

# GEMINI GEMS

## Gems on track despite Flak

By JACK HANDY  
Herald Special

The president is away and I have been asked to write an article for this edition. Guess what? I am going to write about the hockey operations of the Gemini.

The vice-president of hockey operations is the only voice for the team operations staff at the executive level. In other words, I am one vote of thirty, so my recommendations have to be valid. At every executive meeting operations are discussed.

The vice-president gives his report on what's happening with team management and players. If things are not going well (if the Gemini are losing) you expect criticism, and rightly so. After all, they are the money raisers and have every right to the facts.

My first recommendation to the executive, to have Bob Hooper as general manager, was passed. Few know that Bob was a director and shareholder of the first Gemini team. He has past general manager experience and showed great leadership with his business oriented mind.

Bob immediately selected Jules Russian as assistant general manager in charge of player personnel. Jules went through countless hours of tracking down leads with his assistant Larry White. They chased after hockey players every spare minute beginning in June. It is really a year round commitment.

Bob announced to me the head coach would be Gary Hudson. I recommended him to the board and he was approved.

Jules, Bob and I worked on ice time, scheduling, new sweaters...

Bob went to work and selected the rest of the operations crew: headed by Don Fendley, Glen Shoebridge and Rosco, trainers; John Tompson, medical; Norm Lockhurst and Brian James, announcers, and driver Lou.

Our objectives to build a team around discipline, respect and a winning attitude would attract players to the area. Providing a scholarship fund was another objective. Our aim is to build a championship team in three years.

The team got off to a shaky start

### TV draw winners

Don Buckles of 23 Cedarvale Court in Georgetown won a black and white television set this month. He was a participant in the Herald-Gemini sponsored ticket draw. Milliere TV provided the television.

and played up and down until the end of November. Hockey operations came under heavy fire, not only from board members but from fans. We stood together and would not budge. We believed we were on the right track, and it was only a matter of time before the team would blossom.

During the past two months the team has blossomed. Fans are enjoying top notch Junior Hockey once again. Critics have probably lit a little fire under us. If that's what it takes to keep the flame going, don't stop now.

Playoffs are just around the cor-

ner. We need your support.

I hope I have given you, the fan, some insight into the hockey operations' side of the executive. I'm very proud to be a Gemini executive board member and among fine people on the board.

I am exceptionally proud of the operations staff, the hockey players and coach Gary Hudson.

Team operations is one of the four facets of the Gemini executive board. We are looking for more executive members. If you would like to be part of this team, come to a meeting as my guest. By all means contact me at any time.

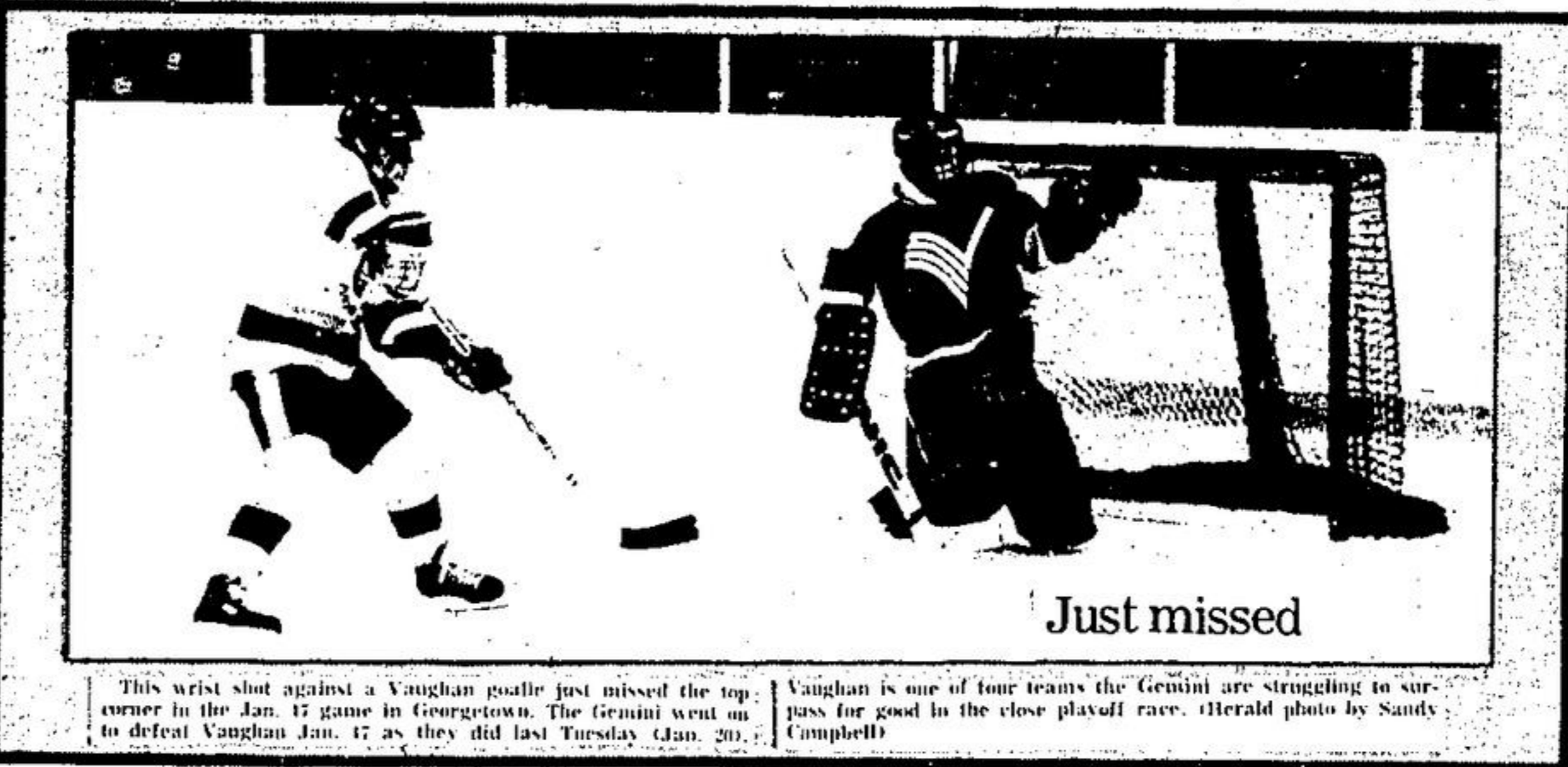
And to my friend, we'll call him Charlie, who bet last August that Milton would beat us in the standings by at least ten points, I am ready to collect. The bet was he would buy me breakfast, including transportation, to the place of my choice. Charlie I have found a great place with a buffet breakfast, all you can eat, for \$1.99 U.S., Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. Thank you so much Charlie.

