

Intermediate 'A'

From his new posting in Barrie, longtime Herald sports editor Tony Panacci sends along this preview of the upcoming season in the greatly changed Georgian Bay Intermediate A Hockey League.

Port Elgin Sunocos

Port Elgin who won the North division title last season when they defeated Collingwood in six games, should be a strong contender again this season, despite the fact that they have lost two early exhibition games by rather lopsided scores - Collingwood beat them 6-1 and Owen Sound won 6-2.

There is a nucleus of 10 players returning from last year and manager Terry D'Arcy feels that Port Elgin will be as strong as last season. D'Arcy says they are hoping to shore up their defence, a weak point last year.

Port Elgin will go with the same three forward lines as last season. Dean Simmons, Bob McKinnon and Glen Morningstar are one line; Jack Howell, Jim McKinnon and Murray Cobban form another and Bill Breton, Claude Foy and Doug Woods make up the third line. Elgin has signed goalie John Bach who is from the Durham Huskies.

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Collingwood Shipbuilders

Collingwood Shipbuilders had a cakewalk through the North division last year, finishing in first spot over Port Elgin. However, Collingwood lost to Port Elgin in the North division finals after sweeping by Orangeville in the semi-finals in four straight games.

But Collingwood should be among the top contenders in this year's race. All of their strong players are returning, such as Ron Patterson, Steve Sly, Ian McKegney and former NHLer, Wayne Carlton. With Sly, McKegney and Terry Agnew on defence, the opposition will have a hard time reaching the Collingwood goaltender.

"We're in the middle of training camp right now," said coach Darryl Sly, who played with the team last season but will limit his playing activity this season to a minimum. "We're still long way from where we want to be. It's hard to say what the league will be like at this point, but it should be very competitive and there should be more local interest with teams like Barrie and Orillia playing."

Collingwood has played one exhibition game so far, against Port Elgin, which Collingwood won 6-1, getting even for the elimination last year by Port Elgin in the Northern division finals.

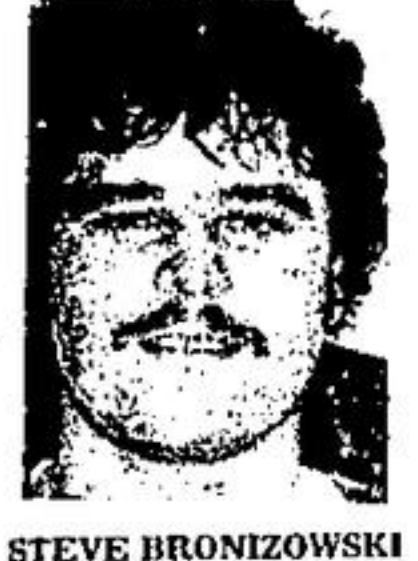
"I think we're in for a good year because of the nature of the teams involved," said Sly.



