

Sports

McElroy scores in OT

Sabres oust Cougars in 6

Bring on the Orangeville Crushers!

That was the cry from the Acton Sabres dressing room shortly after Mike McElroy's shot found the top corner of the net, giving the Acton Sabres a berth in the Mid-Ontario Junior C Hockey League finals Wednesday evening.

McElroy's goal, seven minutes into the second overtime frame, gave the Sabres a 6-5 win over the visiting Schomberg Cougars and a four to two win in the best of seven semi-final.

Now the Sabres face their toughest battle. They travelled to Orangeville last night (Friday) to tangle with the defending Ontario champion Crushers for Mid-Ontario bragging rights. Game two is slated for 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Acton Community Centre.

On Wednesday night it seemed that the Sabres were destined to fall. They built up a 2-0 first period lead and watched it disappear. They

regained a two goal margin in the second. Again it vanished. They led 5-4 late in the game only to watch helplessly as the Cougars mounted another comeback.

But Schomberg ran out of comebacks when McElroy bulged the twine in sudden death overtime. The rearguard took a perfect feed from John Van Dam and walked in alone for the series clinching goal.

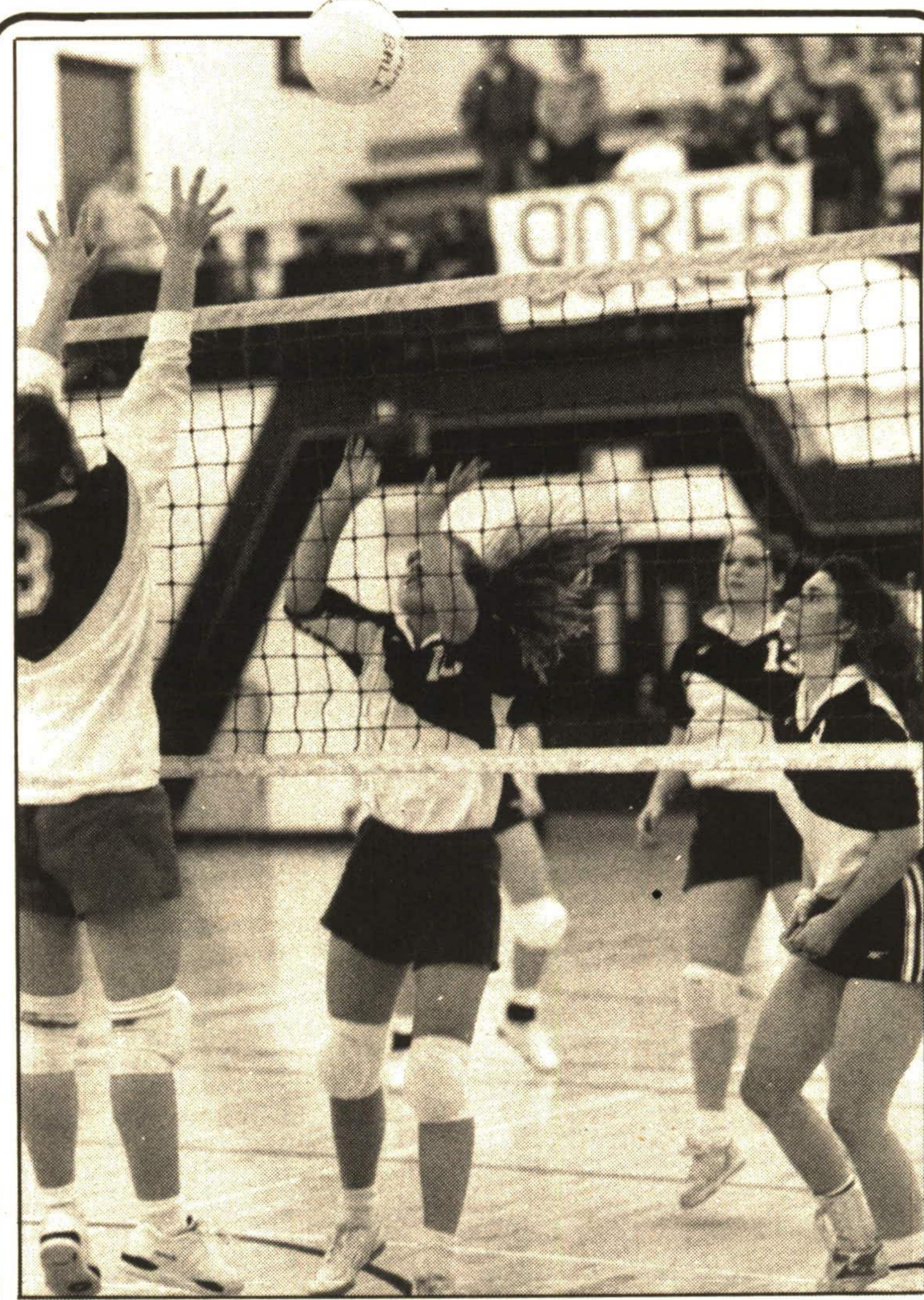
For Van Dam it was his fourth point of the night as the veteran rose to the occasion, scoring two and adding a couple of assists.

