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Sabres split in weekend outings

The Acton Sabres had to settle for a split in a pair of Mid-Ontario Junior C hockey games on the weekend.

Friday, at Orangeville, the short-staffed Sabres faded in the late going and suffered a 9-2 setback at the hands of the Crushers.

Friday, back on home ice, Acton put it to the Grand Valley Harvesters 15-2.

The game against Orangeville marked the first start in net by Dan Halliburton, obtained recently by the Sabres from the Georgetown Junior B Gemini.

"He hasn't been playing for about a month," said Acton general manager Jules Russiani. "So he's still a little rusty. We put him in for the third period Saturday (against Grand Valley) and he made some good saves. But we plan to work him in slowly."

Russiani says Friday's loss was a case of the Sabres "running out of gas". They arrived in Orangeville with only two regular defencemen, which forced coach Gary Hudson to bring back a few forwards to fill in the gaps.

The Sabres were only down 2-1 after the first period, and trailed 4-1 after the second.

Tom Fisher scored Acton's first goal, assisted by Rick Floto and Steve Wagner. Trevor Reibot pulled the trigger on their third-period goal, assisted by Rod McClure and netminder Halliburton.

Orangeville produced a balanced scoring attack, as nine players potted goals. Tom O'Donnell, Dave Foster, Dave Warren, Dean Weber, Jeff Hoelschier, Warren Hughes, Jamie Litt, Russ Gordon, and Mark Bracken all found the mark for the Crushers.

Against Grand Valley, the Sabres left nothing to chance, as they led 3-0 after the opening frame, and 7-1 after the second.

Three Sabres turned in hat-trick performances, as Chris Turner, Rob Wilson, and Fisher all clicked for three goals. Singles went to Mark French, Craig Yates, Colin Lewis, Todd Cull, Wagner, and McClure.

Brad Park and Marc Robinson had the only goals for Grand Valley.

Tom Hill started the game in net for the Sabres, before being replaced by Halliburton for the third period.

Floto sat out half the Grand Valley game after dropping the gloves with Mike Hunchuk of the Harvesters midway through the second period.

Russiani says the team is still interested in signing a few more players, particularly to bolster their defence, and they are currently sizing up a few prospects.

This week, the Sabres were scheduled to play twice, travelling to Schomberg Monday, and hosting Grand Valley this Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Following Christmas, their next outing will be Dec. 30, when they pay a visit to the Alliston Hornets.

McNally comes up with win, draw

By RON KERSLAKE
Herald Special

The Major Novice McNally Construction Firefighters had a pair of games on the weekend that everyone says "felt good".

A tie in Orangeville and a shutout win over Brampton was just the Christmas present coaches Dave Bell and Mark Hillier wanted. Even though they had the pressure on, the boys were down 1-0 after the first period in Orangeville but trying paid off early in the second when Ryan Taylor finished off an attack that Pete Mashinter and Aaron McLaughlin started.

Kenny Armstrong got the first of his two assists in the game when Pete scored while using Tim Van Hinte as a decoy on the rush.

Ryan scored a second goal from Armstrong with Chris Goodhew assisting too. Geoff Beauparlant had been in close on a few "almost" occasions. At this stage the boys were up 3-2 and the post had been Andrew Craig's buddy a couple of times but Orangeville pressure paid off with six attackers and only 15 seconds to go.

Just to be sure of the win the boys popped five goals against Brampton on Sunday.

Andrew Craig and Warren Evans shared the shutout as both played well when tested. The defensive work of Chris Corney and Jamie Briggs kept the testing to a minimum.

Pete Mashinter led his line with three goals while mate Ryan Taylor assisted and scored once with Chris Goodhew's work in front netting him a couple of assists.

Gary McNiven led his crew of Andy Kerslake and Quarrie McGuire on the attack and set up Andy for one of the goals.

Trainer Brian Clark was on the ice often as the Brampton game was relatively rough but the boys paid attention to their jobs and won the game.

