that's left is to put on skates myself and show them how it's done."

"It seems forever you have to get yelling at them and getting mad at them. This isn't right, you shouldn't have to make threats, it's something I'm not thrilled about. It's difficult," said Russiani.

They say misery loves company, but even though "two or three" other clubs are suffering the same problems it hasn't made Sabres' mentor any happier.

Russiani still has one trick left up his sleeve—to airlift a couple or three new players to the club.

"If I can get a couple of the players I've been looking at there will definitely be some changes," said the coach.

One change not too far down the road is the reinstatement of Rob Vermuelen to the Jr. B ranks. Last year Vermuelen was drafted by Oshawa Generals of the OHA Jr. A league, but his play wasn't up to par in the early season so Russiani sent him down to the juveniles "to regain his confidence."

"I've seen an improvement in him," said Russiani. "He's starting to come along."

Bobby Allsop, veteran defenceman, has been out the last couple of games too. Doctors say the young Allsop has a tear in his knee ligaments and wait him to rest it for a couple of weeks. If it doesn't heal properly then he might require an operation.

Sabres' next game is Friday, when they host Thornhill Thunderbirds, 8 p.m. at Acton Community Centre.

## Novice Nolan is simply un-believable

First there was the un-cola, now there's the un-scorer.

Brampton's Tom Nolan pocketed four unassisted tallies to lead his Brampton club to a 4-4 tie against Weston in Novice Legion hockey play.

Mike Pope connected for a pair, Matt Johnstone and Chris Caswell had singles for Weston.

### McMarksman

Troy MacDougall's marksmanship helped Dixie beat Burlington 5-2. MacDougall scored three goals, David Blashuk and Anthony McDougall had singles for Dixie. Sheldon Stuckless and Chris McGeragle scored for Burlington.

### Dan drops 'em

Danny Robinson was good for a pair of markers as Hamilton dropped Oshawa 4-1 in atom Legion play. Dave Harrison and Sandy Dokis split the pipes with singles. Mike Landry scored Oshawa's lone tally. St. Kitts blanked London 3-0. Chad Moore, Gareth Marks and Chris Kruk scored for the winners.

### Hat-tricky

Brad Carachi scored a hat-trick as Tidewater beat Rochester 4-1 in Legion peewee play. Shawn McFadden scored the 'Tide's' other tally. David Paul put a single on the Rochester side.

Helen Knowles and Derek Bottomley fired two goals each to help Baltimore to a narrow 6-5 win over Cleveland. Mike Peters and Scott Nellis rounded out the scoring for the Baltimore side.

Sean Fitzgerald rifled three tallies, Pat Johnston and Emmanuel Kriticos had singles for Cleveland.

### Midget marksman

Greg Maltby sniped three tallies as Montreal beat Toronto 5-4 in Legion midget play.

Scott Allonby and Mark Splinter each scored singles for Montreal. Bob Brouillard had two, Nasir Saeed and Phil Shea split the pipes once for Toronto.

Dan Trembley proved to be a triple threat as Vancouver nipped Buffalo 6-5. Trembley scored a hat-trick for the winners, Rob Allen had two goals, David Allen scored once. Rick Chapman scored three times, Nicky Fryers and Martin Kreutzberg once for Buffalo.

Acton minor atom reps are familiar with being on both ends of the scoreboard this season.

Last week the club trounced Waterloo 5-1, were humiliated by Galt 7-2 and 6-0 and tied Waterloo 1-1.

Paul Westaway and Brydon Gillis scored in the 7-2 loss, Jeff Kitt had a pair in the 5-1 win. Stephanie Carty, Charles Coagnon and James Madison scored singles.

Geoff Burton scored Acton's lone tally in the 1-1 draw.

Whalers beat Rockies 7-6 in Legion bantam hockey. Steve Parker, Doug Crelton, John Towgood, Eddie Wilson and David Slaney all scored for Whalers. Terry Danagher and Chris Stewart hit the mark for Rockies.

Jets put on the after-burners to defeat Cougars 10-4.

Doug Richardson scored five times, Jack Ninabar had a troika, Wayne Chappel and Steve Harkins each scored once.

Garry Coverdale had a pair, Richard Voskamp and Spencer Smith had one each for Cougars. Robble is one Hard'en to stop scoring goals.

The novice sharpshooter, Harden, fired three goals as Oakville blanked Guelph in Legion play. Mike Kinnon rounded out the scoring.

Wayne Bousefield had a pair of goals, Chris VanDam, Michael McMahan and Derek Martin scored to give Acton novice reps a 6-0 win over Georgetown Selects in exhibition play.

Reps next home match is December 12, at 3 p.m.

### Honest Ed's

They may be midgets, but the Ed's in 'N Out team seem to be having big problems in the rep league.

Midgets dropped an 11-4 decision to Galt last week after tying the club 4-4 earlier in the week and beating Waterloo 5-3.

Brian Canary had two goals, Stan Smith, Gary White and Rick Dodds scored singles in the win. Canary, Dodds, Randy Coverdale and Bill Morrison scored one goal each. Brian Canary had two, Bruce Canary and Coverdale one each in the 4-4 tie.

Midgets record stands at 4-4-2 for the year.

### Slammin' Steve

Steve Wagner slammed home three goals but in vain, as Acton Rotary minor bantams lost a close 6-5 decision to Galt.

Brad Demone and Steve Martin scored singles in the loss.

### Huff and Puff

Whether you call them the Halton Hills Oldtimers or the Halton Hills Huff'n'puffers they still enjoy a good game of non-contact hockey.

This past weekend the Huff'n'puffers/Oldtimers were in Kingston for that city's Oldtimer classic and they came away with their "D" division championship. But not without a fight.

The locals went undefeated in the round robin portion of the tourney topping Gananoque 6-0, Kingston Township 8-2 and Kingston Limestone Cowboys 6-2 to reach the final. Then they met up with the Limestone Cowboys for the second time.

This time, however, it was a little tougher for the Huff'n'puffers as they fell behind 2-0 in the early going.

The Halton Hills squad tied the game before regulation time ended forcing sudden death overtime. When the extra time failed to declare a winner it was time for penalty shots.

Kingston was held off the sheet in three penalty shot tries by local netminder Jim Brown. On the Huff'n'puffers third shot Stu McDonald put the game away giving Halton Hills the division crown and the 3-2 win.

The local side will take Christmas off before returning to tournament play in January.