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Tough road ahead

Sabres preparing to face 'acid test'

By MIKE TURNER
Herald Sports Editor

With a pair of victories last week, the Acton Sabres upped their season's record to 10 wins against five losses, and at the same time improved their current hot streak to nine wins in their last 10 games.

Thursday, the Sabres rolled over Schomberg 5-1, and Friday on home ice, they dumped the Grand Valley Harvesters 11-6.

But for the Sabres, their "acid test" comes in the next four games as they make a legitimate bid for top spot in the Mid-Ontario Junior C Hockey League.

The four-game set begins tonight (Wednesday) with Acton hosting fourth-place Caledon Flyers, the only team the Sabres haven't been able to defeat this season.

Friday, Acton will host first-place Orangeville, while Sunday they pay a visit to Bradford, and Tuesday they take a trip to Caledon.

The Sabres' only defeat in their last 10 games was a 6-4 setback against the Flyers Nov. 11. But general manager Jules Russiani feels things will be different this time around.

"The last time we played Caledon, it was our worst game of the year," Russiani says. "We had stone hands, nothing clicked, the passes were off."

Russiani maintains it was simply a case of the players being overwhelmed by the home crowd support they've been generating lately. But for the last several games, the Sabres have been averaging about 300 spectators, and the Acton players are beginning to be more comfortable. "I think Wednesday night will be different," Russiani says of the upcoming Caledon match-up.

Orangeville continues to hold down first place in the seven-team loop, but have been faltering in their past few outings.

At Acton's current clip, they could well be in striking distance of the Orangeville forerunners by next week.

Thursday's game in Schomberg was an impressive outing for the Sabres, according to Russiani, as coach Gary Hudson put together a sound game plan.

Acton led 3-0 after the first frame,

and went ahead 4-1 after the second.

Chris Turner, Todd Cull, Paul Wilson, Kevin Ritchie, and Paul Hartley provided the Acton goals.

Derek Laberge spoiled Tom Hill's shutout bid at the 7:07 mark in the second period.

Against Grand Valley, the Sabres found themselves in a 2-2 tie with the Harvesters after 20 minutes, but took control by a 9-5 margin in the second.

Turner and Tom Fisher each fired a hat trick for the Sabres, while Trevor Reibot added a pair, and Rob Wilson, Cull, and Ritchie had singles.

Alex Piazza began the game in net for Acton but was replaced by Hill after Grand Valley's third goal.

For Grand Valley, Kirk Allenson fired a pair of goals.

The match tonight with Caledon gets under way at 8 p.m. at the Acton Arena, while Friday, the Sabres host Orangeville for an 8 p.m. start, as well.

Sunday, the Sabres are in Bradford for a 7 p.m. start, and Tuesday, the game in Caledon gets under way at 8:15 p.m.



Roller Coaster Ride

Coaching can sometimes be an emotional roller coaster, and that was apparent as Bob McKay led his Georgetown District High School Rebels into the Halton junior volleyball championships against Assumption last Monday. Above, the tension starts to wear on McKay, but below, he celebrates the final point in the team's 15-11, 15-13, 8-15, 15-6 match victory. (Herald photos)

NH Sports reaches semifinal

The North Halton Sports Major Atoms played at both ends of the hockey spectrum during a busy week's action.

On Tuesday night at Memorial Arena, the Major Atoms hosted the first place undefeated Stoney Creek team.

Excitement was the keyword, as the two teams played the entire game in overdrive, resulting in a truly excellent match that fittingly ended in a 3-3 deadlock.

Doug Sheppard, Giannis Markou, and Tyson Hackett handled the scoring for the locals, with Sheppard being credited with the only helper of the game. John Waller played an outstanding game in the Georgetown net.

Thursday night saw the North Halton Sports team travel to Dundas to play in the opening game of the annual Valleytown Hockey Tournament, with Guelph as the opposition. The Major Atoms played only as hard as they had to in dominating the Guelph side by a score of 7-3.

David Bouskill with two goals and one assist, Gavin Glaser with a goal and three assists, and Duane Erier with two goals, spearheaded the Georgetown attack. Tommie Demble and Markou added single markers.

Jamie Stephenson earned two assists, with single helpers drawn by Sheppard, Stephen Onoprijenko, Blaine McCauley, Demble and Cory Evans. Chad Hughes made several key saves in goal for the North Halton Sports Major Atoms. The Most Valuable Player Award for Georgetown was presented to Bouskill.