Tim McDonald, Adam Hilts and Jason Lucas fired the other goals for the Sabres. Jamie Curran picked up three assists while Lucas, Jesse Nadon, Jeff Shevalier, Broomersma, and Keith Kerfoot helped on singles.

Acton coach Ken Steen said before the series that it would be close, feeling the series would go six or seven. He was right, three of the six games went into overtime with another decided by one goal.

Looking to playing the defending Ontario champs, Steen was optimistic. "They're rested and we're high off the series win," added the coach. "We've got to stay close or ahead. They aren't use to playing from behind. Orangeville has a good team but we believe that if we get a few breaks we can give them a run."

During the regular season the Crushers took all four meetings scoring 2-0 and 2-1 wins in Acton and claiming slightly higher margins of victory in Orangeville.



It has been a busy week for the Georgetown Senior Girls volleyball squad. The local team ousted Bishop Reding in three straight games for the Halton title on Tuesday and then competed for the Golden Horseshoe (GHAC) crown Thursday (after press deadline), with hopes of earning a berth in the Ontario championship.

Rebels sweep titles

Georgetown District High School girls volleyball teams have swept the Halton Championships.

Earlier this month the Midget spikers won the Haltons followed by a victory for the juniors.

On Tuesday, the Senior girls played "very well" to defeat Bishop Reding and make it a three-team sweep for the Rebels.

"I think they played their best game of the year in terms of being steady and staying in the game," coach Neil Cotton said. "I have been hoping all along things would keep building and it looks like they are going to peak at the right time."

The "right time" was Thursday afternoon at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championship in Hamilton.

The four-team final will determine who gets to compete at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) championship.

As luck would have it the Rebels could again face the Royals in the GHAC final if both teams win preliminary matches. Only the team that emerges unbeaten advances to the Ontario finals.

Hurricanes eliminate Burlington

Stingy defence and Joel Petkoff's six points in two games led the minor novice Georgetown Legion "AAA" Hurricanes past Burlington. The Burlington team finished ahead of Halton in the standings but the Halton squad came up with a determined effort in the best of three playoff series.

In the first game at Burlington last Sunday the Hurricanes jumped into an early lead with a goal by Petkoff from Jordan Jeans. Burlington replied before the end of the period.

In the second period Petkoff scored his second of the game with helpers from Josh Tataryn and Michael Austen. Early in the third Tataryn scored an insurance goal assisted by Brydon Butterworth. Garret Lauzon kept Burlington off the scoreboard for the rest of the game to preserve the victory and a one game lead in the series.

The second game in this series was last Tuesday at Georgetown and once again Halton grabbed an early lead with an unassisted effort by Petkoff. The lead was increased to 2-0 on a power play goal from Butterworth with assists by Petkoff and Austen. Burlington narrowed the margin before the end of the second period.

The Halton crew regained their two goal bulge when Petkoff scored on a feed from Austen. Burlington made things tense with a goal mid-way through the third period but an empty net goal with 32 seconds left sealed the win for the Hurricanes. Dylan Hardy came on in the third period to shut down the Burlington comeback attempt.

Besides the offensive outburst from Petkoff the series highlighted the strong defensive play of Butterworth, Michael Knoepfli, Jeans and Carter Trevasani. Up front Matt de Ree, Chris Wulfers, Shane Remenda and Jarett Konkle played sound two-way hockey.

The Hurricanes now move on to play the league leading Oakville Rangers in a best of five match-up to determine the Central League OMHA qualifier.

PLAYOFF DATES

Fri. March 1 in Orangeville, 8:30 p.m.

