## It's a whole new season for Sabres

The old cliche, "the playoffs are a whole new season," is one the Acton Sabres will cling to as the Jr. C club finishes its Mid-Ontario league regular season schedule this week.

It's been a frustrating season for the locals who could add the prefix "hard-luck" permanently to their team name.

Sabres lost two more games last week, one of them which they were favored to win.

"We've been saying all season long that the breaks have to start going our way," said Sabre GM Robin Inscoe after losses to Orangeville and Alliston. "Maybe that'll happen in the playoffs."

Acton suffered an 11-4 drubbing in Orangeville on Sunday after an ego-damaging 4-2 home ice loss on Friday to the Alliston Hornets.

Sabres finish the regular season with a visit to Grand Valley tomorrow before gearing up for next Sunday's playoff opener in Bradford against the second-place Bulls.

ORANGEVILLE 11, SABRES 4
Todd Shimirak was the lone
bright spot for Acton as he followed
up a two-goal performance on Friday by drilling the hat trick. According to Inscoe, the speedy forward came very close to potting

Steve Wagner notched the other Acton goal with Mike Nellis, Ian Ellis, Wayne Rivers and Tim McDonald earning assists.

Acton actually opened the scoring in Orangeville and held the first-place Crushers off the board for over half the first period but a pair of quick goals in period two soon found the hometown club up by 6-1 heading into the final 20 minutes.

Alex Piazza made his first start of the season in goal for Acton after signing with the club last week. Piazza had been with the Jr. B Milton Merchants earlier this season and spent time last season with the Sabres.

Todd Shimirak's five goal week began on Friday in Acton as he scored twice, once unwristed and once while the Sabres were shorthanded.

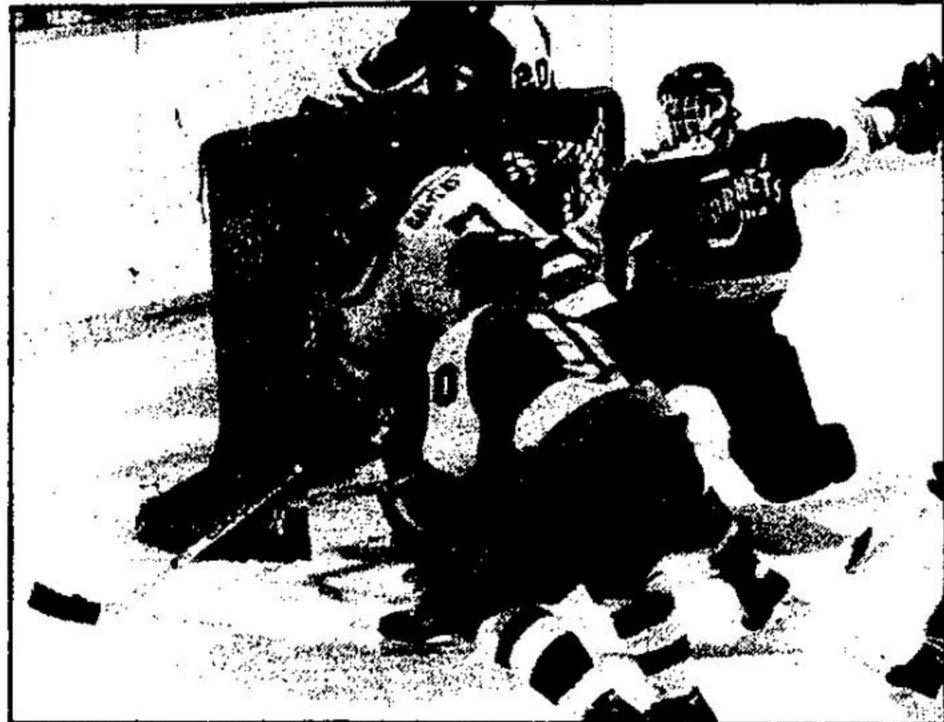
But a 2-0 Acton lead soon evaporated as Alliston took a 3-2 margin into the third period. The Hornets scored once and stymied a frustrated Sabre offence that just couldn't seem to get untracked.

Rob Wilson assisted on Shimirak's shorthanded tally.

Jim Mantione was in goal for Acton and was victimized on a couple of bad bounces despite displaying a snappy glove hand on some difficult Hornet shots.

SABRE RATTLINGS: Sabres open up in Bradford on Sunday and return to Acton to host the Bulls on Friday, Feb. 10. All Mid-Ontario league series are best-of-seven affairs.

First-place Orangeville should have relatively little problem in their series with cellar-dwelling Grand Valley, while Schomberg, Caledon and Alliston will engage in a round robin set.



Acton Sabres forward Bob Watson tries to stuff the puck past Alliston Hornet netminder Damon Thompson during goalmouth action from the

Sabres 4-2 loss last Friday in Acton. (Herald photo)

VAN ALPHEN

## Midgets sweep Brampton

The Georgetown Sunny Acres
Farms midgets took the first step
toward a tri-county league championship as they disposed of
Brampton in semi-final playoff
action last week.

Dale McNiven's empty-netter sealed a 3-1 Georgetown win last Friday and gave the Sunny Acres crew a 2-0 sweep of the best-of-three series.

Other goal-scorers in Brampton were Rich Bond and Jim English with Eric Long and McNiven each earning a single assist.

Chris Cambouris started in goal for Georgetown and was replaced by Paul St. Pierre.

Georgetown will now await the winner of the Chinguacousy-Burlington series to determine who they will meet in the league final.

## Bridge winners

Judy Rivers and Norma Maynard combined to win the duplicate bridge competition at Georgetown Legion on Jan. 30.

The team of Mike Larusso and Karol Tobiasz earned second place while the tandem of Jack Kaorsemaker and Harry Arbic tied for third with the duo of



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## Raiders dump Derbys

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OAKVILLE 4, RAIDERS 2

Despite the loss the Raiders had to be happy with a strong penaltykilling brigade that saw them kill off all seven Oakville powerplays.

Travis Cole and Kelly Foster were the only Raiders to solve west division MVP Kevin Alcock as the Blades outshot Georgetown, 52-33.

"They came right at us." said

"They came right at us," said Sturgeon of a concentrated Oakville attack. "We weren't on our game. It was just one of those nights."

RAIDER RAMBLINGS: Newcomers Kevin Burrows and John Williamson made their home ice debuts with Georgetown on Saturday and also sported the latest in punk haircuts, courtesy of some veteran Raiders. Williamson saw only a couple of shifts on right wing as he's still nursing a sore shoulder, while Burrows was used sparingly on the blueline. Sturgeon had speculated last week that Guelph Platers of the OHL might send down defenceman Bryan Drury, but that move apparently won't happen.

The OHL's Believille Bulls may join the Platers in inviting Raider backstop Curtis Green to training camp next fall. The Bulls were apparently checking out young blueliner Trent Cull on Friday in Oakville and expressed an interest in Green as well.

Kelly Foster was cut for a few stitches in the forehead after he fell on the ice during a third period scrap with Streetsville's Steve Woods on Saturday.

Raiders have four regular season games remaining, with two of them at home this weekend. Mimico visits on Friday and Oakville's in town Saturday.





