

ACTON MINOR HOCKEY REPORT

NOVICE 1

The **Nellis Construction Sabres** got off to an impressive start last week in Round 1 of the OMHA playoffs with two close victories against **Fergus**.

The series was destined to be close as the Sabres won two (3-1 and 2-1) and tied the third (2-2) during the regular season.

In Game 2 on Sunday, Kyle Strong gave Acton a 1-0 lead on an unassisted goal in the first.

Fergus rallied and scored two goals to lead 2-1 before Andrew Robitaille notched the equalizer.

Fergus pressured the Sabres to take the lead, but the latter's defence held tight and Brett Manes gave Acton a 3-2 advantage from Daine Kuiken-Rogers with less than three minutes left.

Jesse Sparkes stole the puck in the final minute of the game to score an empty-net goal to lock up the win for the Sabres.

Last Tuesday, Chad Artem banged in a rebound in the third period for the game's lone goal.

Robitaille and Kyle Winters earned the assists.

Goalies Lee Dunbar and Jordan Guindon shared the shutout.

NOVICE 2

On the heels of a 4-2 win over **Arthur** last Tuesday, the **Andy's Restaurant Sabres** dropped a 6-2 decision to the **Guelph "A" squad**.

Kyle McDonald and Scott Timmings, assisted by McDonald, scored for the Sabres in the game played in Guelph on Sunday.

Timmings, Michael Bentley, Matt Locke and Andrew Marcoux scored against Arthur.

Picking up helpers were Fraser Anderson with two, Kyle Marshall, Darryl Matton, Alex Dubé, Ryan Winters, Brady Masters and Patrick Glatt.

Josh Locke was solid in the Acton net.

ATOM 1

Surrendering a paltry five goals in three games, the **Rotary Club Sabres** strengthened their second-place standing with three recent victories.

A stellar effort from netminder Max Schaefer resulted in a 2-1 final over **Oakville** on Sunday.

John Field and Michael Borg scored for the Sabres.

Adam Lindsay with two, Sean Kirk and Shawn Prentice picked up helpers.

On Thursday, Jason Strong earned the shutout in the Sabres' 3-0 effort in Oakville.

Scoring were Borg, Field and Peter Glatt.

Lindsay led with a pair of assists. Others went to Kirk, David Lyons, Matt Wolfer and Michael MacDonald.

Lindsay with two, Field, Wolfer, Kirk, Borg, Adam Brouillard and Steve Atkinson scored in an 8-4 doubling of **Milton** last Wednesday at the Community Centre.

Lyons assisted twice. Singles went to Brouillard, Kirk, Field, Lindsay, Wolfer, Stefano Citton, Mark Pawlak and Shawn Prentice.

The 19-5-4 Sabres finished in second-place—six points ahead of Erin-Hillsburgh—in the nine-team loop during regular season play.

ATOM 2

Brian Field scored at 9:50 of the third period to give the **Proplastex Sabres** a 2-1 win over **Elora** in Game 1 of the OMHA playoffs on Saturday.

Down 1-0, Acton tied the game 26 seconds into the final period on an excellent solo effort by Shawn Gobin.

Colin Sheehan collected the lone assist on Field's goal.

A strong defensive effort by the entire Sabres team kept the game close until Field scored with only 10 seconds left in the game.



LOST PUCK? Proplastex Atom 2 Sabres goalie Chris Schiller can't find the puck as it sits in his crease. Acton beat Elora 2-1 Saturday in Game 1 of Round 1 OMHA playoff action. (Eve Martin photo)

ACTON TEAMS DOMINATE

George Artem, organizer for the Acton Christmas hockey tournament, says the four-team, four-day format will remain for next year's event.

Acton was represented in all four championship finals recently, winning two (Rotary Club Atom 1 and Peewee 1 Galvcast Sabres).

"It was a good performance by Acton. The competition was pretty good," Artem said recently.

The Atom 1 squad defeated Erin-Hillsburgh 4-3, while Galvcast came back from a 4-0 deficit to Noble-King for a 7-3 win.

