

From humble beginnings ... to undiscovered ends

# Acton Sabres success story

When Coach Jules Russiani took over the Acton Sabres one year ago this month, the Junior B team was the worst in the league. Now the Sabres are a bona fide contender for second or third place in their division and have been called, "the hottest team in the league" by many.

Jeffrie says that Russiani has a game philosophy and the boys must follow a strict, disciplined game to play the kind of hockey the coach wants.

Jeffrie says Russiani could very easily advance his coaching career if he wanted to, but "we are lucky to have him," he says. Russiani has coached both Major Bantam and Major Midget teams to the All Ontario Championships.



Coach Jules Russiani

There seems to be a number of reasons for the turnaround in the way the Acton team is playing this year. One explanation is that some of the players on the team have really come of age this year for the Sabres. Another reason that is apparent is the cohesive bonds between the general manager, Ron Jeffrie, President Frank Allsup and coach Jules Russiani. But most people around the Sabre organization will say the main reason for the success of the Acton team can be attributed to the excellent coaching of Russiani.

Russiani thinks that some of the players on the team have really made the difference to the club this year. One good example is Glen Murray, presently, one of the top 10 scoring leaders in the league.

"Glen last year was undisciplined and difficult to coach. He used to take a lot of penalties," the coach says. "We had a talk at the end of the season and he has come through for me. You can now see what hockey he can play when he's out of the penalty box. His fighting used to drag the team down. Now by far he is a team leader and he gives good advice and helps the youngsters on the team."

Russiani is also pleased with Sabre Barry Trood, who is also prominent on the top ten scoring list for the league this year. "Barry didn't have a good attitude last year and we didn't communicate well last year. This year, he came out ready to play hockey and he's now fifth in scoring," Russiani says.

The play of Pat Fung and Steve Miller has not surprised the coach, because, they "always give 120 percent all the time."

The strength of the team, Russiani says is up the centre. With the acquisition of Dave McGilloway, the coach says the team now has excellent depth at that position. "We probably have the best centres

in the league with Pat Fung, Barry Trood and Dave McGilloway," Russiani says. He says that there is no number one line because any of the lines can do the job. As captain, Pat Fung has a good mental attitude, doesn't take penalties and is knowledgeable of the game, the coach says. "He never says die and he never gives up."

A few other players have caught the coaches' attention over the season. One is Mark Duval. "Mark really surprised me," the coach says, "but in light situations, look to Mark to come along for me."

Russiani is more than pleased with goalie Wayne McDougall. He says that McDougall, with his persistence and coachability, along with his capabilities, make

him a definite candidate for the rookie of the year award.

The coach says that discipline is a big part of the game and he stresses to the players that the team is a unit.

THE "SABRE DEN" The coach says he does not usually like to criticize a player in front of the other players. Instead, he has created in his home an office where he sometimes takes the players to have a talk. His hockey office is called, "the Sabre Den". A player knows when he is invited to the Sabre Den that it is not to complain his playing abilities - talks at the Den are serious matters where personality conflicts on the team or attitude problems are discussed between the players and the coach.

Russiani says he has only had to use the Sabre Den for



Acton Sabre centre Pat Fung gets ready to shift around a Burlington defender. Coach Jules Russiani says that the team's strength is down the middle with the best three centres in the league.

private discussions with the players about four times this season. "In the beginning of the season the new kids went through a feeling-out process. They were overly enthusiastic and there was some uncalled for resentment, but it was straightened out through the

Sabre Den," the coach says. The coach says the team is staying out of the penalty box this year and it has made a big difference to the team. "You can't keep players that you need in the penalty box," he says.

## Gems excite fans, beat Burlington

There seems to be no way in the world to predict what the Georgetown Gems will do next: after suffering a defeat to Brampton last Thursday to the tune of 7-0, the Gems then turned around and beat the top team in the league, last Sunday night, 2-1.

The Gems played a different brand of hockey against the Burlington Cougars than the Georgetown fans had seen them play for quite some time. The estimated 100 onlookers, if not on their feet for the game, at least were cheering and yelling at a very excited and aggressively played match.

Coach Tom Daley said the worst problem for his team is "getting up for every game." Gem goalie, Mark Hulme, played his best game of the season, according to the coach

and really kept the Gems in the game, especially in the first period. In the first period, Hulme faced 17 shots on net while his Burlington counterpart only had to stop 7.

Although Burlington was missing seven of their regular players and could only ice 11 forwards and defencemen, Daley said it made little difference because most of Burlington's good players were still playing.

