

For 30 Years ...
YOUNG'S
We Have Delivered

the **HERALD**
Sportsweek
 SECTION C, THE HERALD, Wednesday, December 10, 1986 - Page 1

HAZEN LAWN & CYCLE
SALES & SERVICE
 90 DAY WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS.
 REPAIRS TO: LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT
 SNOWBLOWERS & CHAINSAWS
 MOTORCYCLES - SNOWMOBILES
 SERVICE DEALER FOR: BRIGGS & STRATTON
 TECUMSEH-MTD-HOMELITE-CANADIANA
 55 SINCLAIR AVE. **877-9473**
 UNIT 10, GEORGETOWN

Rumors of Hockey Operations firings don't come to pass

Gemini Board decides against changes

By **DAN RALPH**
 Herald Sports Editor
 The Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Gemini Board of Directors has given its Hockey Operations personnel a vote of confidence, putting to rest rumors wholesale changes in the department would be taking place.



Playing the field

By **DAN RALPH**
 Herald Sports Editor

Russiani victim of bad rumors

For some time now the stories revolving around the Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Gemini off the ice have been infinitely more interesting than those of the club's fortunes on the ice. The rumor mill had been working overtime, particularly on the status of team assistant general manager Jules Russiani. A number of anonymous Gemini executive members made it clear they wanted Russiani fired, saying the former Gemini coach had too much input with the players and head coach Gary Hudson. Further it was being said former Georgetown Chrysler Raider Dave Tataryn had been offered Russiani's position, something that has been labelled untrue by Tataryn.

But all the rumors were put to rest Wednesday when the Gemini Board of Directors voted in favor of retaining all its Hockey Operations personnel. Interestingly enough, with all the supposed unrest concerning Russiani, little was publicly mentioned against him at Wednesday's meeting when the opportunity presented itself. Gemini president Dave Kentner was the only one to officially voice an opinion, saying at first he had reservations about hiring Russiani because Russiani symbolized "The Old Gemini". However Kentner also said around the league and Ontario Hockey Association Russiani's contacts are unsurpassed. Kentner added it's the club's intention to strengthen itself in terms of Ontario Hockey League contacts, and that's where obtaining someone like Dave Tataryn would come into play, and be brought in to assist Russiani.

People quickly forget Russiani had resigned last year after Georgetown was eliminated from the league playoffs by Oakville Blades. They forget it was the new Gemini team that approached Russiani about joining the franchise as the assistant general manager.

Russiani's job description is such that he's in charge of recruiting. That means going out and getting hockey players, the best hockey players available. Looking at this year's team it's easy to see Russiani has done that. Here's a list of what Russiani has brought to the Gemini.

—signed Wally Petrie in summer from Acton Sabres. With Acton last year Petrie was named the Mid-Ontario Junior "C" league's MVP and won the Central league's top rookie award two years ago with Vaughan Raiders.

—brought both Joe Washkurak and Dan Halliburton from Milton. In fact, Russiani's contacts with Guelph Platers played a big role in Georgetown getting Washkurak's card.

—secured the future of the club by signing youngsters like Tom Purcell, Glen Haigh, Warren Hart, Jim McCabe. All are eligible to don the Gemini uniform for the next three years, thus giving the Georgetown team a solid base.

Much of the criticism levelled at Russiani was that he had too much power on the hockey club. In fact, never was a deal made or anything finalized without first consulting with team general manager Bob Hooper. Hooper makes it clear that if he doesn't agree with a move, the move won't be made. Many felt because Hooper wasn't being heard from that Russiani was running the show. In fact, Hooper said his way of running things is to first listen, think it over, make a decision and stick by it.

Russiani has done his job, and done it well. He has made sure the Gemini hockey team has talent this year and has also seen to it that the team has a sound base for the future. He was hired as a recruiter and has done so.

Many have pointed the accusing finger at Russiani because they felt he was to blame for the team being in sixth place or for personal reasons. The thing is Russiani isn't to blame if the team on the ice doesn't perform to expectations.

remainder of the season. Rumors of changes began circulating early in the season when the Gemini lost five games in which they had sizeable leads in the final period. When that happened people began voicing their disenchantment towards rookie Gemini coach Gary Hudson. The situation got to the point where before the season was a quarter the way through Hudson began publicly wondering when he was going to be fired, a situation that never came to pass.

