

Jr. C's need to be physical in playoffs, says GM

Time running out for Sabres

Time's running out for the Acton Sabres and general manager Robin Inscocoe doesn't need to be reminded.

The Sabres closed out their regular season last week in the Mid-Ontario Jr. C hockey circuit. Thursday, they defeated Grand Valley 5-3, while Friday, with just 10 skaters suited up, they were buried 18-3 in Orangeville by the regular season champion Crushers.

The Sabres now find themselves a game back in their best-of-seven quarter-final playoff series, after dropping the opener 6-1 in Bradford Sunday.

Inscocoe is aware that for the

Sabres to see any success against the Bulls, they'll have to make a few changes in strategy.

"They (Bradford) are a physical hockey club and we are not," he said following their loss. "We're going to have to play their game. We have to forecheck well, and get them looking over their shoulders. If we can keep their scoring down, I think it could prove interesting."

Bradford finished the regular schedule in second with a 27-9 win-loss record, while the Sabres finished 7-28-1 and were sixth in the seven-team loop.

Despite the differential of close to 40 points in the standings, the

Sabres have had some solid outings against the Bulls over the course of the regular schedule.

Sunday, they again kept it close, trailing just 3-1 early in the third, before giving up three unanswered goals.

The biggest problem in trying to better the Bulls is keeping a lid on their balanced scoring attack, according to Inscocoe.

Six different players scored for Bradford Sunday, and that's pretty much been the secret to their success all season.

"Their scoring's well spread out," Inscocoe says. "We can't key on a particular line with them. They had six guys who scored between 50 and 60 points (in the regular season) so it's a balanced attack."

In Sunday's match-up, the Sabres trailed 1-0 after the first, and 3-0 after the second.

Kevin Ritchie finally put Acton on the scoresheet at the 59-second mark of the third, when he tallied from Steve Wagner to close the gap to 3-1. But the Bulls replied with three more to round out the 6-1 final.

The contest was anything but tame as four players aside were ejected mid way through the second period for a flare-up.

Jim Manton started the game in net for the Sabres but was one of the "ejectees," and was replaced by Alex Piazza when it was 3-0.

The second game of the series is slated for this Friday at the Acton Arena beginning at 8 p.m. Game 3 will be in Bradford Sunday at 7 p.m. and Game 4 is slated for 8:15 p.m. in Acton Monday.

In other playoff action, Orangeville opened their quarter-

final playoff with a 14-1 victory over the Grand Valley Harvesters.

Meanwhile, Caledon, Schomberg, and Alliston are embroiled in a round robin set that will decide the other two semi-finalists.

Last Thursday, after a scoreless opening period, the Sabres pulled away from Grand Valley to take a 2-0 lead in the second, and went on to a 5-3 victory.

Kevin Elkins picked up a pair of goals while Paul Westaway and Bob Watson added singles. The fifth goal of the night was scored by Sean Sears, from Westaway and Paul McLeod. The three were called up from the Acton Midgets for the game.

Manton went the distance in net for Acton.

Friday's match-up in Orangeville turned into somewhat of a sideshow. League scoring champion Jamie Litt of the Crushers was within nine points of setting a league record of 143 points. Consequently, their big line was being double-shifted and the Sabres didn't have the manpower to turn back the attack.

Litt set the record en route to the 18-3 win.

Scoring for the Sabres were Jason Lucas, Rob Wilson and Westaway.



Winning form

Tracey Clark of the Halton Hills Gymnastics Club returned from a recent Burlington meet with a bronze medal for her performance in the floor exercise. Tracey also finished fourth on the bars, and fifth in the vault, amid a field of about 20 gymnasts in the Tyro-C (13 and under) class. The Central Region meet was one of three major competitions this season. The next is in Oakville, April 1-2. (Herald photo)

Fuelers find moral victory in Pickering

Pickering played host to 32 Atom hockey teams last weekend and the local Star Fuels Minor Atoms were there.

This event was billed as the "away" tournament for the boys and their loyal supporters. There were a few hockey games along with some fan antics.

