

Breaking up is hard to do!

Midgets decide to try junior ranks

by Robb Inascoe
Two baseball seasons ago a group of enterprising Acton ball players, along with Dan Arbic, decided that the competition the local midget team was getting just didn't meet their standards. At that time the Acton Midget Fastball team decided they would try their luck in the Inter-county Softball League competing with teams from Guelph, Kitchener, Woodstock and other cities.

The local team learned a lot in that season. They didn't win all that many games, but the experience was to help the next season.

Last year, under the leadership of Steve Marshall the same squad watched their record improve to an impressive 33 wins and nine losses and first place in the Midget League. A great feat for a team from a town the size of Acton.

Now most of the local midget-aged players are going overage, but that doesn't mean the local squad is breaking up. Instead they are moving up.

What was the Acton Midgets will now be

known as the Acton Juniors. Their competition will come from Guelph, Linwood, Maryhill, Waterloo, Kitchener, New Dundee and New Hamburg.

The newly formed entry will participate in the Ontario Junior Fastball League and will be restricted to players 21 years of age and under. That gives the locals a couple of added players that may help them get over the hump in the first year.

Two such additions will be pitcher Dick Spear, who has toiled the past couple of seasons with the Halton Hills Metros in the Acton Industrial Fastball League and Hollywood Tavern in Georgetown. The talented hurler has one year of junior eligibility remaining.

He will more than likely be pitching to Hillsburgh native and former Acton Sabre Kelly McArthur. Kelly has carried a big bat and glove with the Alton Dairy Queens of the Inter-county Men's Fastball League in the past. Last season McArthur helped Alton win the league title defeating the Glen Merchants in the final.

Coch Marshall is hoping that the first year in the league will be a learning experience for his team. He is optimistic about what the future might bring as most of this year's junior squad will have three years of ball ahead of them.

Last season as midgets the locals took their league with a 17 win, three loss season and they turned a few heads in men's tournaments winning in Limehouse, placing third in the Acton event and second in Evert. In addition they placed sixth of 28 Ontario teams at the Canadian eliminations.

The Juniors will be playing their home games on Monday nights at Prospect Park and their division rivals will include the above named centres. A second division will include entries from Woodstock, Ingersoll, Norwich, Innerkip and Falden Corners.

The one team in the league which will bear watching is Kitchener. Last season the Kitchener Juniors participated in the Inter-city Men's Fastball League taking the league title. They are looking at returning to competition with young men of their own

age.

Much of this year's junior squad will be made up of last year's midgets, but changes to the line-up can and will be made until the season begins.

Marshall is looking at Dick Spear, Roy Spear, Dave Wilson, Rusty Elliott, Chris Peavoy and possibly Kevin Franks and Jeff Gimpei of Georgetown on the mound with Kelly McArthur, Tim Baker and Paul Cargill as possible battery mates.

Marshall feels he will have several possibilities at first with all his pitchers and Rob Vermeulen or Rick Dodds. At second Paul Nolan, Don Casselman and Gord McArthur of last years midgets are probables, with the addition of Randy Coverdale.

Third base can be occupied by Vermeulen, McArthur or Rick or Roy Spear. The short-stop position is one that Marshall is very limited in for possibilities, but it's by choice. Rick Greenley is the 'one and only' according to Marshall and should see most of the action when available, but Tim Baker can

also do the job.

The outfield will be made up of several of the above along with Glenn Scott, Mark Duval, Dave Quinn and Brian Wong.

One problem the local team has encountered is sponsorship of the entry. According to Marshall the players are currently looking at supporting themselves. "The boys are doing it out of pocket so far," says the coach. He adds that they are looking for financial help in several different ways. The team is thinking about running a Sports Celebrity dinner in town along with dances and other such fund raisers.

Regardless what happens with sponsorship it can be assured that come the beginning of May the Acton Juniors, along with coaches Marshall, Bob Marchand, Joe DeForest and Daryl Greenley will be at the local diamond on Monday nights playing some of the best ball Acton will see.

Any other players interested in competing for the club are asking to phone Steve Marshall at 853-2194.

Free Press SPORTS

Sabres sink in second as play-off season starts

by Robb Inascoe
The longest pre-season in Central Ontario Junior 'B' hockey history is over and now it's time for the Acton Sabres to prepare for the regular season, or in this case the play-offs.