First star of the game, goalie Mark Hulme, said he hates Burlington, so he was "up" for the game. "Everyone was giving 100 per cent tonight. The winners were doing their job and coming back to help check. It was a whole team effort," Hulme said. Hulme

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the HERALD

# Sports Week

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Raider defenseman Mike Koeler stretches for the puck in hockey action last Friday night against Collingwood. Georgetown's offensive power was contained by the disciplined play of the Shipbuilders as they outmaneuvered the Raiders in a 5-3 win.

## Defense playing at 40 per cent Kentner guarantee fails to spark Chrysler Raiders

It may be the first time ever that a hockey team has given out free tickets to fans leaving a hockey game, but the Chrysler Raiders have been known to pull more than a few surprises this season.

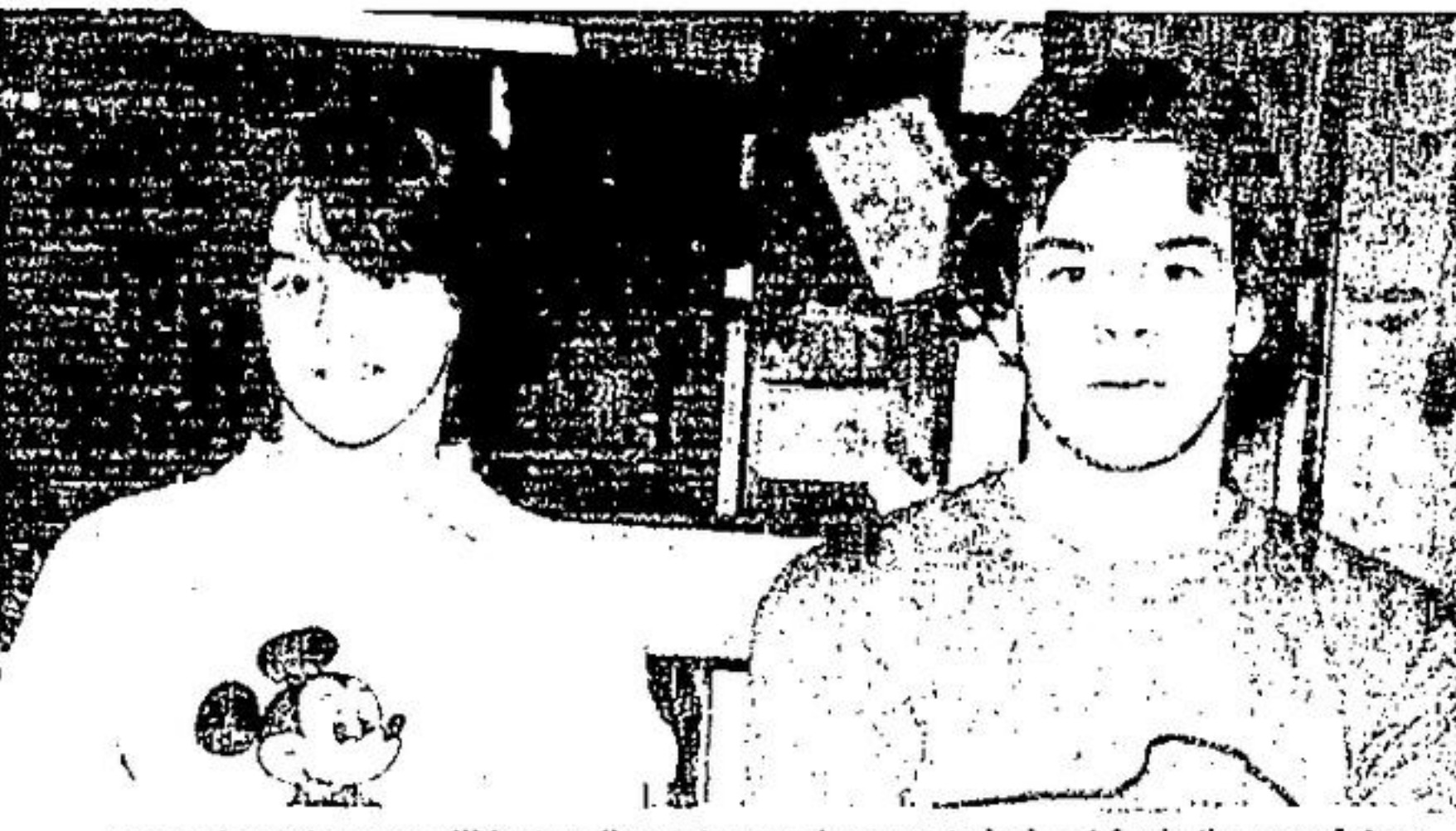
In keeping with the 'Kentner Guarantee' bargain, an estimated 750 plus crowd watched their Raiders fall to defeat against a hard skating Collingwood club, 5-3 and then collect tickets to next week's game against Barrie. General Manager Dave Kentner had earlier told fans that the team would guarantee a win against Collingwood, or every person at the game would receive a ticket to the Raiders' next home game.

