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**Talks break down**

# Junior clubs decide not to try merger

By **DAVE ROWNEY**  
Herald Sports Editor

Merger talks broke down last week between the Acton Sabres and Georgetown Gemini Junior B hockey executives, leaving each team to fend for themselves as separate entities in the upcoming 1982-83 season.

The decision was reached last Thursday night after the Georgetown Gemini executive met and decided to wait until the following season to continue pursuing amalgamation with Acton.

Ironically, Georgetown had initially approached the Sabres on the matter. Moreover, the Acton executive had met two days before the Gemini meeting and had agreed to go ahead with a merger, said coach Jules Russiani.

Gemini president Bob "Zeke" McCandless summed up the six merger meetings (of three hours in duration) by saying, "There were too many things too far apart. The OHA was behind this merger...but there are a lot of little things I'd rather not talk about."

McCandless said the talks ended with no animosity between the two groups, stating his respect for Acton's GM Ron Jeffrey: "A smart hockey man who was 100 per cent sure it (amalgamation) would work."

**SPLIT EXECUTIVE**

McCandless expressed his own executive's fears about what they considered major problems with a merger. He said that some members wanted two separate, distinct executives to operate a Halton Hills combined team, but his own feeling was that you "have to have total amalgamation."

The concept for a split executive actually came from discussions with OHA president Brent Ladds, Jeffrey said. "He (Ladds) was concerned we'd lose executive members. Personally I thought a split executive was the answer and not a stumbling block," the Acton GM said.

The Gemini were also concerned with losing their franchise after one year of amalgamation. The OHA could decide not to renew Georgetown's franchise if they wanted to return to the old concept, McCandless said.

However, Ron Jeffrey said he had Brent Ladd's personal assurance the OHA would protect the interests of both Acton and Georgetown in the following year, although he hadn't pursued any written notice to that effect.

Another contentious issue for some of the Gemini concerned their team's debt from the early years which they felt they wanted to pay off before joining a Halton Hills franchise.

McCandless said.

**THE DEBT**

A split executive would have put the Gemini in a position to pay their own debt without involving the Halton Hills franchise directly, Ron Jeffrey said.

The Acton Sabres are on a better financial footing than the Georgetown Gemini. Although the Gemini debt was discussed in preliminary meetings, the debt was never seen as a reason for not amalgamating, Acton coach Russiani said. The debt was never seen as a blocking area, but it was thought that Georgetown could look after it themselves, he said.

The main issues at hand in the talks, according to Jeffrey were 1) the ability to protect the continuity of hockey at the Junior B level 2) the establishment of responsibility between the two clubs 3) community representation.

**THE PRIDE**

Jeffrey cited "community pride" the idea that possibly the communities were not "ready to go" with the amalgamation concept as reasons for no merger. While Jeffrey said he was "somewhat disappointed" at the result of the talks, Acton coach Jules Russiani said he was "very disappointed."

"Regardless of who coaches a Halton Hills team, it would have been something Georgetown and Acton would have been proud of," Russiani said.

Russiani, who is considering retirement from coaching said he felt a Halton Hills team would have been an All-Ontario squad even with 12-15 locals in the lineup.

The Acton coach is disappointed that Georgetown didn't listen to the Sabre proposals from their Tuesday meeting after Acton agreed to amalgamation.

"They (Georgetown) should have listened to our side of the story." The only stumbling block yet to be overcome was the affiliation with the Georgetown and Acton minor hockey groups to support the team with players, Russiani said.

Notes: Former Gemini Mike James (1980-81) was drafted by Chicago after spending a season with the Ottawa Juniors. Dixie have applied for the Metro Junior B league and Brampton haven't send their renewal application in as of last week.

Georgetown Gemini Bob Tost has "pretty well made up his mind not to come back this year as GM," says president Zeke McCandless. Tost would still sit as an executive member.

# START ROAD RACE FINISH



Fourth annual Mayor's Race -Page B3

SANDRA MARCINIUK

(Photos by Rob Irvine and Harald Bransch)

JOHN PAYTON, MAYOR POMEROY

# Smoke Shop 'vaporizes' Pizza

By **TIM TOLTON**  
Herald Special

Amid cries of "Break up Norval!", the Arcade posted their second win in three tries this year, zapping North Halton Sports 36-15 on the football links this week.

On other fronts Smoke Shop vaporized Royal Pizza 46-15, M and M Sports pinched Mountainview Plaza 15-12 and the Greeks mowed down Roberts 42-23.

A year ago at this time North Halton in another

incarnation, that of the Glen, were battling for first place and Norval was on its way to new records for futility.

Twelve months later the roles are reversed and Norval looks well on their way to becoming a solid team, while North Halton stumbles along winless in three starts and playing a brand of "Bummer Ball" that Mr. Campbell didn't envision.

**HIGH HALF**

A big first half this week powered Norval to

the win as they racked up five TDs in the first 30 minutes.

