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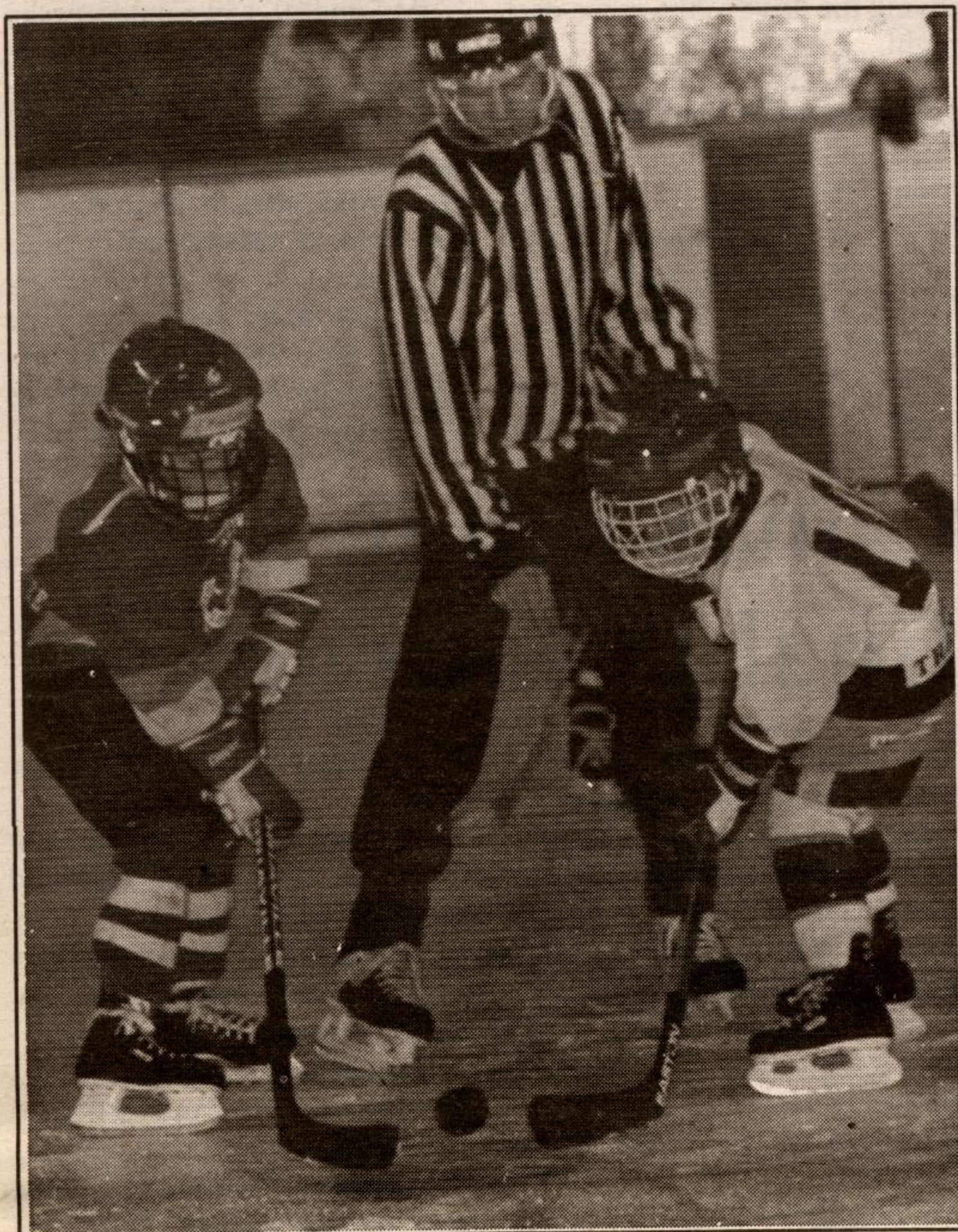
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BOUNCING PUCK: Matt Locke, left, of McIntyre Fuels, faces off against Tyke opponent Tim Pembleton of Best Transfer during house league hockey action at the Community Centre Saturday. Pembleton scored five goals and added an assist in Best Transfer's 11-2 win. (Mike Albano photo)

AHS Juniors smell victory

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Dave Boycott said it was the best they could possibly do.

An understandable comment from the Acton Redmen Junior Boys' basketball coach if it came after a nine-point loss to a contending basketball outfit.

But saying it last Monday after a 48-39 loss to the Burlington Assumption Crusaders — who compare in talent with the Redmen — dropped the hint of a winless season.

Boycott mentioned his team focussed on trading baskets with their opponents. With one minute, 40 seconds left in the game at Acton High, the Redmen players were more focussed on winning.

Had the Redmen starting five — which included team scoring leaders Shawn Hopkins, Dave Turple and the hustling Dave Dolliver — not been taken off the court after closing the Crusader lead to nine points, the locals may have tasted victory.

