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**PLAYING THE FIELD**

**GERRY TIMBERS**  
Herald Sports Editor

**Merry Christmas and THANKS**

There's a limit to how many Christmas cards a Sports Editor can send out in a single festive season. Right?

Still, I don't want to be known about Halton Hills as some kind of Christmas grinch. Heaven knows I get called enough other names when it isn't the season to be jolly.

There are a number of people around town who I want to wish a great big Merry Christmas, and a happy, successful New Year. These are the folks who contribute to my Sports section on a regular basis, providing me with tips, inside information and write-ins.

These folks may deserve a small percentage of my annual salary. They had best be content to receive my good wishes for the holiday season.

There are, in my humble opinion, a large number of pleasant, responsible people in the local sports community. In addition to helping me cover the Halton Hills sports scene in a more complete and thorough fashion, these folks often contribute a wave, smile or complimentary remark that makes my day.

**MANY THANKS**

I want to use this valuable space on Page One to list some of the folks who come through for me, issue after issue. This is my chance to say thanks. That should be, THANKS.

Merry Christmas to Dave Kentner, Finn Poulstrup, Don Fendley and the rest of the Georgetown Raiders. All the best in 1984, and let's bring that Allan Cup to Hockeystown, Ontario, where it belongs.

More of the same for Zeke McCandless, Jules Russiani, Bob Webster, and the Georgetown Gemini. Let's dump those Streetsville Derbys in the Credit River, and win that Central Junior 'B' title.

Good wishes also go out to Frank Allsup, Gary Hudson and the Acton Jr. Sabres.

To Dan Gulstini and Kevin Burke, may your Eagles soar in '84. And may the soccer Falcons enjoy similar successes, George Baines.

Thanks, Judy Piper, for your weekly reports on the Georgettes through the past softball season. I'm also grateful to powderpuffers Linda Weeks and Sue Williams, a couple of gals who improved my summer with their grace and charm.

**GOD RESS; MERRY CHRISTMAS.** I hope you are happy in your retirement. Best wishes to you, too, Ted Wilkes.

Many thanks to all the folks in minor baseball and soccer who worked with me throughout the summer. Gary Spiller, Steve and Gail Melville, Peggy Mills, Pat Brooker, Colin Brookes, Marty and Donna DeZeeuw - I couldn't have done my job without you. I hope you people have very Merry Christmases.

I had better not forget to mention Tim Tolton and Don Scallen, from the flag football league. If you're lucky, maybe Santa will kidnap Rick Baldwin, and the other teams will have some fun in 1984. I will miss your colorful write-ups this summer, Tim. Happy Holidays.

**MORE GOOD WISHES**

More good wishes go out to Cheryl Lightowers, Irene McCauley, Bob Gordon, Rob Irvine, Pete Williams, Bob McCandless Jr. and Pauline Miller. Thanks to you folks, the community received coverage of swimming, basketball, recreational slo-pitch, track and field, bowling, softball and figure skating in 1983. Merry Christmas to all of you.

I've saved a special thanks for Joy Thompson and Eva Carney in the Parks and Recreation Department. These girls are a pair of first-class operators. They handle their jobs, at least as far as dealing with the press, with thorough professionalism. Merry Christmas to a pair of very nice people.

I haven't forgotten the local teachers, who work as part-time sports reporters when they aren't wearing a coaches' cap. What would I do without you, Alice Ogden? Merry Christmas. The same goes for Brian and Karen Cosgrove, Donna Metcalf, Tom Adams and Bob McKay. Let's see those Chargers and Rebs bring honor to Georgetown in 1984.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Happy Holidays, hockey writers. That's you, McElroy and Pearce, Gary Lane, Sue Dunning, Doug Fuller, Boyd Hoddinott, Rita Davidson, Dee Butwell, Sandy Gardner and Pat Mashinter. And you, Brian James.

Good luck to the Halton Hills Jills in the New Year. Thanks and best wishes, Roger Roy and Kathy Aggiss.