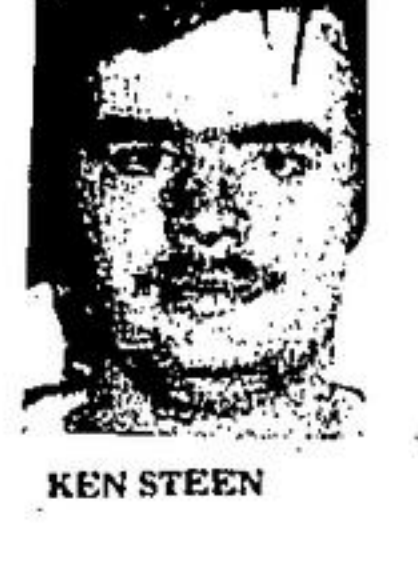
DON FENDLEY



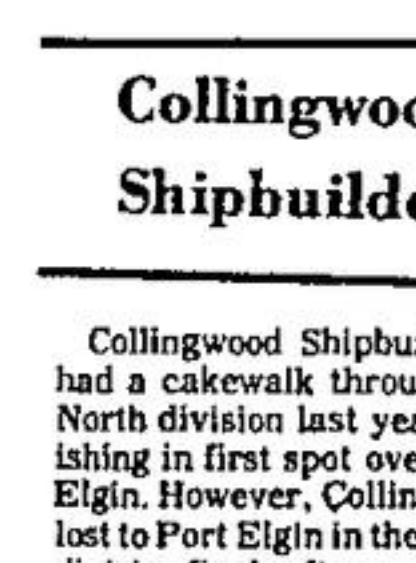
TERRY HARLOW



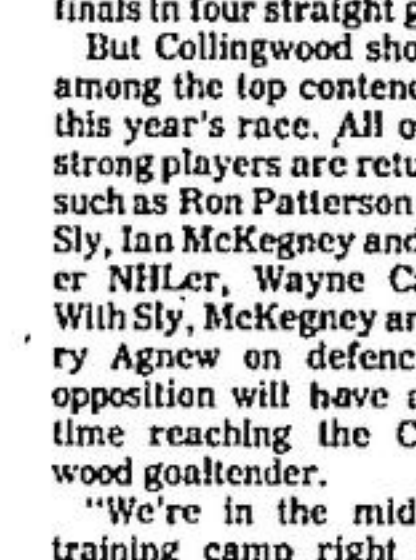
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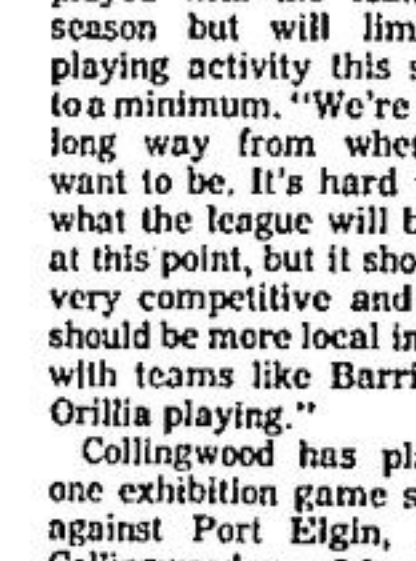
KEN STEEN



STEVE BLUNDY



PETER McDUFFE



GARY LANDRY

Ready to battle

It's been over five months since the Raiders had to win a hockey game. That was back in April of last season when the OHA Intermediate 'A' champs played Charlotteville in the Eastern Canadian Hardy Cup playdowns in Timmins. Friday night they must win against the Barrie Flyers if they hope to start their regular season schedule with a win.

For coach Steve Blundy, who played in that last must-win game up north, Friday's season and home opener will be a real test for all the Raiders. "I think they're (Barrie) pulling a sleeper," Blundy said. Barrie, a former Senior 'A' team before the league folded this year, will be a formidable opponent for the Raiders.

Both are past league winners in their own divisions, and both have gone on to play in Canadian championship playdowns, with Barrie going all the way once, winning the Allan Cup. Blundy's game plan Friday will be to open up and take the game to them, he says.

Blundy approaches the upcoming season philosophically. "Obviously I have to be optimistic. I hope by Christmas we'll be 50-50. I'm not going to be a good coach overnight. With new players

I'll have to find out what players are like and number from them. There's a number of unknowns that will affect the team. Obviously we're developing the nucleus of a good team. It's up to me what we do. I think we've got a contender."

The Raiders ended their exhibition schedule with another win here over Preston Jesters by a 3-1 in Preston. The Friday they had to win here at home. Raider marksmen were Tonelli, Chris Milne, Frank Gonzalez. Fifteen players are

The defending champions would seem to have improved on the lineup they carried last year. A couple of their players, Peter Sturgeon and Ron Twiss, are at National Hockey League camps. Sturgeon is with the Colorado Rockies and Twiss is with the New York Rangers, but even

if those two don't come back the Raiders should be strong.

They have former NHL netminder Peter McDuffe back. McDuffe was the class of the league's goaltending corps last term.

They also have Juri Kudrasovs, the league's leading scorer, back and leader Rav

Tonelli (older brother New York Islanders. Tonelli) is also back with the Raiders.

They have also added Ford, one of the scoring leaders in the national Hockey League. MacFayden, a Maple Leaf farmhand



Dave Steen and Gary Landry are ready for another season

Junior Raiders Club

Young Raider fans, under the age of 12, can now belong to an official club. McDonald's, the hamburger people, in co-operation with the Raiders are now giving out memberships in the Junior Raiders. The free memberships are available at McDonald's, without purchase.

Once a member of the Junior Raiders, the youngster will be admitted to all of the intermediate hockey team's games half price. A savings of 50 cents off the regular \$1 admission. That's

not a good idea. McDonald's is a hamburger place. Each time a fan goes to a hamburger place, they are out of pocket. Be at the wheel on it. Me. begin