

Don't miss
our local Midget
hockey tournament

the HERALD Sportsweek

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Sports
beat

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Sports Editor

Mixed blessings in 1982

CBC's The Journal labelled 1982 as 'The Year of Struggle'. On the sports beat in Halton Hills we might be able to come up with our own catchphrase to define the year, but can we?

Certainly (lately, anyway) we have seen attendance wane at the hockey arena for both the Raiders and Gemini and thus we might call it the Year of Struggle for them at the ticket office. Both continue to play their own unique brand of aggressive hockey, but attendance has been down while operating costs continue to rise.

A most promising sight from our sportsdesk has been the one focused on sports groups and their administrations. The Halton Hills Jills cut their apron strings in 1982, forming an independent program for gymnasts that previously had relied upon help from the Recreation Department.

Similarly, the Halton Hills Blue Fins decided to join the more competitive Canadian Amateur Swimming Association in 1982 and thus formed their own parent-run organization. In baseball, the Georgetown Baseball Association took on new responsibilities with a new sense of enthusiasm and organization, culminating in the addition of the junior ballclub, the Eagles.

A strong minor baseball executive guided along their Junior rep club in Georgetown when many towns like Brampton were folding their teams. In negotiations with the Recreation Department, new lights have been installed to ensure a future for rep hardball in Halton Hills at the Junior level.

MERGER MIRACLE

In hockey the biggest and most magnanimous project was undertaken when 11th hour talks between the rep and house league hockey organizations led to a minor hockey merger. It was a minor hockey miracle. Since the 1980's the two diverse leagues had solved similar problems in individual ways and means, often duplicating tasks.

The amalgamation, finalized in September, called for a massive undertaking, but brought together the best and brightest of Georgetown's hockey minds. The concept has worked with few problems.

The Georgetown Junior B Gems and their Acton Sabre counterparts pondered for a while to join forces as an amalgamated team in the off-season. However, in the later stages the two teams could not even agree to who had initiated the talks.

Without a doubt, the Hardy Cup championship played on home ice in April was the biggest thrill of the year. It was playoff hockey at its best and local fans had the opportunity to see seasoned pros demonstrate their best when the chips were down.

The Glen Williams Merchants tricked us in the Intercounty fastball finals by Alton's win over them in a number of tight games. The Merchants were the defending champions.

LOST LEGION

It was sad to see the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 girls fastball team leave the league due to a lack of players - especially since the excitement of the Ontario finals being played in their home field had certainly increased fan interest in their team.

But the DRG Stationery Georgettes were strengthened by some Royalette players and the Georgettes made it to the Intercounty finals which was a first for them. The Red Devils emerged at the girls midget level to take over the Tuesday night game time at the Fairgrounds which helped fill the Royalette gap.

On the bowling circuit Georgetown produced a large number of national winners. Don Bradley and Elaine Zillo won the provincial championships of the High-Low contest and won a trip to Florida and Yellowknife for the national finals.

The bantam boys won the 22nd World Bantam championships against 160 teams while a team of 10 year old girls won the five pin finals to claim title to the Canadian championships in Saskatoon.

A new sport that has been catching on produced a local brother team of winners in BMX racing. Bicycle Moto Cross rider Tim Hoogars placed seventh in the World Cup BMX meet in Knoxville, Tennessee.

INDIVIDUALS

Individually, there were bikers Mike Doucette and Jon Cornwell who consistently did well on the dirt track circuit, without the funds to perform to their potential, though, Cornwell announced he would have to seek out more U.S. races and forfeit the Canadian championships just to keep his motorcycle on the track.

If there had been an athlete of the year award in Halton Hills, gymnast Sara Aggiss, skater Kris Barber and runner Doug Smith would be candidates. My sentimental favorite for such an award would go hands down to retired skater Kris Barber.

Barber has received little publicity (as skaters are well aware) from the press and was twice the runner-up in previous Athlete of the Year award nights, losing to Ian Clark one year and swimmer Mark Bray the next.