On Friday the opposition was the very strong Ajax entry. The Major Atoms started slowly and Ajax capitalized by taking a 1-0 lead in the first period. After a scoreless second period Glaser notched the equalizer on passes from Mike Bahr and Stephenson. Despite being assessed a penalty late in the third period, the North Halton Sports squad held on for a 1-1 tie. John Waller again was outstanding in the Georgetown goal. Erier was named the North Halton Sports team Most Valuable Player.

The Major Atoms faced off against Toronto Erindale on Saturday and overwhelmed them by a score of 6-0. Bouskill and McCauley each registered two goals and two assists. Glaser added two goals and one assist with Sheppard contributing a goal and three assists. Markou and Stephenson rounded out the scoring. Single helpers were earned by Jason Quinn, Demble and Erier. Hughes and Waller shared the shutout. The North Halton Sports Most Valuable Player for this game was Sheppard.

With two wins and a tie, Georgetown qualified for semifinal action on Sunday, the tournament championship day.

Against the Mississauga North Stars a very different Major Atom team showed up for the semifinal game. Lacking their usual drive and determination, the locals were soundly defeated by a score of 6-1. Sheppard converted a fine Stephenson pass for the North Halton Sports team's lone tally. McCauley received the Most Valuable Player Award for Georgetown.

Coaches Chris Milne and Dan Curtis hope the defeat proves to be a valuable lesson, as the team faces four league games during the next week.

Sports briefs

Auty top rider

For the second year in a row, Acton's Ann Auty captured the Canadian Equitation Championship at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

She won the event Nov. 21 at Exhibition Place in Toronto against 23 competitors. The Grade 12 student at Acton High School also won last year in the junior competitors 18 and under division.

The equitation championship has three rounds: course over fences, on the flat and finals, course over fences.

The 17 year old lives on Division Street. Her competition represented four different provinces and a rider from the U.S.

Try bowling

Anyone looking for a little social fun may want to give bowling a try.

Some openings are available for the Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening ladies' leagues, the Tuesday evening mixed league, and the Sunday 11:30 a.m. mixed league. For more information, contact Georgetown Bowl, 12 Mountainview Road, South, 877-9922.

Reservations are also being accepted for open public bowling on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon and evening.

Star Fuels splits

The Georgetown Peewee B Star Fuels team took on Oakville recently and held on for a 3-2 victory.

Goalie David Frost didn't allow a goal until the final period, as Georgetown dominated the opening two frames with a goal from Scott McGulgan, and two by Greg Dobbin. Picking up assists were Derek Ellard, Phillip Williamson, and Kevin Patrick. David Osborne played a strong game on defence.

The home ice kink returned to haunt Star Fuels in their next outing, however, as they lost 6-2 to Milton. Georgetown took the lead on a goal by Williamson, set up by Dobbin, but that lasted only six minutes into the second period. After a pair of Milton goals, Dobbin replied for Star Fuels, assisted by Mark Johnston. But that was as close as they would come, as Milton went on to score four unanswered goals and take the win.

Milton doubles Associates

Some sloppy play in the defensive zone proved costly to the Johnson and Associates Major Atoms last Tuesday, as they lost a 4-2 decision to the Milton 'C' team.

Georgetown started quickly. On his first shift of the game, Scott Wilson picked up a loose puck at his own blue line, skated straight down the left wing, and fired a low shot under the glove of the Milton goaltender, into the net.

Two shifts later, however, a pair of Milton players were left alone in front of goalie Seth Homer. Their first shot hit the post, but they got the rebound and tied the score.

The locals got that back a few minutes later. The line of Craig Blair, Scott Wilson, and Stephen Yurichuk forced a turnover in the Milton zone. Blair finished off the play by tucking his own rebound into the net, with Wilson and Yurichuk getting assists. The period ended with Georgetown successfully killing off a tripping penalty, to maintain its 2-1 lead.

The second period started out well enough for Johnson and Associates, as they killed off another tripping penalty, the second of five penalties that they would receive during the game. But at 7:04, a bad pass in their own zone put a Milton player in the clear. He scored, to tie the game. Andrew Elnesky then had to make a good play of break up a Milton one-one opportunity. A few minutes later, at 3:04, Milton scored again, to take a 3-2 lead. David Doole put on a display of good forechecking, trying to create a scoring chance, cut the period ended with Milton in front, 3-2.

Milton had the better scoring opportunities in the third. Both Jim Katsilleris and Shannon Morris foiled Milton two-on-one forays. And the locals successfully killed another tripping penalty. But with 3:45 remaining, they took yet another tripping penalty. This time Milton scored, to make it 4-2. On the next shift, Robby Monckton came close, ringing one off the goal post. But that was as close as the team would get. Final score was 4-2.