The Nellis Construction Novice 1 Sabres failed to extend their two-year hold on the championship, falling 5-1 to Tottenham. And the Atom 2 Proplastex Sabres dropped a 2-1 match to Port Perry.

"We're not an overpowering

hockey centre, but we're playing on-par compared to Elora and Fergus, towns the same size as Acton," Artem explained.

"The coaching in Acton this year has been good, so our performance shows we're going at it the right way."

Artem says the best indicator for judging calibre is a team's performance at out-of-town tournaments.

"If you go north you have a hard time," he noted, "because Triple-A hockey hasn't sucked a lot of players from there."

Artem said shutouts in each division as well as good local support in terms of sponsorship made the Christmas tourney successful.

"Four championship appearances and two wins is a good perk for Acton Minor Hockey," he commented.

THIS WEEK AT THE ARENA

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

7:30 Novice 2 vs. Erin-Hills. (OMHA Game 1 of 5)

8:30 Peewee 2 vs. Milton

(league playoff)

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

7 pm Novice 1 vs. Fergus

(OMHA Game 5 of 5 if necc.)

8 pm Bantam 1 vs. Elora

(OMHA Game 4 of 5 if necc.)

Community Centre

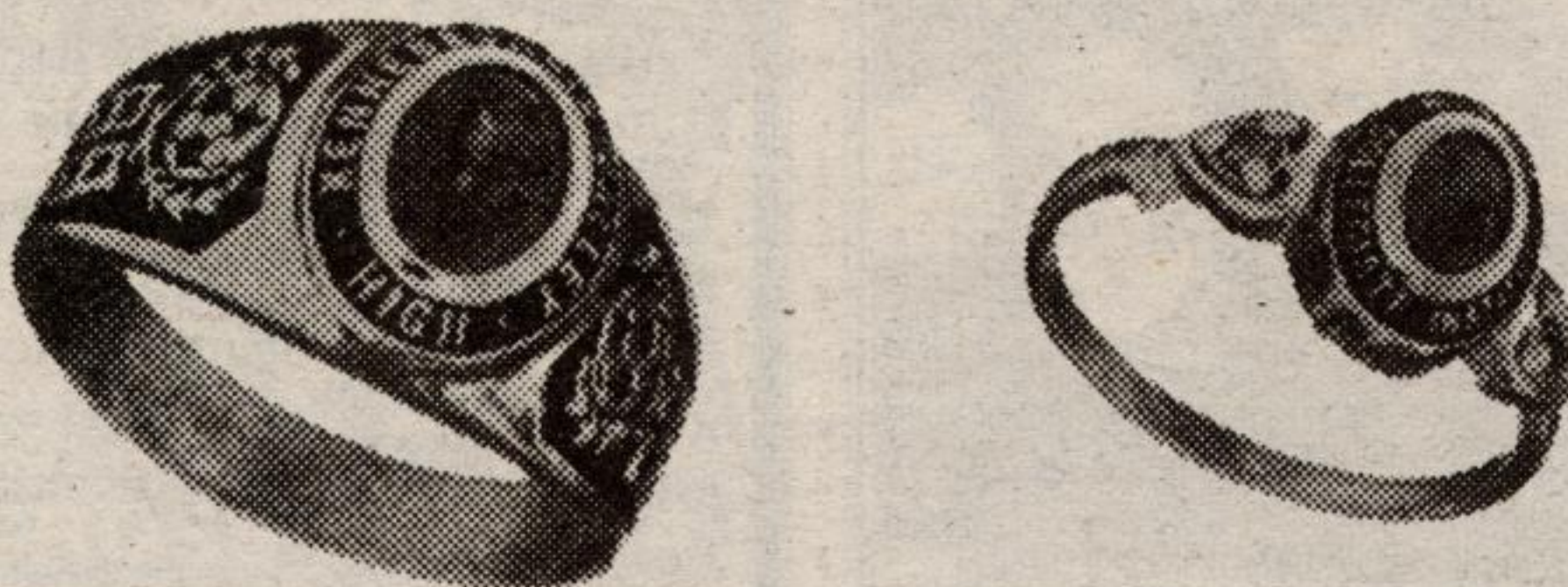
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