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Playoff preview

# Outmanned, Gems make a go of it

By MIKE TURNER  
 Herald Sports Editor

Anyone who came late to the Oakville-Georgetown Junior B hockey game Saturday at the Alcott Arena, may have had a hard time sorting out who the winning team was.

The final score showed the visiting Blades on top by a 9-6 margin, but the Gemini locker room didn't, in any way, resemble a hangout for losers.

"The guys showed a lot of team spirit," said Gemini assistant coach Jim Storr, who was at the helm Saturday night. "They showed some good stuff. We proved we're in better shape physically than they (the Blades) are."

Georgetown coach Peter Sturgeon wasn't behind the bench for the game Saturday. Instead, he took a perch high in the stands, so he could better analyze the Oakville team, who will probably be the Gems' first playoff opponent.

Things couldn't have looked much worse for the Gems. Already riddled with assorted injuries, matters became critical at the end of the first period, when a mild skirmish broke out in the Georgetown end of the rink.

The fracas didn't amount to much more than a lot of shoving, but when the teams failed to return to neutral ice, the referee began tossing bodies.

A total of four Oakville players, and three from the Gems were sent to early showers, further depleting the Georgetown ranks.

When they came out in the second, the Gems had only three extra skaters on the bench, while the Blades, with a full squad, barely noticed the loss of four of their players.

"There were no complaints about ice time," chuckled Storr following the game. "We found out what they're made of. Everybody gave a hundred per cent."

The Georgetown plight was helped somewhat when defenceman Mark Pries donned the equipment and took to the ice, despite an injured elbow.

Chuck Loreto was deservedly named the Player of the Game for the Gems, after putting on a tremendous performance that netted him two goals and an assist.

Shannon Storr opened the scoring in the game to give the Gems a 1-0 lead before Tony Deluca, Cole Seif, and Simon Thompson struck for markers to put the Blades ahead 3-1.

Greg Brazeau scored at 16:03 to narrow the margin to 3-2, before he,

Terry Dixon, and Brent Presswood were ejected for their part in the scuffle at the end of the period.

The Blades went up 5-2 on goals by Steve Richard and Darren Hunter early in the second, but the Gems fought back as Loreto scored his first of the night at 7:21.

Taking the puck from deep in his own end, Loreto rushed the length of the ice, sidestepped the last Oakville defender, and slid the puck past Blade goalie Sean Gauthier to make it 5-3.

John Duff and Hunter scored for Oakville to make it 7-3, but Travis Cole replied for the Gems with a powerplay marker to make it 7-4 at the end of the second.

The teams exchanged a pair of goals each in the third period, as Brad Demone and Chris McEachern tallied for the Blades.

Loreto scored his second of the night for the Gems when he jammed in a rebound at 1:36, and Kevin Dance went top shelf with a shot in the final few minutes to round out the scoring.

The game Saturday marked the first start by goaltender Charlie Potvin in a Georgetown uniform, after he was released by the Richmond Hill Dynes several weeks ago. Potvin made a number of excellent saves, particularly in the second period, when Oakville applied some heavy pressure.

He faced 41 Oakville shots in the game, while Gauthier faced 32 Georgetown shots.

Friday the Gems were in Burlington, where they dropped a 9-5 decision to the Cougars. But the loss was more costly than simply in the standings. Team captain Jim McCabe broke his wrist in the contest, and has been sidelined for what will likely be the remainder of the season.

Dance had three goals and an assist in the game, while Loreto and Brazeau each had a goal and two assists.

Bill Kovacs led the Cougars with three goals, while Paul Constantin added a pair.

Last Tuesday in Streetsville, the Gems were downed 9-3 by the Derbys. Presswood had a pair of goals for Georgetown, while Joe Washkurak had the other.

The Gemini round out the regular schedule this week. Thursday, they travel to Barrie for a contest with the East Division leading Colts, who have only been beaten once this season.

Friday, Georgetown hosts the Mimico Monarchs at the Alcott Arena for an 8 p.m. game.



HEAD TURNER-The officials in Saturday night's Jr. B hockey game between the Georgetown Gemini and the Oakville Blades had their hands full when a massive shoving match broke out between the teams after the first period had ended. A total of four Oakville players and three Gemini were ejected as a result of the fracas. Here, a linesman tries to unangle Travis Cole (in white) of the Gemini, and Chris McEachern of the Blades. (Herald photo)

# Novices sweep series

By RON KERSLAKE  
 Herald Special

The Major Novice AA McNally Construction - Georgetown Firefighters won the first round of their zone playoffs against Streetsville in two straight games. Both were close exciting games with final scores of 1-0 and 3-1.

The Fighters started fast in both games as the Mashinter-Taylor-Goodhew line led the offence with none of the team members letting down defensively. The goaltending of Geoff Beaurparant and Andrew Craig in their respective games were major factors in the wins as well.

Streetsville may have been unprepared for Pete Mashinter taking the puck into their end right from the faceoff but they were more surprised when Ryan Taylor took a pass and put a shot over the keeper's shoulder.

From there on, it was offensive pressure that helped provide the defence and the boys carried that same effort into the second game in Georgetown.