Two other notables that received acclaim for their abilities were Rob Mason of the Commonwealth swim team who went to Australia and Brian Hayward, formerly of Cornell University who was selected All-American and is currently vying for a spot as a goaltender with the Winnipeg Jets.

Next game Jan. 14

Players from the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders are enjoying a rare break in the Intermediate A hockey schedule.

With no games since their 7-0 win over the Durham Huskies Sunday, Dec. 19, the Raiders will not play again until Friday, Jan. 14 when they host Port Elgin.

The next night the Georgetown club will host the Intermediate A all-stars to the second annual All-Star game.

No games are scheduled for the Raiders this coming weekend. Filling the time slot at Alcott arena will be teams from the Midget tournament.

A few 'surprises' in playoffs?

Gems split bouts with 'Sabres'

The Buffalo Junior B Sabres were met by a fired-up Georgetown squad Tuesday and had all they could handle in defeating our local Junior B's in a 3-1 matchup.

Sunday the Georgetown Gems took on another Sabre team, the Acton Swordsman, and jousted with them for a 4-3 victory.

The win puts Georgetown five points ahead of Acton in the Central League standings for second-last position.

Enthusiasm and desire were a part of the Georgetown attack against their U.S. counterparts, but the Gems lacked the same momentum against the Acton Sabres.

Gemini coach Jules Russiani, although he thought Georgetown had the territorial edge, said the team didn't play much better than Acton. The Gems were missing Mike Doucette with an injury and Herb Kewley and Kevin Frank from suspensions.

Chris Peavoy played hurt and earned praise from the coach along with Lance Doucette and Bob Dean. "Dean is really starting to help us," Russiani said.

Sabre coach Bill Richmond said he wasn't disappointed with his team's effort. He thinks Georgetown and Acton are both

tightening up their line-ups and will surprise a few teams in the playoffs.

Richmond is hoping his goaltending will provide a more concentrated effort in the playoffs, noting that two 'soft' goals, cost the team dearly.

Meanwhile, the Sabres gained a defenceman by trading forward Mike Monahan to Streetsville in return for Chris Schweitzer. Ken Franklin is back from his broken arm and he skated well, Richmond said.