The Sabres finished with the worst record in the Central League this season, 11 points in 42 games, but it all means nothing as each of the teams was granted a play-off berth when Oak Ridges and Brampton backed out of the loop just prior to the start of the season.

It's now time for the Sabres to prove they belong in the play-offs. They meet the first placed Streetsville Derbys in the opening round beginning Friday at the Community Centre and while it would take a minor miracle for the Sabres to pull off an upset, it has happened in the past. Acton fans may not be looking for a series win but a good solid effort and some close scores may make the area hockey supporters forget the dismal

season that has past.

If the past week is any indication of what is in store for the Sabres in the play-offs, there may be a reason for optimism. The Sabres picked up their first point in some time when they travelled to Milton on Friday night earning a 6-6 tie with the Streamers and then turned in a solid effort at home on Saturday in the season finale dropping a 6-3 decision to the Oakville Blades. Those kinds of efforts against the injury laden Derbys could be worth watching.

The Sabres jumped out in front of the Milton Streamers and led 3-1 after the opening frame, but the locals couldn't stand prosperly, allowing the Steamers five second period goals to get back in the game. The same thing happened against the Blades on Saturday evening. The two clubs played a scoreless first frame, but five second period goals sunk the Sabres again.

Milton found the net first in the Friday night encounter, but the Sabres came roar-

ing back with goals from Randy Coverdale, Denis Kirton, and newcomer Vince Paradiso to take command before the buzzer sounded ending the opening 20 minutes. Coverdale had helped on the other two. Roy Spear and Paradiso also added aids.

In the middle stanza the Sabres' defence fell apart for three minutes and allowed the Streamers to tally four times to take control of the match, but the Sabres showed some determination. Instead of folding the blue, orange and white held tough. Milton managed one more with five minutes remaining in the period but the Sabres responded with two goals in the final three minutes to pull back to within one. Yalowica netted the first Acton goal from Coverdale and Rich Kilpatrick and then with six seconds remaining in the frame Ken Kavanaugh lit the lamp from Spear and Jamie Morrison.

The third frame was a tough defensive struggle with the Sabres winning out. Denis Kirton fired the lone tally of the frame from Boldt and Spear giving them the tie.

The game was rarely for Junior 'B' hockey with Milton taking only 16 penalty minutes while Acton took eight.

The next night the Sabres were back playing their two frames of defensive hockey, but once again the second period cost them the contest.

The Sabres and Oakville Blades played a scoreless first then traded goals early in the second frame with Denis Kirton firing Acton's goal from Paul Cargill.

Then the roof caved in on Rob Ruffino in the Acton net. With 12 minutes remaining in the frame the Blades went to the attack and when the dust cleared eight minutes later they were ahead 5-1.

The Sabres rallied in the final frame getting goals from Boldt and Art Keating but an empty net marker with 34 seconds remaining put the game on ice for the Blades.



Parker fourth

Campbellville's Kevin Parker was fourth in the Canadian senior men's figure skating championships over the weekend in Montreal. It was Parker's best showing at the national level since placing second in junior competition several years ago.



Sabre Denis Kirton puts the hook on an Oakville player in Saturday night's match. Meanwhile number 7 Vince Paradiso tries to move another Blades' skater out of the way. Photo by Charlie Payne

Derbys take Sabres

It was rumored that the Streetsville Derbys would choose the Milton Steamers in the first round of the Central Ontario Junior "B" play-offs, but several injuries seemed to change the Derbys minds and they have opted for the Acton Sabres in the opening series.

In the Central league the teams pick play-off opposition with the top finisher getting their choice of opposition from the bottom four. The Derbys finished first and took the Sabres right off the bat.

The Oakville Blades had the second choice and have taken the Georgetown Gemini while the Burlington Cougars picked the Thornhill Thunderbirds. Barrie got the remaining team, the Milton Steamers. All series will be the best four out of seven.

The Sabres start at home Friday night at 8 p.m. with game two in Streetsville on Tuesday night. Game three is in Acton next Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. with the Derbys getting home ice in games four and five on February 18 and 22. Game six would be in Acton February 25 with the seventh and final game going in Streetsville on Sunday, February 27 at 1 p.m.

Log-jam in middle of industrial ladder

by Paul Nolan
The battle for the fourth and final playoff spot in industrial hockey continues as Acton Travel, Nielsen's Clothing, and Family Cleaners all won their games last week.

Nielsen's defeated Lakeview Centre 5-2 in action Sunday at the Community Centre.