Coach Gerry Inglis said he understood Kentner's reason for the guarantee: "Dave has to promote the Raiders, the team is not run on peanuts," Inglis said. "But I really thought we were going to win and so did he."

Inglis was disappointed in the performance of some of his players during the game. "McDuffe really wanted to win," he said, "he was really up for the game." Inglis said that some of the defense were playing at 40 per cent of their abilities while others were playing at 10 per cent of their abilities.

"Talk comes cheap," he said. "There comes a time when you have to put your equipment on and go out on the ice and prove what you can do."

The play of the Raider defense hurt the team, Inglis said because they were continually getting trapped. Sometimes they were forwards to help out, but there was no consistency in the forwards who covered up for the defense, he said. "Everyone wants to score goals," Inglis said.



Sue and Rob Masson will be two Georgetown swimmers to look out for in the near future. These two have their goals set on the 1982 Commonwealth games and the 1984 Olympics. Currently swimming with the Etobicoke swim club, their busy practice schedule forces them to organize their time wisely.

## Massons train hard to be swim champions

The Masson swimming duo of Rob, 18, and Susan, 14, have decided on a very demanding swimming commitment for at least the next four years. They each have goals to set for themselves and only hard practices and a determined attitude will help them reach those goals.

The brother and sister team, who live at 10 Fagan Dr. in Georgetown, come from a swimming background. Their mother was a competitive swimmer in Montreal with her college team. Rob and Sue's sister, Cathy, 21, influenced the younger Massons into thinking beyond Georgetown swimming when she joined a higher calibre Chingawous swim club.

Rob and Sue say they were influenced by their sister's decision to change swim teams. Rob started swimming competitively when the recreation department offered swimmers the opportunity to join the Georgetown swim team if they took swimming lessons.

Over the weekend, local swimmer Rob Masson won the high point trophy at the Etobicoke Swim Club's Hall of Fame meet against swimmers from across Canada. The trophy is awarded to the swimmer who finishes with more points from winning their races. Rob had four first place finishes: the 1500 m freestyle, the 400 m freestyle, the 200 m freestyle and the 400 m individual medley.

Rob says he doesn't mind the extra pressure of swimming with other talented swimmers on the team. "If you don't have the pressure, you get nowhere," he says. The Massons have to follow a rigid schedule in order to be winners. When Rob mentions that swimmers have to sacrifice a lot of sleep, Sue smiles as her eyes roll with acknowledgement.

The Massons have not missed many classes because of their swimming schedule, but Rob admits to coming into class not always as attentive as he could if he was not so tired. "We have understanding teachers," Rob says, "they are good that way to us."

Sue says that it is just a matter of organizing your time efficiently in combining school with swimming. Both swimmers admit that they love being tired and they dislike any time when they are not swimming. "On weekends when there isn't a meet, I just walk around bored," Rob says.

HARD PRACTICES Rob practices eleven to twelve times per week. In his heavy training period, Rob swam 20,000 metres per day last year over a 2 1/2 hour practice schedule. Now at basically the same number of

swam. This works out to about seven seconds for each race. Coach of the Etobicoke swim club, Trevor Tiffany, says Rob is a very dedicated and hard working swimmer. The coach says that Rob can go a long way in competition and for a late starter, such as Rob, he says, "sometimes late starters are the best."

Tiffany says of Rob's sister Sue: "If she is a late developer like her brother, she will be terrific," he says. The coach says she has excellent strokes and he knows she is improving. He says he has seen a big improvement in both the swimmers over the last eight-month period.

The two swimmers have set definite goals for themselves, and they will not be happy at anything less than a maximum effort to attain them. Rob is looking forward to participating in the 1982 Commonwealth games, but his main goal, he says, is to swim in the 1983 Olympic games in Los Angeles. He thinks this will be his best shot at winning, because he has been slow in developing his swimming. In between then, Rob, now in grade thirteen, is looking for a swimming scholarship in the United States to further his swimming ambitions.

## Sporting news in town

### McCauley 'stronger'

John McCauley, Georgetown's only NHL referee, may soon be able to return to the ice after spending the last two years supervising referees after he was sidelined with an eye injury.

During a NHL - Soviet challenge cup series, McCauley's eye was damaged by an irate fan in a New York City bar. Since that time, McCauley has been having troubles with double vision, but the problem has been cleared to 95 per cent of his normal vision.

McCauley said over the weekend that his eye is still getting stronger after his operation on Nov. 17. He said that he has passed his medical, but has not had clearance to start refereeing as yet. If the eye continues to improve as it has since the operation, McCauley could be back on the ice as soon as January. McCauley has already started to referee again in one Bantam game in Georgetown recently.