Shortly after the rumors about Hudson's status diminished, stories began to surface of some Gemini executive members' unhappiness with assistant general manager Jules Russiani. The stories consisted of people feeling Russiani was actually running the hockey club, partly because Russiani was being quoted in the local newspapers and that team general manager Bob Hooper was keeping a low profile. But in actuality Hooper said he was in control as Russiani never made a move without first consulting with his general manager.

Adding fuel to the fire in recent weeks was the Gemini meeting with former Georgetown Chrysler Raiders goalie Dave Tataryn. Shortly after the meeting took place (which was supposed to be a confidential one) further rumors began surfacing that Tataryn would join the Gemini, and the team was going to get rid of Russiani as a result. That scenario was supposed to be enacted at last week's meeting.

When contacted Thursday Tataryn, who was at Wednesday's meeting, said he did meet with Gemini sponsor Barry Whitworth and team president Dave Kentner. However, he added the Gemini didn't offer him anything concrete. The Gemini executive members presented situations and asked

Tataryn for advice, which Tataryn said, was up to the Gemini if they used or not.

"My dealing with Georgetown was having conversations between two friends about different situations and offering my advice," Tataryn said. "The Gemini haven't approached me about joining. They've asked me if I would consider it, but they didn't make me an offer. I feel like an innocent bystander. I go into Georgetown, talk to Bear (Barry Whitworth) about hockey and business opportunities and people begin asking what I'm doing here (in Georgetown). People must be feeling threatened. People only feel threatened when they're not secure in their job. Do you think Bob Clarke (Philadelphia Flyers GM) and Mike Keenan (Flyers' coach) are threatened because Scotty Bowman (former Buffalo Sabres coach-GM) got fired? Do you think Gerry McNamara is threatened because Scotty Bowman has been fired? If people go out, do their job and believe in the product they've got nothing to worry about," Tataryn added.

As to whether or not Tataryn will join the hockey club this season, the former Cambridge Hornet doesn't think so. Tataryn believes a Junior B hockey franchise should forgo paying its players, rather trying to establish itself as a professional organization strong in having its players acquire athletic scholarships. After having hockey pay for his degree, it's possible the former Gemini could return to the community and work here and be a constant reminder to younger hockey players as to what the organization can achieve for them if the players work hard.

"I look at organizations like Henry Carr (Metro league), Stratford (Mid-western Ontario league) and

Bramalea (Metro league)," Tataryn said. "Those teams follow that guideline and are consistently successful."

Despite Tataryn's comments concerning his not joining the Gemini, team president Kentner made it clear Wednesday he'd like Tataryn to join. In fact Kentner said Hooper will meet with Tataryn soon, but didn't say what would be discussed. Kentner also added bringing in Tataryn wouldn't necessarily mean someone in the organization isn't doing his job, but that when better personnel are available you must go after them.

"If Dave Tataryn wants to jump in and be at this table I want Dave Tataryn here," Kentner said. "Dave has great hockey contacts. If Scotty Bowman approached us tomorrow and said he wanted to be Vice President of Hockey Operations Jack Handy (current Gemini VP of Hockey Operations) had better start shaking. You've got to go for the best."

As for Russiani, the former Gemini coach said Wednesday's vote wasn't a vote of confidence in his eyes.

"It isn't a vote of confidence. There's been too much said and done. I'm just sick and tired of it," he said.

Hooper had harsh words for those people who were criticizing his coach and assistant general manager. As far as the Gemini GM was concerned, Hudson and Russiani were doing fine and didn't need to be looking over their shoulder the result of the rumors when something went wrong.

"My biggest concern is we have a whole lot of people doing the criticizing and they hardly come to the arena to watch a game. If they do, they don't watch the whole game. My guys have had enough of this.

I've got a competent crew working for me. If I didn't I'd make some changes. "The people doing the criticizing have had their opportunity to criticize and they didn't. They gave

us the vote of confidence and I want the guys talking behind our backs to start cheering for us and give us a chance. We've got a good hockey club and I feel we're headed in the right direction," Hooper said.

Gemini lose out on getting Anthony

Milton Merchants' loss won't turn out to be Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Gemini's gain.

Early last week Georgetown was in the running to obtain the services of forward Rod Anthony. However, those feelings of optimism were dashed Thursday when the former Blades signed with Burlington Cougars.