Notes of credit to Chris Goodhew's Grandma Culbert and Mom for knitting the mitt and touque boutonnières for all the moms and girls. Also to the Craig family for hosting, and all the other ladies for helping out with a Christmas party for the families. I bet the folks on Hillside and Mary Streets had never heard that kind of caroling before.

Good effort against Caps

Gems strive for consistency



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - Junior B hockey game Friday night. Georgetown goalie John Lantz found himself in rough company when he decided to do some roaming outside the safety of his crease in a Central Etobicoke Capitals. (Herald photo)

By MIKE TURNER
Herald Sports Editor

A few more games like the ones the Georgetown Gemini turned in Saturday night at the Alcott Arena against the Etobicoke Capitals, and things could be very different for the Junior B club.

Unfortunately though, the team's inability to corner the market on consistency is their biggest problem.

Friday, the Gems managed to fight back from a 3-1 deficit and salvage a 5-5 tie with the Caps.

But a night earlier, they were doubled 8-4 in Orillia, and Sunday night, they fell 9-3 to Aurora.

"We have a couple of good games, and then our defence collapses," says Georgetown coach Peter Sturgeon. "With Orillia, it was only 6-4 half way through the third, and then we got sloppy in our end. We've got to be more consistent in taking the man out in our own end."

Friday produced a more encouraging effort from the team though.

"They fought back... they really put their heart into it. The defence was moving the puck up. With any luck at all, it was our game."

Following the game Sunday, the Gems remained in sixth place in the Central loop's West Division with 17 points on a 7-21-3 record. They trail the Milton Merchants (10-13-4) by seven points, but the Merchants have played four fewer games.

The Gems got off to a good start against the Capitals Friday, when Joe Washkurak stole the puck in the Etobicoke end and flipped a shot into the top corner at 6:01.

The Caps replied with a goal by Mike Spadacini at 8:13, and then took the lead with a pair of goals in the final four minutes of the opening frame.

Geo Djurajvic took a pass breaking in at the Georgetown blueline and put a shot by Gem goalie John Lantz, who had been called up from the Georgetown Juveniles.

With two Gemini players off with penalties, the Caps increased their lead to 3-1 when Kevin Bonello connected with a wrist shot, with only 42 seconds remaining.

Georgetown had a two-man advantage early in the second period but failed to cash in.

With about eight minutes left in the period, the Capitals were given a two-man advantage and applied good pressure in the Georgetown end. But Lantz was able to hold them back, making several quality saves.

The Gems finally capitalized on a powerplay opportunity when Kevin Dance scored from Jim McCabe at 15:19, to make it 3-2.

Then the Gems drew even on a picture goal. Greg Brazeau fed the puck up to Dance, who broke in and shovelled a pass across to McCabe who flipped it into the open net with 33 seconds left.

Etobicoke regained the lead when Ron Lonsdale flipped a shot over Lantz after a pile-up in front of the Georgetown net early in the third.

Georgetown tied it at four with a shorthanded goal at 12:09. Adam Bennett sent Washkurak and Don Cruise in on a two-on-one, and Cruise fed a pass out to Washkurak, who stuffed it in the Etobicoke net.

Washkurak scored the go-ahead goal for the Gems when he took the puck off the face-off and fired a shot over goalie Marco Decimelli's left shoulder. The goaltender never had time to move on the play.

It looked as though the Gems might hold on for the win, but with just under five minutes remaining, Brent Wilson found himself with the puck in the right slot area, after a clearing pass took a strange hop, and he put a shot by Lantz. The Georgetown goalie managed to get a piece of the puck, but it went in off his left shoulder.

Lantz made 36 saves in the contest, compared to 23 for Decimelli. It was Lantz's third game with the Gems, and he has yet to suffer a loss, with a record of two wins and the tie Friday.

Against Orillia Thursday, the Gems trailed 3-0 after the first period, and 4-2 after the second.

McCabe, Mark Dunning, and Travis Cole all connected on the power play for the Gems, while Brazeau had the other goal.

Duane Perry, Clay Birkett, Dave Gillespie, and Archie Meridis all had a pair of goals for Orillia.