That's ditto for minor hockey execs Ian Ward, Wayne Pries and Jim Bray.

All those good wishes bring me around to my own back yard. I couldn't overlook or underestimate the importance of our Herald columnists, freelancers, and part-timers.

All my best, Alex Tough, Joan Shapcott and Bob Ollivier. You know you have done a great job. And special thanks to Pam Douglas, Brenda Turcotte, Harold Branch, and Karen Payne. You kids make this aged 28-year-old feel young again.

On that note, I'll close it off. If I missed you, I'm sorry. It doesn't mean I don't appreciate your contribution. You have a Merry Christmas, too, and remember to write a letter to the editor and tell him what an insensitive jerk I am.

We always like to get cards and letters, even if the Sports Editor is too cheap to go out and buy any.

**Central Ontario Jr. 'B' Hockey League action**

**Sabres slice Gems in Halton Hills battle**

By PAM DOUGLAS  
Herald Special

The Georgetown Gemins were edged 3-2 in Acton by a revitalized Acton Sabres club Friday night in Central Ontario Junior B hockey action.

The last meeting between the Gems and the Sabres saw Georgetown overpower Acton 9-2.

The Sabres worked hard for the win. Rick Landry performed some Palmateer-style acrobatics in net for Acton, keeping them in the game when their defence became lack-luster. He stopped all but two of 41 shots. Wayne Cowley, his counterpart, stopped 28 shots.

"They got some great goaltending," said Gem coach Jules Russiani. "We had territorial advantage, we just couldn't get the puck in." Russiani indicated that the score did not reflect the play.

New Sabre coach Steve Buchanan, replacing Gary Hudson after Hudson and the Sabres' new owner, Godwin Carachi, parted ways permanently early last week in an atmosphere of dissension, admitted that his team was not, "technically 100 per cent."

But the high number of face-offs they lost were offset by the team's determination

and heart.

The Sabres opened the scoring 13 minutes into the first period. Rick Dodds came up with the puck out of a crowd in front of the Georgetown net and put it past Gem goalie Cowley. Clint Watts and Mark Symes drew assists on the play. Acton carried their 1-0 lead well into the second period.

There was a little pushing in the second stanza and a lot of hard checking along the fence throughout the game, but, to their credit, and contrary to the 'battle of Halton Hills' theory, the two teams were more interested in playing hockey than boxing, and no major fights broke out.

Georgetown finally beat Landry as the clock struck 12 minutes in the second. Sprawling, Landry couldn't get his stick on the shot from Gord McArthur. Kevin Frank and Bob Davy set up the play.

Georgetown broke the 1-1 tie midway through the third period.

Riv Kennedy took a pass from Bill Bathgate and Kent Falby and put the puck past Landry's trapper.

But there was still 10 minutes to play, and Acton wasn't going to lie down and play dead.

Fifty-two seconds after Kennedy's goal, Paul Barratt evened the score up again. Rick

four nights, coming off a big win over Milton Tuesday (4-2) and over Thornhill on Thursday (12-2). They were also playing minus John Hodgson (three-game suspension), Mike Doucette (three-game suspension), Mark Hamilton (injury), and Roy Spears (injury).

"Losing good kids like that hurts our game," said Russiani. The Sabres went on to defeat Milton 4-1 at home on Saturday.

Buchanan comes to the Sabres from the Goderich Minor Hockey Association where he coached the Atom A team to the OMAA

finals last year.

He has played Junior B Hockey and minor hockey in Guelph, Acton, and Georgetown, and at one time his father, Fred Buchanan coached the Acton Sabres.

The new coach is working on the team's motivation, and helping them to set goals and to obtain those goals with "gut feeling and discipline."

"At the end of the season people will respect this team," Buchanan said. "I'm fully committed to being as good a coach as I possibly can be."



**SABRE DANCE**  
An Acton Sabres forward tries to corral the puck in front of Georgetown goaltender Wayne Cowley, while Gem Kevin Franks (17) rushes to Cowley's aid. Sabres won the game, 3-2. (Herald photo by Pam Douglas)

**Chatham squad bumps Raiders**

The Georgetown Raiders continue to suffer from third-period let-downs, as they split a pair of Senior 'A' hockey games again this week.