Anthony was sent to Milton two weeks ago by Oakville Blades to complete a deal the two clubs had arranged late last year. Last season Milton (then called Steamers) sent Tim Pollen and Bob Anthony to Oakville and the Blades' sending of Anthony to Milton completed the swap.

However, soon after Anthony became Milton property he made it clear he didn't want to play for the Merchants. When Merchants' general manager Vern Gooding asked Anthony where he'd like to go, Anthony said his first choice was Burlington but that he'd also come to Georgetown if sent here.

By coincidence Gemini assistant general manager Jules Russiani was present when Anthony made the statement at the Central league all-star contest played in Barrie a couple of weeks back. A deal between Milton and Georgetown almost came to pass before breaking down.

As a result Milton and Burlington made an arrangement by which the Merchants got two players for Anthony.

Anthony was in Burlington's lineup Friday night when the Cougars lost 5-4 to Georgetown. He had a goal and an assist.

Acquiring Anthony would have been a big plus for the Gemini. To date Georgetown has been able to remain amongst the league leaders in goals given up (tied for third with 108) but have had trouble putting the puck in the net (seventh with 88). The last two years Anthony has finished second in the Central league scoring race.

Russiani was disappointed the Anthony deal couldn't be worked out. He said bolstering Georgetown's goal production is important, and acquiring a goal-scorer remains a high priority. The Gemini are in good shape should a goal-scorer become available. The team still has three import cards left.

"Our stats for goals-for aren't the greatest," he said. "We need more scoring punch. Any time you can go after a goal-scorer like that (in Anthony) you've got to go for it. Rod said he's played against Georgetown in the past and has always respected Georgetown. Besides that he's a good kid."

Sr. Redmen reminded of hoop talent at "A" OFSAA

The Acton High School senior girls basketball team won a pair of contests and made it to the quarterfinal round of this weekend's Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament played in St. Thomas.

The Redmen opened tourney play with a 37-26 win over Roland Michener of South Porcupine as Sue Craig had 12 points for Acton. Kim Hagen had eight points while Jennifer Scott and Helen Knowles both had six points.

The Redmen never trailed in the contest, leading 9-8 after the first quarter and 21-12 at the half. The

Michener team made it close in the third frame, cutting the deficit to a 28-24 score before Acton put the game away in the fourth frame when Michener ran into foul trouble.

Acton then met up with Eaket of Blind River and won the game 42-38 as Craig had 21 points for Acton. Hagen had six points for the Redmen while Scott had five points.

Acton held leads of 9-7, 23-14 and 30-23 at the end of first three quarters before the Blind River squad made a run in the final quarter for the contest.

That win put Acton into the quarterfinal game with the tourna-

ment's third seed Caledonia. Caledonia led throughout the game and came away with a 51-41 win. However, heading into the final period Acton trailed 42-21 as Craig was forced to sit the third frame because she had four fouls. Craig came back in the fourth period and had 13 points.

Craig finished the game with 24 points while Linda Bottero chipped in with six points and Margie Parker had five.

Redmen coach Anne Andrews said the quarterfinal game was just a matter of Acton coming up against a better club.

"We were beaten by a better team. There's no question about it," Andrews said. "But our kids never gave up. Their heads were up and the kids on the bench were cheering throughout."

Even though the tournament was for "A" schools, Andrews said there were some very good teams and individual athletes. Sometimes it's hard to remember how good "A" teams can be when you're playing against "AA" and "AAA" schools in league play she added.

"You really do forget about the calibre of play and how good some teams can be," Andrews said. "When you get away from playing "A" teams you are quick to forget how good the competition can be."

A fine example of that is seen when looking at the eventual tournament winners. The host club from St. Thomas (St. Thomas St. Joseph) won the provincial crown despite having a student population of only 225 students.

Andrews said she was happy with her club's play in both the tournament and throughout the season.

"The kids would like to have seen themselves in the medal round and so would we have, but it wasn't meant to be," she said. "We came back with good feelings. We'll plug away for next year again."

NOTES—Craig's play throughout the Acton games impressed at least one scout. A representative from Seneca College asked about Craig's future plans, but the Acton athlete will likely be toiling for either an American or Canadian university team.

Provincial event eye-opener for Rebs

The Georgetown District High School senior girls basketball team came up against some fine competition this weekend at the "AA" Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) championship held in Thunder Bay.

The Rebels took part in the OFSAA event for the first time, and came home with a pair of losses. The Rebels met up with Markham in their first game and suffered a 60-26 setback as both Chris Harris and Jenny Melville had nine points each

to lead the Georgetown attack. Lisa Mason had six points.

