

N.H.L. hopes still alive for Adam Bennett

By STEVEN LeBLANC
Hopes of playing in the National Hockey League are still alive for Georgetown's Adam Bennett, now a rookie defencemen with Indianapolis Ice of the International Hockey League (IHL).

Twenty-year-old Bennett, a former defenceman with Georgetown Gemini's (Junior B) was Chicago's first round pick in the 1989 NHL junior entry draft.

Despite what he felt was a successful training camp with the 'Hawks this fall, he was sent down to Indianapolis.

"I was very pleased with my performance during training camp," said Bennett during a telephone interview last week from his townhouse home in Indianapolis. "I accomplished the goals I set for myself."

Bennett explained that near the end of training camp, Darryl Sutter, a member of Chicago's coaching staff, expressed a high opinion of Adam's performance in

training camp and said that if he continued to play as well with the Ice, Chicago would have no choice but to call him up during the season.

Bennett said he had a strong start with Ice but has been struggling lately and worries about his chances of getting ice time with the NHL club this season.

"I haven't been able to get the points I was able to last year in Junior A (he played with the Sudbury Wolves) I haven't been getting as much playing time as I would like and am not being used on the powerplay very much," said Bennett.

Bennett however, isn't the only one struggling. His team is only two games over .500 and a single game ahead of last place Milwaukee in the IHL's East Division.

"We're a very young team, there are eight rookies including me," explained Adam.

Surprisingly, one of the highlights of Bennett's season so far came



Adam Bennett

while he was sitting out a game. This happened to be when legendary Russian goaltender Vladislav Tretiak was visiting Indianapolis.

"When I first noticed him (Tretiak) in the stands, I had remembered that he had said hello to me and other teammates on other occasions but I wasn't sure if I should sit with him," said Bennett. "After some thought I figured I wasn't going to get a chance like this very often so I sat down beside him and introduced myself."

What followed was one of the most enjoyable evenings of hockey in his life, according to Bennett.

Tretiak shared stories of his hockey career as well as life in Russia with Adam during the game and signed a hockey stick for him.

Bennett's training schedule is similar to most young players striving to break into the NHL

scene. He spends one to two hours each morning with hockey practice, which is followed by conditioning in the weight room.

The team plays two or three games weekly and a lot of time is spent travelling on buses.

In his spare time, Adam takes a psychology course at Indiana University.

Bennett is determined to regain his form and help his team improve in the second half of the season. He explained he expects to return to Chicago training camp next fall and prove himself capable of playing fulltime in the NHL.

It has been said that hockey players must both struggle and shine to achieve maturity and greatness. Adam Bennett has proven himself before and in the coming months, Georgetown and Chicago alike will watch closely for him to shine once again.

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SPORT SHORTS



25th Annual midget tourney

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's 25th Anniversary Midget Tournament will be held at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Dec. 29 and 30 and Jan. 2nd through to the 5th.

The upcoming tournament will feature 16 AA teams and eight AAA teams. Anniversary ceremonies will take place prior to the official opening game featuring the Georgetown Sunny Acre Midgets and Acton's AA team.