The locals had three games facing Etobicoke, Pickering and Waterloo. The Fuelers registered two ties and a loss in the action. They lost to the host team as any good guest would, and provided some great hockey with lots of tension as there usually is in tie games with 2-2 scores.

Against Etobicoke Pete Mashinter scored both goals with the tying goal being scored when the Fuelers were making a line change. Was the gatekeeper shuffling Pictionary cards at the time?

Between games there was some elevator tag and referee Jim McNiven was spotted coloring between the lines.

Pickering cut loose and scored four times to the Fuelers' lone tally. Jamie Briggs scored on a shot

that was too hot to handle. Other noteworthy efforts were turned in by Chris Corney on the blueline, Keith Hunt with some aggressive speed, and Stephen Markham who was hustling and shooting. Geoff Beauparlant was in goal for this one and could not be faulted as he made a lot of tough stops against a hot team.

Waterloo was tough on goaltender Andrew Craig but he stonewalled them. Some of the boys deserving credit for defensive play include Darin Finlayson, Rob Pilgrim, and Ryan Taylor. Kenny Armstrong shot from the point and Kyle Hancock got the rebound to Pete for a score over the goalmouth pileup. Then in another scramble Pete scored again with Kyle and Gary McNiven assisting.

The weekend play was a moral victory over all for the Fuelers and coaches Bob Craig and John Andrews as the competition was relatively tough. The hosts were well organized and the officiating was good enough that Chris didn't get to use the line - "shake your head ref, your eyes are stuck."

Georgetown bowlers hunt for National crowns

After a month of qualifying, the Georgetown league bowlers have established the groups to represent the local bowling centre on the trail to a National Championship.

The 5-Pin National Classified Bowling Championships are for all class of bowlers as each entrant is classified according to his or her own league average.

For the men, Class 1 is 0 to 170 average; Class 2 is 171 to 185; Class 3 is 186 to 200; Class 4 is 201 to 215 and Class 5 is 216 average and up. One bowler from each class according to standing forms a team to continue on to zone, region, provincial and national finals.

The first men's team is composed of Aurelio Garcia (Class 5), Duane Hatcher (Cl. 4), Craig Stephens (Cl. 3), Henry Goulet (Cl. 2) and John Humberstone (Cl. 1). The number 2 team is Jim Kennedy (5), Norm White (4), Wade Sheppard (3), Larry Louth (2), and Keith Perkins (1). The third team is Paul Chaplin (5), Bill Lane (4), Derek Edwardson (3), Dan Abercrombie (2), and Ron Owen (1).

The ladies' classification is Class 1 (0 to 154), Class 2 (155 to 169), Class 3 (170 to 184), Class 4 (185 to 199) and Class 5 (200 and up). The first ladies' team is made up of Helen Humphries (5), Louise Rokols (4), Lorraine Golden (3), Joanne Richardson (2), and Lynn Pegg (1). The second team is Marg Brosseau (5), Ruth Fisher (4), Darlene Edwardson (3), June Gilson (2) and Jean Roshier (1).

This qualification round was highlighted by many scores over 700 but the outstanding effort was reached by Aurelio Garcia in Class 5. Garcia started with 303, came back with 213 and topped it off with 352 for a total of 868. The next round will be announced for the beginning of March.

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Orangeville	32	4	0	64
Bradford	27	9	0	54
Caledon	25	11	0	50
Schomberg	19	17	0	38
Alliston	12	23	1	25
ACTON	7	28	1	15
Grand Valley	3	33	0	6

Villa's best earns win

Acton Villa came up with their best effort of the season to shade Halton Outdoors 3-2 in Milton Indoor Soccer League action on the weekend.

Villa fell behind 2-0 in the opening half before bouncing back with three unanswered goals in the second half, to defeat last year's playoff champion.

Peter Wright paced the Villa attack with a pair of goals, while Paul Nolan had the other tally.

This Sunday, Acton Villa will take on last season's league champion The Dickens in their next league match-up.

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