Midland the surprise of the year

Collingwood Shipbuilders

The Collingwood Shipbuilders are still lacking in numbers but team manager Fern St. Onge feels the basic make-up of

the team is good. In camp during the training session the team has three goaltenders, headed by veteran Brad Steele and complimented by Harry Van Wilson who played three years with the Dutch National squad and Jim Popovitch, who

comes from Owen Sound. The defence includes Frank Dance, ex of the Midland Juniors, Don Hutchison, from Owen Sound, Blair Hough, two other veterans and new-

comer Dennis Bond from Espinola Junior B. John Mathews, George Wilson, Tim Abbot, Doug Kerr, and veteran Les Burgess make up the wing compliment, as does Doug Palmer, who comes

ed Forces. The strength of the Collingwood club remains at centre ice with Tom and Tim Colley, and Myles McCauley back from last year's second

from the Canadián Arm-

place club. Looking at the scoring power coach Darryl Sly notes that eight of the players in camp scored 154 of the 236 goals scored by the club last year.

Team management feels the club needs to get off to a fast start, and hope to pick up some players by Christmas.

Port Elgin Sunecos

Port Elgin is in very much a good news-bad

Minor hockey honor award

Toronto, October 2 -Minor Hockey's top award, the O.M.H.A. Honour Award, for outstanding service to minor hockey, was this afternoon presented to Cliff Hocking, Sarnia, Ontario.

presentation of the award to Mr. Hocking was made at the luncheon following the 49th Annual Meeting of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. Mr. Hocking, long asso-

The announcement and

ciated with minor hockey in Sarnia becomes the thirty-fifth winner of the award. Previous winners were:

John Ovens, Kitchener, J.S. Elliott, St. Catharines, Bert Sullivan, Delhi, Merv Duke, Elmira, William Garner, Port Dover. Errol Russell, Sarnia, I.O. "Nip" Whetstone, Goderich, Dunc Pollock, Preston, D. Kirk, Havelock, Tom Hyde, Brantford, Jack Bell, Stamford, Angus Bradley, Peterborough,



The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders challenged Collingwood last Friday and won handly \$-6, Prospects for a competitive season could be

bright, despite the absence of many veterans who led them to their Hardy Cup win last April 18.

(Herald photo)

goals against average

down they will have to

follow Baird's well defin-

ed system, and rely on a

defensive corps that

includes incumbents

Larry Trottier and Rick

situation this news season.

The third place club from last year will again have 14 year veteran left winger Jim McKinnon back to lead the offence. His 50 points on 21 goals tled him with Dean Neumann, who won't be back. Work commitments will prevent his return.

Back on the bright side, centre Steve Pette, 49 points in \$1-82 will again lead the first line, with McKinnon and Peter Mc-Dermid as his probable line mates.

There is no coach for this club as yet, and manager Kerry D'Arcy has no idea when one will be named. Murray Cobean, who retired this year, will act as assistant coach and take the club until a suitable bench boss can be wrung out of the bushes somewhere.

The Sunocos are not all a big problem however, and other teams will be sorry to hear that Dave Rosner (4.70) is back in nets for the club. The talented puck stopper played 30 games for Port Elgin in 81-82, and his relatively high goals against average belied his fine play, much of the time with nagging injuries. He is still one of the top three keepers in the league, with Midland's Craig Watson and Barrie's Clyde Harris.

Defensively, there are problems at the blueline, which will probably mean Doug Mitchell, a winger

last year, will move back to defence. He spent most of his career there.

A number of question marks in 82-83.

Midland Athletics

Midland Athletics, pushovers in their first year, average in year two, are a team to be reckoned with this season if early indications mean anything.

For the first time ever, the club actually skated away from someone during their first exhibition game in Collingwood, scoring three third period goals to win 5-2.

The big story this year is the possible reuniting of the "Triple Crown Line", which played two years ago for the Junior C Penetang Kings. The three, wingers Doug Gillespie, and Carl Cowan, and centre Wayne Dixon were in on all five A's goals, plus six assists. Cowan is the question mark as with one year of junior eligibility left, a deal will have to be worked out with the Kings for his services.

Also on the big plus side is the rebuilding of the defence. Goultender Craig Watson proved himself the most spectacular keeper in the league last year, but suffered from a slow defence. This year, former juniors Terry King and Terry Cameron, the return of Bruce Guthrie from the

International League,

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and a alimmed down Kagh Robertson will make a big difference.

Leading scorer Ken Knapton is back and looking hungry, as is Terry Spiker, spiritual leader, and second leading scorer. On the down side. former NHLer Wayne King will miss the first month of the season with an ankle injury, and when he returns will go back to his regular right wing

The A's are shooting for second in 82-83.

Barrie Flyers

When coach Bob Baird opened the door to Dunlop St. Arena in early September to begin his first full season at the helm of

the Barrie Flyers a fresh breeze of optimism circulated around the arena rafters.

With a fresh start and a new crop of players, the new Flyers' bench boss may just be the man to turn the club's fortunes around.

Of course the Flyers have nowhere to go but up after a dismal year last season. Somehow they managed to miss the playoffs in a league in which six of seven teams qualified for post season play.

A rebuilding program starts between the pipes. The Flyers have acquired netminders Clyde Harris and Randy Jackson from the defunct Orillia Terriers to battle Barrie's Mike Laycock for the job. If Barrie is to keep its

Saunders, former Orillia player Cam Henderson and a pair of area prospects. . Up front the Flyers have not looked better

since the glory years. One time league leading scorer Vitas Urbas. former Richmond Hill Tier Two player Derek Tanaka, and Rusty Hastings, 1981-82 Junior B

man centre ice positions. They'll be flanked by veterans Steve McAleese, Frank Sheffield, Wayne Dusome and a number of steady newcomers.

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Colts' scoring leader, will

Durbam Huskies

The Huskies are a first year entry in the Intermediate A following a number of seasons at the Senior A level.

Last year the club finished third in that loop but dropped down to Intermediate to cut travel costs.

Player-coach Jim Roberts, who had experience in the St. Louis Blues organization, is back this year. He led the Senior circuit in scoring in 1961-82, including a record 61 assists as a right winger.

Back with him to bolster a strong offensive output will be the Aiken brothers, Mark and Lloyd, both of whom are forwards, and right winger Paul Love, who is an excellent checker.

If there is a problem with the team it will come on defence, where the only returnee is Dean Netzke. The rest will have to be built from the bottom up for the coming

Goaltender Paul McLaren, last year's backup, is in camp, as are two or three other goaltending hopefuls.

If there is one area where this team will probably lead the league it will be in fan support. Last season the club drew an average of between 500 to 800 fans, and stuffed the 2500 seat building for the playoffs.

While it will be hard to tell how the club will carry over from the senior ranks, this is one side that will be anything but a pushover.

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