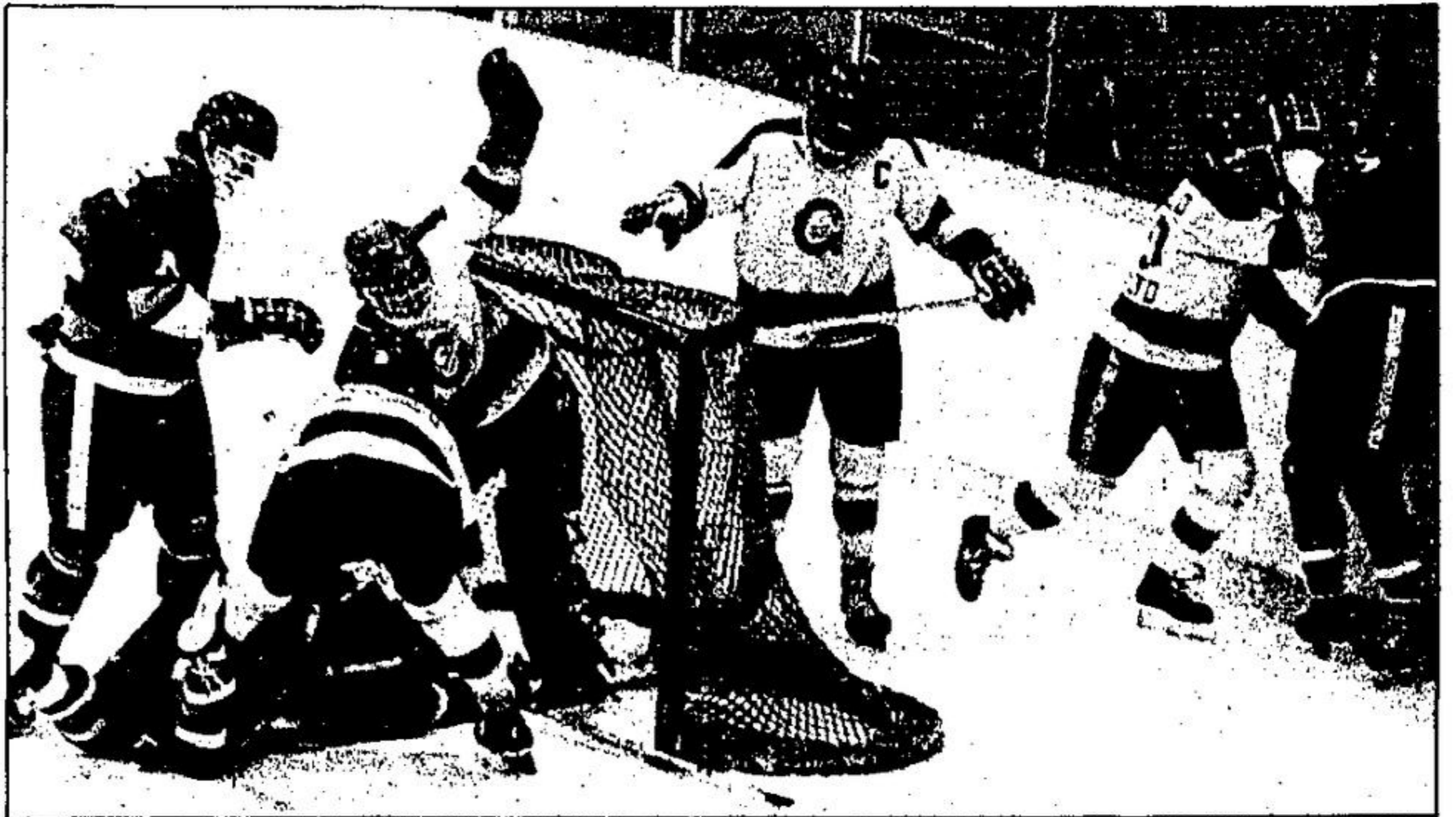
The Gemini contest was the best defensive effort for Acton, the Sabre coach said, but he's looking for better things from his power play.

The penalty-free game was highlighted by some hard skating by both teams, culminated in a scoreless tie for the first period.

Early in the second period Riv Kennedy found his scoring touch by picking up a rebound on a backhand shot aimed earlier by Paul White on goaltender Rob Ruffino.

At the 17:16 mark the Sabres came storming back on a fast break to eventually score on a rebound to tie the game at 1-1.

Chris Peavoy teamed up with his power play unit for a goal off a rebound which hit the



The Georgetown Junior B Gems played both the Buffalo Sabres and the Acton Sabres in the past week. Against the top ranked Buffalo team, the Gems performed well but they lost 2-1. In a more lacklustre

effort Sunday in Georgetown, the Gems squeaked by the Acton Swordsman 4-3. Acton coach Bill Richmond said both clubs are tightening their play and could surprise other teams in the playoffs.

post on Lance Doucette's shot.

RUSH

The Sabres came back with six minutes left in the second period when Roy Spear rushed down the ice on a 2 on 1 break

and shot a high wrist shot past goaltender Mike Steer.

A rush up the ice and subsequent shot by Gemini's captain Brad McMeekin fooled Ruffino with its bounce and

Georgetown took a 3-2 lead.

Greg Robertson put Georgetown up another goal on a shot from close in assisted by Mark Hamilton. Pressure by the

Swordsmen earned them a goal when Randy Smith shot for a 4-3 margin,

assisted by Randy Coverdale and Mike Yaconica. Coach, Russiani was happy about his team's effort on the power play

which he has been working on with the Gems.