In a rare Saturday night home date, the Raiders gave up four third-period goals to Chatham and watched a 3-1 lead turn into a 5-4 loss. The previous night in Collingwood, the Raiders took a 6-2 lead into the final frame, then managed to hang on for a 5-4 decision after giving up a pair of power play goals.

Saturday night's affair was a rough-and-tumble match-up, with both sides applying liberal amounts of the stick to members of the opposition. The result was 72 minutes in penalties, 32 minutes going to the home side.

The newest Raider, Cam Botting, opened the scoring with a power play goal at the 8:44 mark of the first period. Ron Twiss drew an assist on that marker.

There were less than three minutes left in the period when Juri Kudrasovs connected for another power play marker, to snap a 1-1 deadlock and give Georgetown the lead. Botting and John Saunders helped out on that one.

Paul Gallagher scored No. 26 on the season to up the count to 3-1 after two periods, but Chatham marksmen sandwiched a pair of power play markers around a shorthanded effort to take a 4-3 lead before the third period was half over.

Steve Lyons connected from Daxe Hill and Marty McNally to give the Raiders new life, but Chatham's Al Figgins beat Brad Miller with 1:08 showing on the clock for the winning marker. It was Figgins' fourth point of the night.

Friday night in Collingwood, Botting, Saunders, Gallagher and Marty McNally all found the mark for first-period markers as the Raiders got the jump on the old Intermediate 'A' rivals.

McNally and Gallagher both counted their second of the night as the Raiders split four second-period goals with the Shipbuilders.

Tim Turner and Tim Ampleford both collected a pair of assists on the night.

The Raiders are at home Friday night against Collingwood in their usual 8:30 p.m. slot at Gordon Alcott Arena. They will also host the Flamboro Real McCoys for the first time this year on Boxing Day, at 8 p.m.

The Real McCoys have ex-pros Ron Sedlbauer and Gavin Kirk in the line-up, and they beat the Raiders 7-4 in their only earlier meeting this season.

Georgetown Rebels opened their basketball season by taking two of three games from cross-town rival Acton Redmen Thursday night at Georgetown District High School.

The Rebs and the Redmen kicked off the 1983-84 high school basketball campaign with the traditional "Tip-Off Night", before an estimated 200 fans.

The Georgetown midgets set the tone of the evening with their 43-21 victory. Jim Manning sparked the home side with 11 points, while Rich Lawson and John Watts both contributed eight points to the Rebel attack. Brad Demone was high scorer for Acton, also with eight points.

The rebounding of

Georgetown forward Chuck Peebles and ball handling of guard Chris McMurray were keys to the Rebel win. The victory left the midget Rebs unbeaten in three Halton league starts.

The Rebel juniors managed to hold off a second-half surge by Acton to take a 49-44 count. The home side had led 29-16 at the half, but the Redmen had cut that margin to 35-30 at three-quarters.

Pat Braund was the top point-getter for Georgetown at 19. Dean Marks connected for 18 points, while guard Lou DePaoli was outstanding offensively and defensively.

Pete Jones led all Acton shooters with 12 points.

The victory means the

Barber teams in Canadians

Professional figure skater Kris Barber of Georgetown has coached six ice dancing teams into the Canadian Championships.

Barber, 23, a former member of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club, now coaches full-time at the Upper Canada Figure Skating Club in Toronto. He is also a physical education major at York University, having graduated from Seneca College with a degree in coaching.

He and co-coach Ray Bradshaw, who coached Barber when he was competing, have helped three novice pairs and three junior couples into the national finals, slated for Regina, Saskatchewan, on January 9.

Perhaps their best hope for a medal lies with Joanne Bourlalis and Scott Chammers, a team that were second in Canada last year. The junior couple recently finished fifth at the World Junior finals in Japan.

