

Sabres lose twice to close out regular schedule

Any success the Acton Sabres may hope to have in post season play will have to come as the result of a 100 per cent effort, 100 per cent of the time, according to general manager Elmer Dunn.

The Sabres dropped a pair of decisions in Junior C hockey action last week, losing to the division-leading Fergus Green Machine on home ice

Wednesday, and then suffering an embarrassing 19-3 setback to the Bradford Bulls Sunday night in Bradford.

"We seem to have these mental letdowns," Dunn said of Wednesday's outing. "We've got to learn to play three good, solid periods of hockey."

The Sabres showed signs of being

ready to take control of the game with Fergus, but let up when it appeared the momentum was shifting their way.

Dean Weber had a pair of goals in the early going for Fergus, but the Sabres struck back with markers by Peter Cargill and Dave Thomas to deadlock the teams after 20 minutes.

In the second Weber added his

third goal of the match at 3:56 to put Fergus ahead again.

Dan Curtis tied the game at three when he connected with a slapshot at 7:35. Teammate Dave Thomas was decked in a scramble at the side of the Fergus net, but still managed to shove the puck back to the waiting Curtis. Taking all the time he needed, Curtis fired a shot to the top corner.

With both sides playing two men short, the Sabres got sloppy in their end, allowing Fergus to again take the lead. Darryl Jack moved in from the right wing, sidestepped a defender, and slid the puck into the open net after seeing the Acton goalie had committed himself.

With just a minute and a half remaining in the second period Fergus took a 5-3 lead when Dwayne McKenzie took a big rebound off the back boards and tucked the puck in.

The teams exchanged a pair of goals each in the final frame. Weber, with his fourth of the night, and Tom O'Donnell scored for Fergus to open up a 7-3 lead, before Acton replied with markers by Tony VanDam and Greg Yates to round out the scoring.

Sunday's game in Bradford was one manager Dunn would just as soon forget. To put it bluntly, the Sabres "stunk the place out", according to Dunn.

"It was a horror show. The forwards didn't do anything. They were continually getting caught out of position, and the defencemen couldn't do anything, because the forwards weren't coming back to help out."

The Sabres skated with the Bulls through the first period, but in the second, the flood gates opened as Bradford exploded with 10 unanswered goals.

From there, the rout was on, as the Bulls added five more goals in the second, to Acton's lone reply.

The Sabres were outshot 56-19 overall and 29-5 in the middle frame alone.

Sunday's contest marked the final game of the season for the Sabres. A make-up game with Fergus will not be played, since it has no bearing on the final standings.

In first-round playoff action, Acton will meet Orangeville. The other divisional semi-final features Fergus taking on Grand Valley. Both series are best-of-seven affairs.

Despite the letdown at the season's end, Dunn says the Sabres will still have a good shot at knocking off Orangeville.

"At this point, there's one big 'if'. If we can play the way we're capable of playing for three periods, then we should be able to come out on top."

"We have to get the guys doing what they're supposed to be doing."

The Sabres open their playoff series in Orangeville Friday night, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The second match in the series will be back in Acton Saturday night at 7:30 p.m.



The Acton Sabres took a major slide in their Junior C hockey league last week. First they lost to the Fergus Green Machine Wednesday on home ice, and then they were drubbed 19-3 by the Bradford Bulls, Sunday night

In Bradford, here, Miké Ormsby of the Sabres kicks aside a shot during the game against Fergus. (Herald photo)

Trojans, Cougars record victories

The Trojans and the Cougars recorded victories in Georgetown Ladies' Basketball League action last week.

The Trojans upended the first place Capricorns by a score of 52-44, while the Cougars downed the Mustangs 53-42.

Despite the loss, the Caps remain in first place with 24 points, followed closely by the Trojans with 23. The Cougars are just one point back with 22, while the Mustangs have 21.

Boo Tufford led the Trojans with 21 points, while Alice Ogden and Silvia McCandless had eight each.

For the Capricorns, Kyra Kristensen-Irvine was tops with 14, and Marie Smith contributed 12.

In the other contest, Anita Stankus led all scorers with 12 points, while Kerry O'Neill had 11, and Jo-Anne Dennis added eight for the winners.

Jane Nicholson led the Mustangs with 10 points, and Diane Gardiner and Melanie McCracken chipped in with eight apiece.

In league action the previous week, the Capricorns bounced the Mustangs 47-41, and the Trojans edged the Cougars 59-55.

Play resumes tonight (Wednesday) at Centennial Public School.

Royals win, draw in weekend action

By JAMES ROBILLARD

The Hillsburgh Royals won and tied a pair of weekend games in Ontario Hockey Association Southern Senior "B" play and now have a record of 15 wins, eight losses and five ties for 35 points with two games remaining in the regular schedule.

The Royals dumped Harriston Blues 6-3 Friday night in Harriston as Glenn Murray paced the attack with two goals and one assist and Brad Miller turned in a stellar performance between the pipes.

Hillsburgh dominated most of the contest although they did trail 1-0 after only 31 seconds when Ron Martin scored for the Blues. The Royals then shut down Harriston's offence until the last four minutes of the game when they scored their last two markers.

Andy Broadbent also found the net twice for Hillsburgh and Paul Fraser and Paul Allison connected for singles.

Sunday evening in Exeter, Hillsburgh led 3-1 with just eight minutes remaining but Exeter counted two goals to tie the score at 3-3 before time had elapsed.

Paul Fraser, who seems to be returning to his old form, scored twice while Kerry Kuenzig added the other marker.

Brad Miller made a number of key

saves in the contest stopping 27 shots, while Louis Arts turned aside 33 for Exeter.

The Royals host Palmerston Friday night at the community centre at 8:30 p.m., then travel to Tavistock to play the second-place team Saturday at 9:15 p.m.

The playoff format will see the first-place team play sixth in a best-of-seven series. Second-place will take on fifth, and third will meet fourth in best-of-five series for the other opening rounds.

Two games remain to be rescheduled before the end of the regular season. Elora is to play at Palmerston, and New Hamburg is to take on Harriston.

STANDINGS	W	L	T	PTR
Exeter	15	4	7	43
Tavistock	13	8	2	28
Hillsburgh	12	8	5	25
Elora	11	9	6	23
Harriston	9	13	3	21
New Hamburg	8	18	3	19
Palmerston	3	24	0	4

SCORES THIS WEEK

Mon. Jan. 26 Tavistock 16 Palmerston 6
Wed. Jan. 28 Elora 3 Harriston 5
Fri. Jan. 30 Exeter 4 Elora 8
Hillsburgh 6 Harriston 3

Sat. Jan. 31 Tavistock 12 Palmerston 1

Sun. Feb. 1 Harriston 11 Palmerston 1

Hillsburgh 3 Exeter 2

Tavistock 9 New Hamburg 2

GAMES THIS WEEK

Mon. Feb. 2 Elora at Tavistock

Fri. Feb. 6 Elora at Harriston

Palmerston at Hillsburgh

New Hamburg at Exeter

Sat. Feb. 7 Harriston at Palmerston

Hillsburgh at Tavistock

Sun. Feb. 8 Elora at New Hamburg

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