Affiliate player George Osborne saw duty for Georgetown while Mark Symes and Clint Watt were used on the Acton side.

Good skating, goaltending spurs Sunny Acres club

Midget tourney boasts 16 teams



WAYNE MORROW



TOM FORBES



JOHN HODGSON



SCOTT FARLEY



MIKE MCNIVEN



CHRIS MILNE (COACH)



DON TAGGART (MANAGER)



HAL HULME (CO-COACH)



DAN CURTIS



PETE MCCRACKEN



BRENT SMITH



STEPHEN MARCOLINI



DEREK ROY



SCOTT TAGGART



KENT FALBY



JOHN CATLING



MARK WEBSTER



JAY ANDERSON

Midget tournament action in Georgetown started last night (Tuesday) with Whilly and Oakville starting off the parade of 16 teams.

Georgetown's local entry, the Sunny Acres Farms Midgets are scheduled tonight (Wednesday) for a game against the Etobicoke reps at 7:45.

The Sunny Acres team boasts a 15-6-2 win-loss-tie record over the season. Coach Milne says the team has good goaltending and they skate well. He is confident that if Georgetown plays the way they can then look for Sunny Acres to reach the finals.

The Sunny Acres Major Midget team prepared for the Midget tournament with two excellent games over the holiday break.

The Sunny Acres squad met a tough AAA major

midget team from Guelph Dec. 28 and skated to a well earned 3-3 tie.

Both Mike McNiven and Peter McCracken were outstanding in the Georgetown nets. Kent Falby scored two goals and played a fine game.

Rick Ward notched the tying goal with 26 seconds left in the game.

The team then played Ching on Sunday Jan. 2 at Alcott and played to an impressive 4-0 win.

Mike McNiven gained his fifth shutout of the year with Smith, Roy Hodgson and Falby scoring for the Georgetown side.

The Sunny Acres crew played solid, disciplined hockey and maintained their composure throughout the game. It was an all around fine effort by the Major Midget team.

Solid play marks Campers' Yuletide

By JOHN FELCE
Herald Special

The North Halton Sports Camp Minor Pee Wees took the tournament trail to St. Catharines over the Christmas vacation.

As the only AA squad in the tourney, Georgetown gave a good account of themselves in rolling up a 1-1-1 record.

Each of their three games featured fast action, sharp passing, and good solid checking. The Sports Campers got great goaltending from

netminders Curtis Green and Sean Cotton.

In game one, Georgetown squared off against the Toronto Young Nats who had to come from behind to salvage a 4-4 tie.

Toronto tallied in the opening period but at 6:32 of the second Doug McDermott, from Doug Kent, tied it on a powerplay.

Toronto popped in a pair before the beginning of the third period.

Georgetown came on strong with three markers - one from Brent Presswood and a pair from Adam Bennett - to

take the lead. The red and white netted the equalizer at 3:21.

The black, red, and white pressed on the powerplay for the last ninety-five seconds but had to settle for one point.

The Buffalo Bisons provided good competition in game two but went down 4-1.

Brent Presswood was set up by Andrew Hoddinott and Steven Sutherland for the only scoring play in the first ten minutes.

Alan Giray, again from Steven Sutherland,

connected on a shorthanded effort in the dying seconds of the middle frame.

Buffalo came back with their one and only goal of the contest to close the gap.

But Adam Bennett, unassisted, and Steven Sutherland, from Brent Presswood and Andrew Hoddinott, put the game out of reach.

Game three was a match up between the only two undefeated teams - St. Catharines and Georgetown.

St. Catharines drew first blood at 9:50 of the

second period on a power-play. Five minutes later Chris Stoddart evened things up with a blazing slap shot - Adam Bennett assisting.

Had the game ended this way, North Halton would have earned a "wild card" berth in the semi-finals.

This was not to be as the green and white got the game winner at 3:15 of the final frame.

Coaches Neil Cotton and Dale Law were very pleased with their team's efforts against their AAA competitors.