The first quick goal was scored by Chris Goodhew from Pete and Ryan. The same threesome clicked again on a pretty three-way passing play that Ryan finished off.

Ryan took advantage of the open net at the end of the game with an insurance marker that would have been welcome relief earlier in the contest. Needless to say there were lots of anxious moments for coaches Dave Bell and Mark Hillier, although they may be relaxed by the facts that the boys have started to play more consistently and aggressively.

## Registrations down

# GMHA takes on Bingo to raise needed funds

Declining registrations have forced the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association to pursue alternate fund raising avenues, in order to keep the status quo.

The association will hold a series of three Bingos at the Riviera Club in Norval, beginning with the first this Sunday. There is also a plan to unveil a "pay-what-you-scratch" ticket-selling campaign at the end of February.

GMHA President Carson Mininch says a shortfall in the number of registered players compared to prior seasons, has forced them to take on the fund raising ventures.

"The basic idea of the fundraisers, besides balancing the budget for this year," he says, "is to maintain reasonable fees for next year."

Registrations for the current hockey season have slipped to about 660 players, compared to about 720 for the 1986-87 season. The downward trend in registrations is one being felt by hockey

associations throughout the province. Mininch says the association had about 900 players just five years ago.

One of the main contributing factors in the drop, is the fact that the number of children in the family unit has dropped considerably in recent years.

But while registrations dwindle,

costs tend to remain fairly constant.

As costs continue to rise, and registrations drop, the only way

hockey associations have to make up the shortfall is to increase registration fees - or hold fund raising events, like the local association is doing.

"It's an expensive prospect to start a young hockey player these

days," Mininch says. "But we're trying to do what we can to maintain registration fees. A lot depends on the response we get to our fund raisers."

Three Bingos planned by the GMHA are slated for Feb. 7, Feb. 21, and March 6, all beginning at 7 p.m. at the Riviera Club.

A total of \$3,500 will be up for grabs at each of the Bingos, including a \$1,000 jackpot.

# Gems sharpen up for duel with Blades

Unless something very drastic happens in this, the final week of the Central Jr. B Hockey League schedule, the Georgetown Gemini will face the Oakville Blades in their opening round of the playoffs.

The Blades will finish third in the Central loop's West Division. With two games remaining, the Blades had a record of 22 wins, 18 losses, and four ties, putting them in third, with 48 points.

The Gems will finish sixth in the seven-team West Division, amassing a 10-29-3 record, with two games remaining.

Other West Division match-ups will have the Streetsville Derbys taking on the Mimico Monarchs, and the Etobicoke Capitals facing the Milton Merchants.

In the East Division, tentative match-ups are Vaughan against Markham; Aurora against Newmarket; and Richmond Hill against Orillia, but these could change, depending on the outcome of the final few scheduled games.

The league's two kingpins, the Burlington Cougars from the West, and the Barrie Colts from the East, will entertain themselves with a best-of-five "Super Series", which will have no bearing on their league standing.

Following the best-of-seven preliminary playoff series, Burlington and Barrie will have the choice of the team they will play next, picking from their respective divisions.

Once the division champions have been decided, they'll square off for the league crown.

In five regular season meetings between Georgetown and Oakville, the Gems lost four outings, and managed one tie. The Blades outscored the Gemini 36-20 in the five match-ups.

Playoff games for the Georgetown-Oakville series have been slated tentatively for the following dates: Tuesday, Feb. 9; at Oakville; Thursday, Feb. 11 at Georgetown; Friday, Feb. 12 at Oakville; Saturday, Feb. 13 at Georgetown; Tuesday, Feb. 16 at Oakville; Thursday, Feb. 18 at Georgetown; and Friday, Feb. 19 at Oakville.

Oakville's home games will begin at 8 p.m., and Georgetown's are slated for 7:30 p.m. However, this could change, depending on availability of ice time.

CENTRAL JR. B HOCKEY LEAGUE  
 STANDINGS (as of Jan. 31)

Team	West Division					East Division				
	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GP	W	L	T	PTS
Burlington	30	20	2	2	202	144	42			
Streetsville	30	13	4	13	246	223	54			
Oakville	30	18	4	8	217	194	46			
Etobicoke	31	18	17	6	233	213	43			
Milton	31	18	20	4	233	226	40			
GEORGETOWN	31	10	29	3	217	308	23			
Mimico	31	8	30	5	150	281	17			
Barrie	31	23	1	5	228	118	73			
Vaughan	31	27	10	4	244	184	58			
Aurora	31	23	13	8	242	187	56			
Rich Hill	30	18	18	4	220	206	38			
Orillia	31	15	22	6	212	222	35			
Newmarket	32	9	28	7	180	228	25			
Markham	31	3	33	3	125	301	9			

## Skaters complete tests

Several Georgetown figure skaters took part in recent High Test Days, and passed their respective levels.

At the Streetsville Figure Skating Club High Test Day on Dec. 1, Kelly Cotton passed her

Starlight Waltz, and Heather Garrison passed her Rocker Foxtrot.