Mike Morris netted two goals for Nielsen's with Steve Bennett, Jim Haggert, and Brad Buchanan earning singles. Assists were added by Gary Moore with two, and Randy Van Fleet, Ken Slaney, Don Richards, and Haggert with one each.

For Lakeview Centre, it was Jeff Town-

sley and Bruce Cooksley with goals, and Russ Van Fleet, Tim McIntyre, Henry Toebes and Cliff Britton counting single assists.

Sunday night also saw Family Cleaners upset first place A.T.5-3.

Gary Pickles fired two markers for Family Cleaners with Gary Lumbers, Chris Rowell, and Bruce McPhail netting single scores. Assists went to Chris Rowell with three, and Lorne Gordon with two. Bruce McPhail picked up a single aid.

Todd McIntyre potted another hat trick for A.T.W. Bruce McPherson helped out with three assists and Mike Nicholls added one.

Acton Travel kept third place with a 6-2 win over Heller's Sunday at the Community Centre. Bart Jacobs split the posts twice for the Travellers, with Rusty Miller, Jim Cooney, Bill Manes and Steve Brunelle counting lone goals. Glen McKenzie and Manes each had two assists with Jacobs, Cooney, Brunelle and Jamie Vickery registering one aid apiece.

For Heller's it was Joe Gardin and Dave Thompson each hitting for a goal, with Scott Withers, Dave Morris, Bill Severinski, and Chris Tennant picking up assists.

This Sunday Family Cleaners meets Nielsen's at 7 p.m.; Heller's play A.T.W. at 8:30 p.m.; and Lakeview tangles with Travel at 9:40 p.m.



Downs' Jim Huxley of the Majors bowling league was one frame away from a perfect game Thursday night. After sparing the first frame, Jim threw 11 strikes in a row.

Industrial Standings

	G	W	L	T	P	GF	GA
ATW	18	13	3	2	28	87	56
Lakeview Centre	18	10	6	2	22	91	70
Acton Travel	18	8	9	1	17	87	77
Nielsen's Clothing	18	6	8	4	18	85	98
Family Cleaners	18	7	10	1	15	84	93
Heller's	18	4	12	2	10	67	107

Midgets out

Ed's In 'N Out Midgets' season ended abruptly when player absences and suspensions left them with too few players to travel to Stratford for their final Hub League match Saturday night.

An Acton Minor Hockey Association official revealed the team is done for the season because Hub loop rules require a team to meet all its obligations and play all its games.

The Midgets, who lost earlier in OMHA play-offs, now can't compete in the Hub League play-offs.

Judo winners

Three members of the Acton Y Judo Club came away with honors from the Burlington Y Judo Club tournament recently.

David Ruse placed first in the tournament in one division while Len Longtin was tops in another class. Laurie Longtin placed second in her division.

Peewees headed for Quebec tourney

by Rick Smith
Tomorrow (February 10) Acton Lions Major Pee Wees travel to Quebec City for a possible 10 day stay. They are participating in the 24th annual International Pee Wee Tournament.

This is perhaps the biggest Pee Wee Tournament in the world. Select teams from the USA, Canada and Europe compete for honors in this famous contest. Just being selected to compete in this tournament is an accomplishment.

The team should fare well if they put their minds to it. They will represent the Town of Acton well and have some fun to boot. The Quebec Winter Carnival is also underway

during the visit.

The boys will be billeted with local residents during their stay which should prove to be an exciting cultural experience for them. All games are played in the Quebec Coliseum, home of the Quebec Nordiques. In total there are 118 scheduled games, the finals being played Sunday February 20. And we intend to be playing that day. Acton's first game is Friday February 11, at 3:45, Acton versus Amos Quebec. The second game is 8:45 Saturday night.

The boys are eager to go all the way and bring some hardware home to Acton.



The Acton Major Pee-Wees will be in Quebec City for the next week competing in the 24th Annual International Pee-Wee Tournament. Team members are: Scott Williams, David Hinz, Evan Hayter, Frank Katsilleris, John Van Dam, Rob Murray, Kostas Athanassoulis, Greg Leatherland,

Troy Foster, Carl Yaroschak, Lee Yaroschak, Dennis Swinamer, Michael Simmons, David Roden, Craig Cadenhead, coach Evan Hayter, manager Rick Smith, assistant coach Paul Cargill. Missing from photo were Vince Rogers and Pete Van Dam.