

Sabres lose
final games

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3

Local skiers
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Ball season
starts early

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Sports briefs

Moonlight Magic

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is inviting everyone to an evening of "Valentine Moonlight Magic" on Feb. 13, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Staff members will serve as guides for the groomed cross country ski trails by the light of the moon, starting at 7 p.m. There will also be skating on the pond with a crackling fire to warm up by.

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is located on Millborough Line, 5 km west of Campbellville, and admission is \$5 per car.

For further information, call (416) 336-1158 (weekdays) or (416) 854-2276 (weekends and holidays).

Charity ball

Members of the Etobicoke branch of the Canadian Overseas Families and Friends Association will hold a charity ball this Saturday in an effort to raise money to help a 17-year-old paraplegic, who was injured in a rugby game.

Jack Riley was injured last year when a rugby scrum collapsed and left him with a broken neck. His condition is such that he requires assistance in breathing, and since the accident, he has been kept at the intensive care unit of Toronto's Western Hospital.

The ball is to be held at the Terry Miller Recreation Centre in Brampton, in the Martial Arts Auditorium.

Tickets are available at \$20 per person, and can be obtained by calling Thom Ivson at 792-1640 or Don Perrault at 677-6016.

Sabres series set

The Acton Sabres have completed their regular schedule and will face Orangeville in the opening round of semi-final divisional playoffs, which get underway this Friday.

Orangeville will hold home ice advantage in the series, and the opener will be at 8:30 p.m. in Orangeville Friday, with Game 2 scheduled for Acton Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The scene shifts back to Orangeville for next Wednesday's Game 3 at 8:30 p.m., and continues next Friday in Acton at 8 p.m. for the fourth match.

Should further games be necessary, they will be played Monday, Feb. 16 in Orangeville at 8:45 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 17 in Acton at 8 p.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 18 in Orangeville at 8:30 p.m.

In action last week, the Sabres dropped a pair of decisions. See page C3 for details.

Gems sparkle in wins over Barrie and Nobleton

By MIRE TURNER
Herald Sports Editor

The Georgetown Gemini can be excused if they were perhaps a little overcome by a sense of accomplishment on the weekend.

They earned it. After all, not only did the Gemini take a pair of decisions in Central Junior B hockey action and hang on to a share of third place in the standings, but Saturday night they knocked off the league-leading Barrie Colts 4-2, marking just the sixth time the powerful Colts have been beaten this season.

In opening a two-game weekend home stand, Georgetown also doubled the Nobleton Devils 4-2 at the Alcott Arena Friday.

But the highlight of the weekend, a spectacle that brought close to 1,000 fans out to the Alcott, was undoubtedly the contest with Barrie.

"The guys were super high going in," said Gemini general manager Bob Hooper, following the win over the Colts. "Barrie's the team everybody has to try to beat."

Hooper acknowledges it may be difficult for a first-place team to get themselves up for every game, especially since the Colts have breezed through the schedule the way they have.

But at the same time, no team likes to lose this close to playoff time.

Hooper preferred not to single out any individual stars in the games on the weekend. "The guys just played well as a team. We haven't got the most talented players in the league, but we've got a team with the most spirit. That's the one thing that helps us win."

Hooper did, however, have high praise for the Georgetown defensive corps, who had to be at their best on several occasions when opponents enjoyed the man advantage.

With a pair of victories on the weekend, the Gemini have distinguished themselves as one of the hottest teams in the loop, losing just two of their last 15 games.

The decision over Barrie was the first time Georgetown had come out on top in six meetings.

Joe O'Toole opened the scoring for the Gemini Saturday, and the team never gave up the lead from there.

Rob Grant of the Colts was sitting out a five-minute major for high sticking when O'Toole found a loose puck in front of the Barrie net and tucked it in behind Colts' goaltender Scott South at 2:05.

The score remained 1-0 until the second when the Gemini added to

their lead, largely as the result of some hard work by Rick Floto.

After carrying the puck into the 'Barrie end, Floto lost his stick in the corner, but still managed to control the puck with his skates. That kept the Colts from clearing it, and allowed his teammates to catch up on the play.

Todd Cull beat South with a hard shot to the stick side at 7:51.

Barrie got on the scoresheet at 11:37 while O'Toole was off for interference. Goaltender Mike McNiven made the initial save on a Barrie shot, but Troy White was on the doorstep to flip the puck over the sprawled goaltender, to leave the Gemini ahead 2-1.

Rod McClure restored Georgetown's two-goal lead a short time later when he rifled a shot home after being set up by Wally Petrie.

Less than a minute later, Petrie had a chance to add to the lead when he broke in alone on South. But the goaltender outguessed him, and made a pad save on Petrie's backhand shot.

The Colts again came to within one goal with just under three minutes to play in the period, while the teams played three skaters aside.

Bruce Frauley scored on a big slapshot from the blueline, after Brad McClocklin fed him a pass from behind the Gemini net.

In the third, the game took on a more physical nature and tempers began to flare. Bill Teggart of the Gemini was sent to the showers with a five-minute major for fighting, and picked up an additional two minutes for being the aggressor of an altercation with a Barrie player.

Despite being shorthanded though, the Georgetown defence was able to turn back the Barrie attack.

The Gems suffered what could have proven to be a costly setback during a Colts' barrage when McNiven took a shot on the knee, in an area left unprotected by his pad.

He had to be helped from the ice, but Hooper said the injury was not considered major, and shouldn't keep McNiven out of action. He was to have it looked at by a doctor this week, just to be on the safe side.

Wayne Morrow rounded out the scoring at 15:34. Petrie stripped the puck from a Colt player at the Barrie blueline and went in on the right wing to feed a pass across to Morrow who had nothing but gaping net to shoot at.

The Colts outshot the Gems 44-36. Nearly half of the Barrie shots came



The Georgetown Gemini succeeded in doing what few teams have been able to do this season. Saturday night they defeated the league-leading Barrie Colts 4-2, to hand the Colts what was just their sixth loss of the season. Here, the action gets a little hot around the Gemini net as netminder Mike McNiven struggles to kick the puck away with two Colts parked on his doorstep. (Herald photo)

in the third period when McNiven made nine saves, before being replaced by Dan Halliburton who kicked out 12 shots.

In the game with Nobleton Friday, the Gems gave up a cheap goal early to the Devils but then took firm control.

Dave Bower got credit for the Nobleton goal after his shot from behind the Georgetown net struck a Gemini defender and bounced by Halliburton.

Jim McCabe and McClure scored to put the Gems back in the driver's seat later in the period.

Petrie added a powerplay marker in the second to open up a 3-1 Georgetown lead, and scored again early in the third to make it a 4-1 margin.

Mike Spadacini replied for the Devils to round out the scoring. Halliburton made 33 saves in the

contest for the Gems, while John Nizic of the Devils stopped 23 Georgetown shots.

The playoff picture for the Central circuit remains somewhat clouded at this time.

Should the Gems finish fourth or fifth, they will most likely play the Devils in the first round, according to Hooper. However, should they manage to nail down third spot in the eight-team league, they will probably tangle with the Vaughan Raiders.

But the Georgetown GM isn't looking ahead to the post-season picture just yet. There are other important matters at hand.

"Right now, I'm just looking ahead as far as Oakville this Saturday night," Hooper says. "The playoffs will look after themselves."

Continued on page C2