Brian Pemberton counted two, Bryan Myers and Wayne Johns-

ton one each. Randy Doucette alertly picked off a North Halton pitch out and trotted 15 yards to add another TD.

North Halton managed

only a Mike Buck score in the first quarter and one by Ron Wodhams in the fourth. Ray Peacock added a two point conversion and Andy Tyrrell a single.

Bruce Cunningham, Steve Doucette and Doug Pemberton all picked up two points for Norval.

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# 'Good until fifth inning'

Eagles overpowered in later innings

The Georgetown Junior B Eagles rep hardball team had their troubles against Welland and Hamilton in Halton County Baseball action last week.

In Hamilton the Juniors last 9-1 in what coach Kevin Burke described as a "good ball game up to the fifth inning."

With just nine players making the trip to Hamilton because of exam commitments, the Eagles were overpowered in the later innings.

"We've been in every game up to the sixth inning," coach Burke

Gerry Milne, Mario Galvao and Paul Blackmore impressed the coach with their play last week.

Against Hamilton, pitcher Andrew Braun took the loss and finished the game with six earned runs and five unearned

runs, giving up 12 hits and striking out one batter.

Kevin Hughes scored Mike Friskney for the

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# Two setbacks for Glen men

The Glen Williams Merchants of the Inter-county fastball league were handed double jolts last week when they were defeated in regular season and tournament play.

The Merchants extended their winning streak to seven by trouncing Belwood 6-1 at home last Tuesday, but were edged out in Thursday's contest by Orangeville 5-4.

During the weekend the Merchants lost to the York Merchants from Toronto 4-0 who were the Glen Williams fastball tournament champions from last year.

The powerful Merchant squad easily handled Milton's Milton Realty in the final 6-0.

York Merchants collected an impressive tournament record, defeating Orangeville 7-0, Belwood 3-1 in previous games.

On Saturday afternoon the Glen Oldtimers were downed by Belwood 5-2. The Glen Midgets were called upon to fill some absentee teams and they distinguished themselves by blanking Cambridge 3-0.

The Acton Roadrunners gave it their best against Orangeville in the tournament, but they were knocked out of further play when beat 8-1.

In the semi-final Milton Realty took Orangeville 7-2 while York Merchants were victorious over Belwood 3-1.

The best pitcher for the tournament was J. Fenton from Milton Realty while the most valuable player award went to R. Yurichuck of the York Merchants, presented by Mr. Tom Haines.

The Glen tournament organizers wish to thank the following merchants for their support: Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Casselman's Fields, Norval Junction, Beaver Lumber.



John Holby releases; the Glen Oldtimers added their flare to the Glen Williams fastball tournament but they were eliminated in the final rounds by Belwood 5-2.

(Herald photo by Harald Bransch)



PAUL BLACKMORE

...hitting improves

said. "I was very pleased with the infield and the team is starting to hit."

The coach will be trying to work more on the hitting aspect of the game. He is also considering rotating Mike Cottrill and Chris Fabbri with Andrew Braun as a relief pitcher.

# Jon makes U.S. riders take notice

"I made it!" Cornwell's voice on the long distance line clearly transmitted an ear-to-ear grin. "I finished ninth! - It feels great!"

Reporting from the Harrington, Delaware round of the American National Championship Series Georgetown's dirt-tracker sounded on top of the world. This is only the second time he has made it into the final round of a "National" race. His first attempt, last year, ended in a crash. This year he has vindicated all the years of expense and effort by racing with 15 of the best in the business.

"The track was great this year - it rained a bit in the middle of practice - which held things up for about an hour and a half and gave me some time to work on my brake. However, I couldn't get it to work right and in my heat I got a good start, led for a couple of laps but then Terry Poovey (third in the points standings) got by me.

"I chased him for the rest of the race trying to keep in front of Tim Mertens and managed to finish second. That was good enough to put me on the front row of the final. In the final I didn't get such a great start and for about half the race I was in fifth and managing to hold off Gary Scott (former AMA national champion). Finally Scott had to bump me to get by and some of the others passed me too which put me in ninth."

Cornwell is the first Canadian in several years to make any impact on the American National Championship circuit. Moreover, in spite of the product help he has been receiving from Bel-Ray Racing lubricants and financial help from the Harley Davidson Importer, Fred Deeley, he is virtually a privateer - racing at a level that practically demands substantial support from sponsors, factory or dealers. "Last weekend in Louisville, Ky. I didn't even make the cut in the qualifying time trials - first time in two seasons I'd failed. That really put me down. Just out of curiosity I started asking riders whether they were working as well as racing. I could find only two besides me who were holding jobs and they didn't qualify either.

"Well, I was so disgusted with myself when I got home that I spent all last week thinking about this race, psyching myself up for it - getting the right mental attitude - I guess it paid off."

Cornwell, who works as an apprentice mechanic at Kelly's motorcycles in Brampton to help support his racing, feels the Harrington race is another plateau in his career.

"I always knew I could race with those guys. Now I've proved it. The next step is simple - just keep getting smarter and faster!"