A missed basket prompted Boycott to make a move.

"We would have been within seven points if we got it, but if we didn't, I wanted other guys in,"

says Boycott referring to the substitution of players.

"The subs had been in earlier. They come out to practice, too. If we got the basket I would never have subbed."

The 0-6 Redmen, though, were unable to score from that point and witnessed a hard-working effort go awry.

"Other than a few defensive lapses in the first half we did well," Boycott praised. "We worked the

ball well and played aggressively, but not stupidly aggressive."

The Crusaders took the lead from the outset and posted quarter leads of 12-7, 28-19 and 41-25 before being doubled 14-7 in the final eight minutes.

Turple led with 17 points, while Hopkins poured in 16. Dolliver, Ed Bridge and Shawn Frame added two each.

The Redmen host the Bishop Reding Royals Feb. 7 at 3:45 pm.

Senior v-ballers win!

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Better late than never.

The Acton Redmen Senior Girls' Redmen volleyball squad played to their capabilities last Monday, escaping Burlington Assumption with win No. 1.

"The serving was good, we attacked and moved around the court," said Redmen coach Bruce Andrews after his team prevailed 15-13, 15-5, 12-15. "I like when the girls walk off the court and say 'we played well.'"

The Redmen, now 1-5, have been riding an emotional roller coaster since they returned from Christmas holidays.

They played terribly against M.M. Robinson (lost 15-5, 15-6), played Milton tough (15-7, 6-15, 5-15), but returned to their unaggressive play against E.C. Drury (swept in three games).

"The serving really helped us (last Monday). We're playing with more drive now and sliding to the ball," said Andrews.

The Redmen visit Bishop Reding Feb. 7.

Bants burn Fergus in playoff opener

The Acton Firefighter Bantam hockey squad is two games away from passing the opening round test of the Tri-County playoffs.

They extended their win streak to four games on Sunday, beating Fergus 5-1 on the road to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

Acton took a 2-0 first-period lead on Adam DaPonte and Jon Routledge goals and never looked back.

Matt Boycott, who added a second period goal to make it 3-0, and Daryn McIntyre drew assists.

Aaron Forrest and Chris Williams rounded out the visiting scoring in the final frame.

Other assists went to Williams with a pair, Boycott, Marty McKinnon and Steve White.

Last Wednesday, Acton battled the Guelph Selects in pre-playoff exhibition contest.

DaPonte scored twice as Acton doubled Guelph 4-2 at the Community Centre.

McKinnon and Jason Pembleton also scored.

White and Scott McIntyre notched two assists each, while Pembleton, DaPonte, Boycott and Gary Genzler counted singles.

Acton hosts Game 2 of the series Saturday. Game time at the Community Centre is 7:45 pm.

NOTES: The remaining games are as follows: **Game 3** is Feb. 2 in Acton at 8:30 pm. If necessary, **Game 4** in Fergus is Feb. 6 at 5:30 pm. And **Game 5**, if necessary, is set for Acton on Feb. 9 at 8:30 pm.

Atom Proplastex beats Fergus; takes first playoff game

The Acton Atom Proplastex "D" rep hockey squad doubled Fergus 4-2 and beat Dundas 2-1 in an exhibition game on the weekend.

On Sunday in Dundas, Acton's Jeff Payne scored with 54 seconds remaining, giving the visitors — who iced eight skaters — a well-deserved win.

Payne also tallied early in the third period with help from Darren Banks and Thomas Mahon.

Ryan Turpin, who made his first goalie start in months, made spectacular saves to preserve the win.

Acton, with a 14-9-5 record, finished third in their division, two points out of second despite carrying a number of first-year players.

On Saturday at the Community Centre, Acton's David Iacocca's goal in a goalmouth scramble with

51 seconds left in a 10-minute overtime, gave the home team a 4-2 win over Fergus in their first game of the Ontario Minor Hockey League (OMHA) playoffs.

Banks and Jamie Warren as-

sisted on the winning goal.

Jeff Schouten, who scored earlier, added an empty net marker.

Chad Greenwood played solid in the Acton net, while Defenceman Turpin also scored.

Bowlers first at Zone play

Acton Golden Ager bowlers Ross Smart and George Lee along with Youth Bowling Council (YBC) Bantam bowlers, Daniel Newell and Daniel Charland, captured first place at the Dairy Queen Golden Agers and Kids Zone playoffs in Cambridge on Sunday.

They combined to total 205 pins over average.

Newell, 10, led Acton with a 644 triple (267 high game), accounting for 128 pins over his average in his three games.

The Ladies team of Golden Agers Pat Giguere and Grace Robertson with YBC Bantams, Megean McGrath and Sarah Kruk didn't place in the top three.

The Men move to the Provincial finals in Uxbridge Feb. 13.

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