This Saturday, the Gems take on the Burlington Cougars in a Boxing Day match beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Alcott Arena. The Gemini are holding Kid's Night in conjunction with the game, and there will be a number of giveaways for the youngsters.

The first game of the new year has the Gems hosting the Streetsville Derbys on Saturday, Jan. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Minor hockey's Game of the Week

Curwood outlasts Tiremen 11-8

Curwood scored three goals in the third period to pull away from Halton Hills Tire and take an 11-8 decision in the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's Game of the Week, played Thursday at the Alcott Arena.

The Atom House League match-up was a seesaw battle throughout as Curwood led 3-2 after the opening frame, and were up 8-7 after the second period.

Halton Hills Tire fought back to square matters at eight, early in the final frame, but a goal by Darcy Boudreau, and two more by Paul Ingram, settled the issue in Curwood's favor.

Ingram finished the game with a total of five goals to lead the Curwood crew, while Boudreau connected for four markers.

Peter Kristy turned in a solid performance for Curwood, scoring one goal, and assisting on three others.

Jeff Worley accounted for the other Curwood marker, while Brad Socha and Donald McCleod both chipped in with a pair of assists, and Sam Kent and Steven Medzinski had an assist each.

Chris Collins, though he didn't figure in the scoring, was effective in breaking up several rushes by Halton Hills Tire.

Brady Davies led the Tiremen attack as he scored five goals and assisted on one other.

Keith Tippet clicked for three goals and added three assists, while Andrea Trustum and Stephen Clark had a pair of assists each, and Samantha Jepson added one assist.

Halton Hills Tire also received strong efforts from Paul Connell Shertel, Andrew Crabbe, Randy Geerts, Tim Grant, and Michael Olsen, enabling them to keep the game close throughout.

Despite the number of goals given up in the match, both Steven Heinz of Curwood, and Reid Scott of Halton Hills Tire made a number of quality saves at both ends, backstopping their respective teams.



POST TIME - Curwood took an 11-8 decision over Halton Hills Tire in the GMHA Game of the Week Thursday at the Alcott Arena. Here, Curwood goalie Steven Heinz crowds the post to turn back a Halton Hills Tire attacker. (Herald photo)

Fitness with dip

With those New Year's resolutions just around the corner, this is the time to consider signing up for the Recreation and Parks Department's exciting Fitness, Swim and Sauna Program. Expert instructors combine a light fitness workout with a friendly dip in the pool and a short stint in the saunas to help participants feel refreshed and maybe even burn off some of those excess Christmas calories.

The program begins Jan. 12 and runs for 10 weeks; choose between once or twice a week. Give it a try; we guarantee you will feel better for it. Call 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

Pool closures

The Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools will be closed from December 21, 1987 to January 3, 1988 inclusive for annual repairs and maintenance.

Ballroom shuffle

Enjoy an evening of fun and social activity with instruction in Ballroom and Latin Dancing. Learn the basics of the cha-cha, waltz, live, foxtrot, disco hustle and others from our experienced teacher, Dorri Bland. There are basic lessons for beginners as well as an advanced class for the more experienced dancers.

Youth activities

Last fall was a successful season for this Youth Activity Night program. Floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, special outings, crafts are some of the activities planned. Join Chris Lewis and David Thorpe, Wednesday nights at McKenzie Smith, 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Heather Bergsma and Mark Duke, Monday nights at Joseph Gibbons Public School. This program is for youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8. Call the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

Skating programs

Commencing the week of Jan. 4, this is the schedule for skating programs:

Learn-to-Skate - Memorial Arena, Thursdays, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. (1/2 hour sessions).

Powerskating - Memorial Arena, Wednesdays, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. (1/2 hour sessions). Tuesdays - Acton Arena, 5 to 5:45 p.m. (1/2 hour sessions).

Parent and Tot - Memorial Arena, Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:15 p.m.

Adults - Memorial Arena, 7 to 7:50 p.m.

For more information call the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185 ext. 260.

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