Sun. March 3 in Acton, 1:30 p.m.

Tues. March 5 in Orangeville, 8:30 p.m.

Fri. March 8 in Acton, 8 p.m.

Sun. March 10 in Orangeville, 9 p.m.

Tues. March 12 in Acton, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. March 13 in Orangeville, 8:30 p.m.

Peewees gain split

After playing two games in a best of five series against first place Burlington, the Leaver Mushroom Halton Hurricane Major Peewees have won one and lost one in their first round of the Ontario playdowns. They also dropped their final league game to Barrie 5-1.

Barrie 5 - Leaver 1

With the playoffs looming on the horizon, the Leaver Mushrooms got waxed 5-1 in their last league game.

Burlington 8 - Leaver 5

The very next day in Burlington, the hunt for gold was on as the Ontario playoffs started. Burlington, who finished first in the league, played host to the Leaver Mushrooms, and they proved not to be very gracious as they stopped Halton 8-5.

Halton, still playing "river hockey" couldn't outscore Burlington in this battle for supremacy, as Burlington seemed to have all the luck - almost as if they all had rabbit feet in their back pockets.

Halton's goal scorers were led by Marc Boucher with two goals, Crawford with one goal, two assists, Trevor Kuhn one goal and one assist, Sandifer and Bertoli with two assists each, Daryl Loader one goal, Bobby Wilson and Phillip Sanderson one assist each.

Leaver 5 - Burlington 1

As those immortal words "I feel a storm-a-brewing" rang through the arena, they proved to be right on the money as the Hurricanes hammered Burlington 5-1. Halton played as though they had the puck on a string, keeping their checks close so that Burlington couldn't open up into the clear.

The only mark against Halton was one goal that spoiled goalie Kevin Wilson's bid for a shutout.

Halton's points came from Bertoli with two goals, Sanderson one goal, one assist, Sandifer with two assists, Crawford one goal, Tim Diardichuk one goal, and Bobby Wilson and Kuhn with one assist each.

Shier competes for Milton skiers

Milton Heights Ski Club competed in the giant slalom for the Collingwood Cup at Osler Bluff recently.

In the first division races, Tim Shier from Limehouse placed 21st. Josh Douglas of Oakville was a strong second.

Slalom racing for the Collingwood Cup was held at the Alpine Ski Club the following day. Tim Shier placed 30th. Josh Douglas managed a third and Mark Hooper from Burlington placed 15th.

On Feb. 23 the Division 2 Giant Slalom was held at Devil's Glen. Milton Heights Ski Club was again well represented with Jason Penmen placing first and Mark Cornwall from Oakville placing 28th.

Games has 'silver' lining for Georgetown resident

By SCOTT KLINE

Cara Kato says she is surprised she "got out with a silver medal" from the Canada Winter Games judo competition.

The 16-year-old Georgetown resident faced half a dozen opponents on the way to the medal at the games in Prince Edward Island last week.

She said the silver was a surprise because she could only manage a fifth place finish at a recent national competition and she recently moved up to the 56-kilo weight class from 52-kilos.

Kato came out on top and undefeated in her four-fighter pool leading up to the medal round. She then defeated her New Brunswick opponent in the semi-final.

But in the gold medal bout

against Quebec's Josee Rousseau, the local got into trouble and was eventually pinned. Kato had faced — and defeated — Rousseau earlier in the day in the pool, but could not repeat her winning performance.

"I was nervous about fighting her," Kato admitted. "I fought her at the nationals and lost there."

After her medal winning bout early in the week, Kato spent most of her time cheering on the rest of Ontario's athletes.

"I lost my voice from cheering," she said. "I met people from across the country...everyone was really friendly."

And while most of the trip was enjoyable, she said billeting with 13 other female athletes was a little hard.

"There were 14 girls in this

room and only one bathroom," she said with a laugh. "It was bad."

Meanwhile, Terra Cotta's Tracey Bayles placed very respectable seventh overall among 22 athletes competing in women's epee.

The 16-year-old Erin District High School student placed the highest among Ontario's fencing squad.

And Angela Stiles' 35.525 points helped the Ontario artistic gymnastics team to a first place finish Tuesday. Stiles placed 22nd among 48 gymnasts from across Canada.

The Glen Williams resident celebrated her 13th birthday Monday and was set to compete in for individual honors Thursday.