In the novice competition, Barber's best hope lies with the team of Melanie Cole and Donald Godfrey, the Eastern Canadian champs.

Barber, who has been coaching for two years now since he retired from competitive skating, says his good relationship with Bradshaw is the key to success with the 15 dance teams they instruct.

"It's his experience and my new ideas," Barber told The Herald. "Ray and I have a free hand in coaching these teams, and our ideas seem to be working."

Barber last skated at the World Professional Figure Skating Championships last March in Jaca, Spain. He and Joanna French of Etobicoke were third overall in ice dancing.

**Midgets, juniors out-shoot Acton in B-ball tip-off**

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**Minor midgets to face Swedes**

BY GERRY TIMBERS  
Herald Sports Editor

A Swedish minor midget caliber team will invade Gordon Alcott Arena a week from tomorrow night to face the Georgetown Labelmaster minor midgets in the third international hockey exhibition ever played here.

The event that officially opened Gordon Alcott Arena for the 1976-77 hockey season involved a Swedish midget team, while last year the Georgetown Industrial League all-stars lost 10-4 to a touring second-division team from Finland.

Last year, GMHA president Dave Kentner applied to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association to have Georgetown host a touring European club, but the application was received late. This year, the OMHA contacted

the GMHA officials to line up the game between Labelmasters and the touring team from Munksund, Sweden. The game will be the fifth of a seven-game swing for the Swedes.

The game has been slated as the highlight of the annual Georgetown Midget Hockey Tournament, and will take place Thursday, January 5, at 8 p.m. The game has been specially scheduled to follow the Georgetown Sunny Acres major midgets tournament game, so a full house is expected.

GMHA vice-president Jim Bray says the Swedish team has generated much excitement around the minor hockey community.

"Georgetown is a hockey town, and this is a caliber of hockey that is as exciting as all get out," Bray said. "I'm really looking forward to this."

A pre-game dinner for the 43-man Swedish contingent, and the Georgetown players and their families has been planned. There will also be a number of opening ceremonies, including the traditional exchange of gifts between the teams.

The Georgetown players will give their Swedish counterparts 24 GMHA sweaters, hats, and commemorative Halton Hills pins. They will also present an engraved pen-set to the head of the Swedish delegation.

A number of officials will attend the pre-game festivities, including

OMHA convenor Ken Russell, OHA president Brent Ladds, Mayor Russ Miller, Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy and MP John McDermid.

The game itself will consist of three, 15-minute periods of stop-time action, with a flood between each session. Admission will be \$2 for adults and 75 cents for children and seniors. Tournament passes will be accepted as admission to the game.

"This will be a major event for us in terms of hockey," Bray concluded. "There's a lot of good hockey being played in our minor system, and our players will be able to test their skills, meet new people and exercise good sportsmanship. This game will give our kids a chance to broaden their horizons a little."

**Purple girls blank Milton**

Backed by the shutout goaltending of Joan Glimmer, the Georgetown Order of the Royal Purple senior girls took a 2-0 decision from Milton in hockey action at Memorial Arena Sunday night.

Georgetown forward Denean Jones scored the only goal the locals needed when she poked her own rebound past Milton goalie Barb Edwards with 3:54 remaining on the first-period clock. Debbie Osborne and Lisa Allen drew assists on the play.

The Purple girls managed to keep the short-handed Milton crew pretty well in check throughout the evening, until Claire Carter potted an insurance marker with just 1:24 showing on the clock.



This is the Georgetown Labelmaster midget crew that will face the touring Swedish club from Munksund, January 5 at Gordon Alcott Arena. Team members include (back, left to right) manager Don Bick, Mike Hunter, Tim Wilson, Mike Teetzel, Danny Kent, Graham

Shepherd, Chris Hodgins, Heath Lockhurst, Jim Hicks, Jeff Shoultice, coach Les Ryan and coach Greg Robertson. (Front, left to right) Steve Tucker, Lance Reid, Chris Marling, Mark Pries, Brian Doherty, Dave Bertrand, and John Lantz. Missing is Brian Arthurs.