Kids' Night is Jan. 31, Barrie will be playing Georgetown at 7:30 p.m. After the game in the booster club, we will be giving the monthly player awards. It's a chance for some fun

and to meet the five young players. Friday at 8 p.m. Nobleton will be playing the Gemini. Free pizza will be served after the game in the booster club.

Fans are real winners at Gem games. Adult tickets are \$3. Students, seniors and children get in for \$1. On the back of every ticket is a coupon for \$2 off a large pizza at Pizza Hut or \$1 off a medium pizza.

The team will surely miss the services of defenceman Craig Shaw. You will see him rooting for us at the games with his crutches received after knee surgery. We are rooting for your speedy recovery Craig.



This wrist shot against a Vaughan goalie just missed the top corner in the Jan. 17 game in Georgetown. The Gemini went on to defeat Vaughan Jan. 17 as they did last Tuesday (Jan. 20). Vaughan is one of four teams the Gemini are struggling to surpass for good in the close playoff race. (Herald photo by Sandy Campbell)

## Gentleman Morrow scoops award

An enviable record of no fights and only 18 minutes of penalties in 33 hockey games helped Georgetown's Wayne Morrow scoop up the "Most Sportsmanlike Player" award this season.

The 19-year-old captain of the Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League's Gemini team, Morrow also came in second for the "Most Valuable Player" award. He won that trophy last year.

Morrow was chosen from among the League's eight teams of players and will be presented with his awards at the playoffs.

"They told me they didn't want me to fight at the beginning of the season. I got into them once in a while, but I haven't gotten into a fight this year," the Georgetown District High School graduate said.

The Junior "B" League is a "pretty rough" league, says the blue-eyed Morrow. He's not the kind of player who looks for fights, but when good-od on, Morrow doesn't necessarily

turn the other cheek.

"Once in a while there'll be some idiot who'll do something to start a fight with me. Like last year, against Oakville, the coach set his players after us. You have to fight or you'll get beat up," he says. "We won't back down if the other team starts it."

Fights don't spoil the game, but they add excitement to it, Morrow says. He's never gotten badly hurt in a game fight and says it's rare a player does.

Fights are half the coach's fault and half the player's fault, says Morrow. What a coach says to his team can have a big effect on what kind of game is played on the ice.

Morrow was asked his opinion on the recent international news story about the brawl between the Russians and Canadians during a game.

"They (Canadians) had to do that. The Russians left their bench. I would have done the same," he declared.

Morrow's Gemins don't use the "let's fight them" tactic, but he says other teams do, "for psychological reasons, to get their opponents off

unhappy and have complaints, and he also gets his players ready for a game, building them up.

"You say it's a very important game. It usually works," Morrow smiled.

The Gemins have played 35 games so far in the season, and of the last 15 games, the team has only lost two.

"We lost Friday night playing against Burlington. They're pretty good. We didn't play that well. It was one of those days when nothing goes right," Morrow said.

The Raylawn Crescent resident has been playing hockey for 12 years. He was seven when he began. Morrow says he likes the excitement of the game.

"It's fast, and I don't know, I just like it," he said.

The game is a lot different from the minor hockey level he used to play, Morrow says it's much more aggressive, and he hits a lot harder now than he used to.



Wayne Morrow