"Markham was a powerful team," said Rebel coach Meredith Smye. "All five of their starters had good individual moves. If you gave them an inch they could go one-on-one and our girls aren't used to that from five players."

"We played a hard-fought game and were usually successful in Halton when we played that way," Smye continued.

The following day the Georgetown team met up with Cornwall, and despite playing better basketball the locals were beaten 63-34. Mason was the high scorer for the Rebels, but her exact point total wasn't available.

"We played a better game," Smye said. "We did as well as we could." Georgetown qualified for the OFSAA event two weeks ago by defeating heavily-favored Milton 27-24 to see who would represent Halton in the tournament.

Despite having had two defeats at the provincial tournament, the Rebels completed a successful season. Georgetown compiled a 20-8 mark throughout the year and will have a strong nucleus from this year's squad returning next season.

Pee wees at tourney in Buffalo

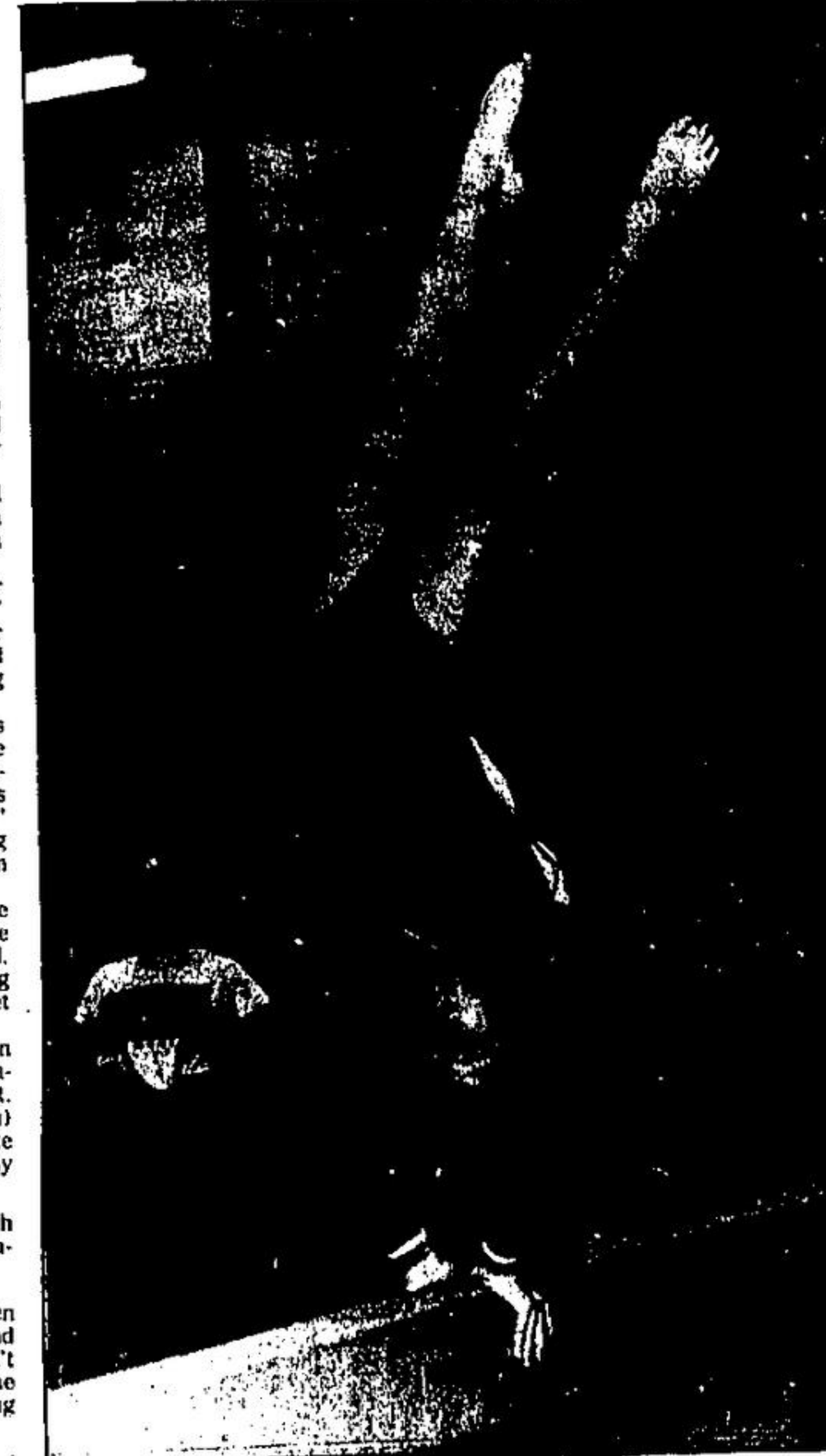
Buffalo was the scene of an exciting Pee wee hockey tournament for the local "AA" squad. Although the locals didn't make it past their division, they played some good hockey and felt the excitement of tournament play.