Gems top Capitals

The Georgetown Gemini came up with a split in a pair of Central Junior B hockey games on the weekend.

Friday at the Alcott Arena, the Gems put together a solid performance in downing the Etobicoke Capitals 10-6.

Back on home ice Saturday, though, Georgetown suffered an 8-5 setback at the hands of division-leading Burlington Cougars.

Against the Capitals, the Gems took the lead early to go ahead 2-0 after the opening frame, and upped the margin to 7-3 after 40 minutes.

Chuck Loreto led the scoring attack against the Caps as he scored three times. Joe Washkurak chipped in with a pair of markers, while singles went to Don Cruise, Greg Brazeau, Jay Anderson, Adam Bennett, and Travis Cole.

The victory over Etobicoke was the fifth for the Gems this season, and lifted them two points above the Mimico Monarchs in the league's West Division. The Gems now have 12 points, with a 5-14-2 record, while the Monarchs have 10 points on a 3-14-4 record.

Burlington showed why their the top team in the Central West Division on Saturday night when they visited Georgetown, but the Gems appeared to let down somewhat from their performance of the previous evening.

"Burlington played really well,"

Water shows

Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Christmas Water Shows, at the Acton Indoor Pool - Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. and at the Georgetown Indoor Pool - Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Xmas skiing

Christmas will soon be here and the Recreation and Parks Department would like to help you plan what you are going to do. In conjunction with Glen Eden Ski Area, we will bus youth (eight to 18 years) in both Acton and Georgetown to the hills in Milton. All participants will receive two lessons per day. Programs runs for three days, Dec. 29 to 31 from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (including driving time). Fee includes bus, lessons and lifts, but rental of equipment. For more information call 877-5185 ext 260.



Chopping Block

The Promar Karate School staged a demonstration night for parents and others interested in the sport Thursday. Here, Bill Barr breaks a board with a karate blow, while instructor Mark Yates, and Dave MacKinnon hold the board. Promar Karate has various instruction sessions throughout the year for all ages. (Herald photo)

M and M split games

M and M Pro Sports Major Bantams continued their strong third period play but were only able to manage a win and a loss in Tri County action last week.

Slow starts have plagued the Bantams all year and Monday night in Chinguacousy was no exception. The locals fell behind 4-0 only one minute into the second period but rallied later in the second and dominated the third, before losing 5-4. Goal scorers in the game were Wade Serjeantson, Rod Pasma, Chad Bailey and Rich Bond. Assists went to Bill McDonald and Gord Burke with two apiece and Craig Cooper, Jim English, Dave Watts and Bond had singles.

In Streetsville Saturday night the M and M's faced an undermanned Streetsville squad. The game was close for two periods as the locals

Chargers advance to championship

The Centennial girls' volleyball team will attempt to win their seventh consecutive Halton title this Friday evening at E.C. Drury H.S. in Milton.

The girls earned the right to advance by defeating MacKenzie-Smith of Acton in the North Halton championship finals last Wednesday at G.D.H.S. Although the girls didn't play up to their potential, they were able to win the match two games to one.

The Charger team has had a very successful season. They were undefeated in league play winning all five of their matches. In the semifinal playoff the girls defeated W.I. Dick of Milton in two games.

The girls have also had a very successful exhibition season as they have won three of the four tournaments they have entered.

On Oct. 30 the Chargers defeated Williams Parkway of Bramalea in the finals of the Sam Sherratt Invitational Tournament. One week later the girls travelled to Williams Parkway and again were successful as they defeated Brant Hills of Burlington in the final by scores of 15-8 and 15-6.

On Nov. 13 and 14 they competed in the Provincial Cup tournament in Scarborough. The girls won 10 of 14 games but were put out by the defending champions Henry Hudson of Scarborough.

This past weekend the girls played in the Holy Cross Tournament in Georgetown. The girls played their best volleyball of the year. The Chargers defeated the host team in the semifinals and then played their neighborhood rivals St. Francis in the finals. The Chargers won the match 2-1 by scores of 15-9, 6-15, and 15-5.

Members of the team are Lindsay Smith, Suzanne Trustrum, Fani Marou, Lisa Vogt, Andrea McNeilly, Julie Atkinson, Shelly Terashita, Danielle McTaggart, Andrea Schneider, Stephanie Kuipers, Elaine Warbeck, and Alexis Kerr. The team is coached by Jim Atkinson.

The coach and the team would like to thank the many parents who have transported and supported the team. Also the team would like to thank teacher Brian Cosgrove for his time and efforts on their behalf.

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