His most recent eye operation was unique for McCauley because he said most doctors would not have bothered to operate. But to return to the NHL as an on-ice referee, 100 per cent eye sight is required.

### Raiders lose \$

Raider General Manager, Dave Kentner says, "I opened my mouth and got it closed for me," in reference to his team's loss against Collingwood. The team not only lost the game, but a potential \$1,600 loss in ticket sales from the tickets that were handed out to fans that were guaranteed a win.

Kentner says the Collingwood home game on Friday drew more fans to the arena than any other time this season. However, he is still disappointed at the fan turnout over the season to watch the Raiders. Kentner says he has no regrets about offering his guarantee to the fans and he says he would still offer the same proposal under the same circumstances.

The loss in revenue from the tickets given away free is "disastrous, this time of year," Kentner says, but over the season, he is confident the team can absorb the cost with little difficulty.

The Raiders did not play against Owen Sound last Sunday due to inclement weather. The game will be scheduled for later in the season.

### Winterfest help

The Georgetown Jaycees are looking for people to participate in the 1981 Winterfest Feb. 7. Community groups and sports teams are needed to help run such events as the deep snow tug-of-war, the ladies' nail-driving contest and the doughnut-cutting contest. Rumors have started to circulate that The Herald is bracing themselves for a possible broomball challenge against the Georgetown Independent during the Winterfest Week.



It's lucky we can't see Finn Poulstrup's distraught face here as he hands out free tickets to fans leaving Gordon Alcott arena for the next Raider home game against Barrie. The 'Kentner Guarantee' backfired and left the Raider GM with mud on his face when a capacity crowd watched the Raiders lose their second consecutive game against Collingwood on Friday. Said Kentner: "I opened my mouth and got it shut for me." (Herald photo)

## Barber fifth in Calgary

Georgetown's world class dance skater, Kris Barber, has been active since October with two international skate competitions. Along with his dance partner, Kelly Johnson from Willowdale, Barber placed fifth in Calgary Oct. 30 at the Skate Canada competition.

The Skate Canada competition is an international event held every year in Canada. Winners of the twelve skating pairs participating were from the United States; a team from Britain finished second while the Canadian team of Marie McNeil and Robert McCall placed third. "We were fourth going into the final, but we ended up fifth," Barber said.

A month before the Skate Canada competition, Kris and Kelly were entered in the St. Ivel competition, an international skating competition in England. The duo finished a respectable ninth at the event. Considering the quality of talent at each of these competitions, the skating pair did exceptionally well. "The two competitors are probably the two top individual competitors in the world," Barber said.

Barber is satisfied with their ninth place finish at the St. Ivel competition. He and Kelly were the only Canadians entered in the invitational event. Barber said that he and his partner will continue training until 1984 so they may skate at the 1984 Winter Olympic in Yugoslavia. A more immediate goal for the two is to be in the top 10 dance skating pairs in the world.

### Hard to lift with hand injury

Barber said he is presently having some problems with his hand when he stretched a tendon a few weeks ago. He is wearing a removable cast at this time, but he hopes his hand will be completely healed by the time he has to skate for the Canadian divisional championships starting Jan. 8. It is particularly difficult for one type of lift with the way his hand is now, but Kris has only had exhibition competitions lately so he was able to miss them.

Barber is currently enrolled part-time at Seneca college in Toronto where he takes a figure skating course that is geared towards instructing and coaching Kelly Johnson is also taking the course.

### Gemini party

The Georgetown Gems will be holding their annual Christmas party on Tues. Dec. 23 at the Gordon Alcott Arena. The party, which starts at 8:00 p.m., costs \$15. The price of your ticket includes free liquor and a buffet. Everyone is welcome and tickets can be obtained from any of the Gemini players. The Gems will be playing their benefit game on Dec. 21 - all proceeds will be going towards charities.

## Inside Sportsweek

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Kris Barber and Kelly Johnson show perfect world class dance skating form. Barber and Johnson are preparing for their next competition Jan. 8 when the Canadian divisionals are held. They will be skating against dance pairs from eastern Canada.



## Pee wee selects win

Georgetown PeeWee Selects overpowered their Streetsville opponents in a home game to the tune of 10-3 in hockey action last week.

The game was fast moving, with Georgetown controlling the play through the last two periods. Good passing and receiving, forward rushes and exceptional teamwork and determination highlighted the game.

Rod Froehler and Bob Klavkins each chalked up hat tricks, with Chris Hodgins and Brad Klavkins earning 2 goals each, and Heath Lockhurst, a single. Assistants were shared by Ralph Buege, Jim Carpenter, Rob Cooper, Chris Hodgins, Brad Klavkins (2), Ken McDermott and Lance Reid.