Game One saw Georgetown meet up with the eventual division winners Unionville, who played excellent hockey. Unionville won the game 7-2 as Chris Barrow and Shaun Curry had the goals with an assist going to Ryan Pells.

Game Two began at the awful hour of 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. The locals played well and showed Thornhill that they had met their match. While parents sipped on coffee and Mike Lee's magic potion the score seasawed back and forth before ending in a 3-3 tie. Jeff Wright, Chris Barrow and Ken Kosziwka had the goals while Tim Presswood, Curry, Kosziwka and Shawn Pearson had assists.

Game Three later in the afternoon Georgetown met up with Detroit's Little Caesars and showed their friends from below the border where hockey came from. Even though the score was 4-2 for Caesars, this wasn't indicative of the play as Georgetown was the better team. Wright had both local goals while Pells and Kosziwka had assists.

Tommy Diardichuk and Marc St. Pierre shared goaltending duties and played great hockey. Thanks go to coaches Dave Martin, Dave Curry and Jim Reid for a great tournament weekend.



Acrobatic move
 Halton Hills Jills' competitor Darby Erier performs her routine here on the parallel bar. Erier and the other members of the local gymnastics club held a demonstration Sunday afternoon at the Georgetown District High School gym. The gymnasts performed on the parallel bars, uneven bars, vault and floor exercise. (Herald photo)

Sports briefs

Brush up

The Georgetown Indoor Pool is offering a recertification course on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. for those of you who have an expired Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross Award. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 276.

Winter programs

The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department is now taking registrations for all our Youth and Adult Winter Programs. All programs start in early January and run for 6 to 12 weeks. Programs include Ballroom Dancing, Fitness, Creative Cookery, Interior Decorating, Downhill and Cross Country Skiing, Skating Lessons (Youth and Adult), Pre-School Playshop, Youth Activity

Nights, Broomball and Something Different! Full descriptions of most of these programs can be found in our Fall and Winter Brochure. Register now to avoid disappointment. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 280.

Races heat up

The race in the Georgetown Ladies Basketball League is really starting to heat up.

After last week's games only three points separates first and fourth spots in the league. Cougars and Capricorns are tied for first with 16 points each while Trojans are in third with 15 points and Mustangs are fourth with 13 points.

Cougars gained a share of top spot with a 57-37 win over Capricorns. Kerry O'Neil led the way with 18 points while Anita Stankus had eight points. Marie Smith had 10 points for Capricorns.

Mustangs notched a 53-44 win over Trojans as both Boo Tufford and

Judy Thomson led the way with 16 points apiece. Natalia Pacneco had 12 points for Mustangs while Sue Tesar had 11 points and Dalga Zelek had 10 points.

League action won't be resuming until Dec. 17 at Centennial Middle School gym.

Deadline near

The deadline for applications for Summer Senior Staff Positions is this Friday, Dec. 12. Anyone interested in working with the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department in a supervisory capacity is asked to pick up an application form at any recreation facility. If you enjoy working with children and have an interest in management, this opportunity is for you. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 260.

Gift ideas

It is not too late to consider giving a recreation program to someone this Christmas season. There are certificates available for all our programs - skating, skiing, fitness, swimming, dance etc. We have a program for any age group! Call 877-5185 ext. 260 today for more information or drop into the Recreation and Parks Office at 25 James Street, Georgetown.

Not too late

As Christmas draws nearer and more moms are getting into their Christmas baking, the Georgetown Hockey Moms are offering both Vitafilm (Saran Wrap) and foil in bulk for a terrific price. Vitafilm sells for \$11 for over 200 metres and the foil sells for \$20. If interested call Judy at 877-5185 for your Vitafilm or Foil and support a great organization.