On Jan. 27, a High Test Day was held by the Georgetown Figure Skating Club, and Johnathan Allen passed his American Waltz, and Kara Lynn Palmer passed her Paso Doble.



Carson Mininch

## Relay team claims gold

A Georgetown District High School Junior girls' relay team claimed OFSAA gold medals Friday, at an indoor track and field event held at Maple Leaf Gardens.

The high school games were held in conjunction with the Toronto Sam Miller Life Challenge, held Friday night at the Gardens.

The GDHS team won their relay event, in which each runner had to complete a one-lap leg, amid a field of 16 teams, divided into four heats.

After winning their heat, the Georgetown time of 1:22.9 stood up, and earned them the gold medals over all.

Members of the team are Anna Tocco, Teri Korzack, Lisa Carter, and Michelle Thompson.

A Georgetown team also claimed silver medals in the Boys' Open, 400 by 800 m relay, finishing a close second to St. Mike's.

Members of the GDHS team are Yanna Letarneck, Glen Mulder, Rick Lane, and Dave Paul.

Individually, Sean Cleary claimed a bronze medal in the Senior Boys' 1500 m race.

A total of 24 competitors from the Georgetown high school went to Toronto to compete at the event.

Schools are selected to compete in the competition, based on their reputation. Times must be submitted, giving a rundown of the runners' attributes, and a selection committee makes the final decision on who is chosen.

# Sabres square off against Caledon

The Acton Sabres were awarded second place in the Mid-Ontario Jr. C Hockey League, and were scheduled to begin a best-of-seven quarter-final playoff series against the Caledon Flyers last night (Tuesday) in Caledon.

After losing their final two games of the regular schedule last week, 10-0 to Bradford, and 7-5 to Orangeville, the Sabres finished with a record of 21 wins, 14 losses, and one draw in the 36-game schedule, giving them 43 points.

The Bradford Bulls finished two points back of the Sabres, with two games left unplayed. The Bulls had a game with the Alliston Hornets called when there was a problem with the ice, and the initial ruling was, it would have to be replayed. Another game with the Hornets was to be rescheduled after a cancellation in December.

But in the interests of getting the playoffs under way, it was decided the remaining two games would be snuffed.

The Orangeville Crushers easily

finished first in the seven-team loop, with 64 points. After Bradford came Schomberg, with 38 points, followed by Caledon with 38, and Alliston with 20.

The Grand Valley Harvesters missed the playoffs, finishing dead last with five points.

Aside from the Acton-Caledon series, other match-ups have the Crushers taking on the Hornets, and the Bulls facing Schomberg.

The winners in each of these series

will advance to play a home-and-home round robin set, with the two top teams going on to the league championship.

During the regular season, Caledon won four of their six meetings with the Sabres. But the two victories Acton claimed against the Flyers were in their final meetings of the regular schedule, and were by convincing scores of 11-4 and 9-2.

The Sabres-Flyers series con-

tinues this Friday in Acton, with Game Two at 8 p.m. Game Three is slated for Tuesday, Feb. 9 in Caledon at 8:15 p.m., and Game Four is Friday, Feb. 12 in Acton at 8 p.m.

The remaining games in the series, if necessary, go Saturday, Feb. 13 in Acton, 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 16 in Caledon at 8:15 p.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 17 in Acton at 8 p.m.

## Fisher falls just short

The scoring race in the Mid-Ontario Jr. C Hockey League was a tight one, but it appears Jamie Litt of the Orangeville Crushers has edged Tom Fisher of the Acton Sabres, by one point.

In 33 games, Litt had 31 goals and 69 assists, for 90 points, according to league statistics. Fisher, in 34 games, had 45 goals and 47 assists, for 92 points.

However, in the Crushers' 7-5 win over the Sabres Friday night, Litt reportedly came up with five points on the night, to give him a total of 95. Fisher reportedly had two points against the Crushers, giving him a total of 94.

A recount will be done for both players, to ensure no error has been made in the final tallies.

MID-ONTARIO JR. C HOCKEY LEAGUE  
 FINAL STANDINGS

Team	GP W L T GF GA PTS						
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Orangeville	30	23	4	0	297	146	64
ACTON	30	21	14	1	222	180	43
Bradford	34	20	13	1	318	184	41
Schomberg	36	19	17	0	184	194	28
Caledon	30	17	17	2	312	221	28
Alliston	34	10	23	1	194	294	20
Grand Valley	36	3	33	1	128	318	5

ACTON-CALEDON PLAYOFF  
 Game 1: Tues., Feb. 2, 8:15 p.m. at Caledon  
 Game 2: Fri., Feb. 5, 8:00 p.m. at Acton  
 Game 3: Tues., Feb. 8, 8:15 p.m. at Caledon  
 Game 4: Fri., Feb. 12, 8:00 p.m. at Acton  
 Game 5: Sat., Feb. 13, 8:00 p.m. at Acton (if necessary)  
 Game 6: Tues., Feb. 16, 8:15 p.m. at Caledon (if necessary)  
 Game 7: Wed., Feb. 17, 8:00 p.m. at Acton (if necessary)

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