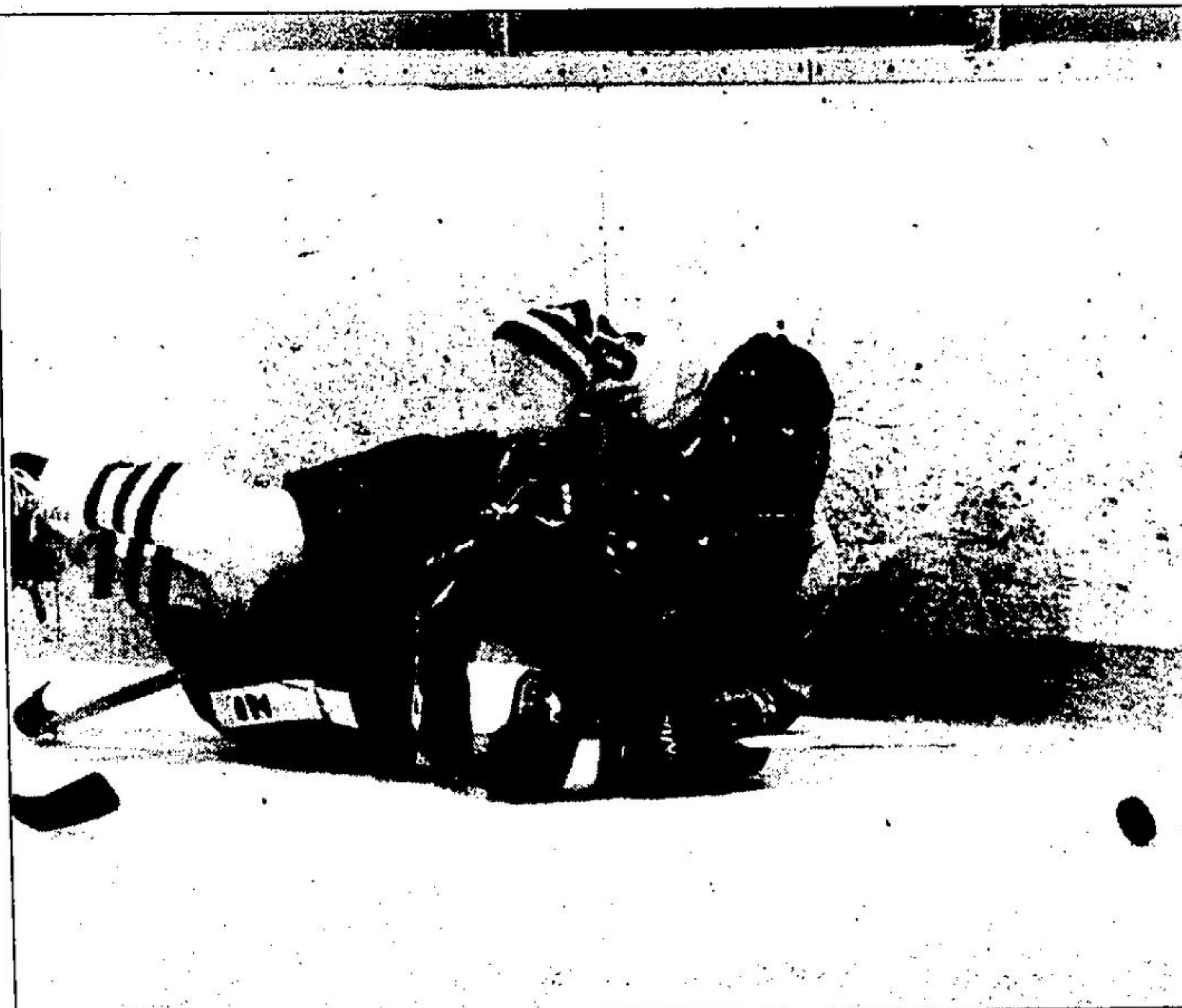
Atom Sabres lose 4-3

The Acton Nellis Construction Atom Sabres played the perfect hosts to Elora Dec. 11. Acton, leading with less than a minute remaining, allowed Elora to score twice to steal a 4-3 victory.

Scoring for Acton were: Matt Bodin - a goal and an assist, Kyle Artem - a goal and an assist, Scott Monaghan - a goal and an assist, and Chris Yeatman - an assist.

Journeying into Kitchener, the Nellis Sabres proved they had right stuff to bounce back by hustling to a 4-1 victory. A solid team effort was given by all.

Scoring for Acton were: Derek Lockerbie - one goal, Paul Withers - one goal and an assist, Kyle Artem - one goal, Jeff Newman - one goal, Chris Yeatman - two assists, and Ryan Young - three assists.



Raider forward Ian Ellis (10) takes down a Cougar chasing down the puck during Georgetown's 4-2 win over Burlington Saturday evening. (Herald Photo by Steven LeBlanc)

Raiders drop Cougars 4-2

Raider newcomer Pat Tessadri gave Georgetown fans an early Christmas present Saturday evening with a third period shot that proved to be the game winning goal in the Chrysler Raiders 4-2 victory over the Burlington Cougars.

During last year's Christmas break, Raider fans had little to cheer about, their home team were stationed near the bottom of the Central Junior B west division. This year, the Raiders have proven themselves against the big teams and are sitting pretty in third place with 14 wins, 9 losses, and 4 ties.

Saturday's contest started out very slowly. Georgetown was unable to get many shots on net but held tight on defence. Georgetown netminder Carmelo Giurleo put forth yet another outstanding performance in goal for the Raiders,

stopping about two dozens shots. The Raiders were first on the scoreboard at 10:55 of the first when Trevor Brandt tucked one under Burlington's goalie. Tom Viola assisted on the goal.

The Raiders scored first again in the second period when Steve Weishar netted one at 7:20, with passes coming from Mike Wilson and Duane Lewis.

Georgetown's defence began to get sloppy shortly after, allowing Burlington's Joey Pedula and Kevin Ryan to chalk up to quick goals and tie the score.

Going into the final period with the score tied at 2, Georgetown's Giurleo knew it was up to him to hold off Cougar attacks and hold them off he did, stopping over half a dozen good scoring chances for Burlington.

Pat Tessadri netted the game

winner with the pass coming from John Ventresca at 5:03.

Burlington's frustration came to a boil with five minutes left in the game when Cougar Mark Gordon began to exchange fists with Raider Peter Perrone, who fared well despite being the only one with his helmet and shirt off. Each received five minute fighting penalties and a game misconduct.

Burlington pulled their goalie with just under a minute remaining in a last ditch attempt to score a tie but got caught in their own end and Scott Humber lifted one past Burlington defenders at 19:48 to secure the win.

The Raiders return to action Friday evening at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena when they meet Ajax at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. they face off against Oakville at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Hurricane Midgets ensure playoff birth



The 'AAA' Midget Hurricanes ensured their hold on a playoff position last week with two wins over Chinguacousy, but dropped a 5-4 decision to first place Hamilton Friday night.

In Hamilton, the home team struck first with a goal less than a minute into the game. The line of Jim O'Driscoll, Jamie Janjevich and Mike McPhail then took over as they scored four unanswered goals, three by O'Driscoll and a single from McPhail.

After that, Halton could not find the marker and Hamilton came back with four goals of their own to win the game.

The home and home series with Chinguacousy brought the scoring touch out for the Hurricanes as they registered 6-2 and 6-3 wins. The 6-2 win saw O'Driscoll and Randy Bond fire a pair of goals with Ken Koswika and Mark Lunn adding single markers.

At home Sunday evening, Koswika scored a pair, single tallies were added by Matt Downs, Mark Lunn, Mitch Robinson, and Jake Mashinter.

The Hurricanes next game is in the Georgetown Tournament start December 30 when they face Wexford Raiders and Chinguacousy.