

Unbeaten league-leaders

Kings rebuilding-in a big hurry

by Garry Forbes

When most teams say they're rebuilding, you can just about write off their chances for a successful season. It means young, inexperienced players, and little depth.

The Penetanguishene Kings are rebuilding, and all but a handful are young and inexperienced. But they do have depth. And here's the punch line: they're undefeated in five games and riding high atop the Georgian Bay Junior C hockey loop.

The turn of events -- weekend victories -- has result of two more surprised most league

observers. Even coach Ron Marchildon admits he didn't expect to be unbeaten in his first five games, but says matter-of-factly, "I'm not totally surprised."

"It is a rebuilding year and I think that people sold us short because of that," Marchildon said after Sunday's 8-3 crushing of host Haliburton Huskies. "But I certainly expected to be competitive. These kids

are willing to work, and their calibre is quite acceptable."

Carl Cowan scored four goals and added two assists to boost the Kings in their Sunday night rout. Three of his goals were on power play efforts.

Other goals were scored by Doug Kirton, Terry King, Bob Weatherall and Dave Robillard. Robillard also picked up three

assists and King contributed a pair.

The Kings were assessed 31 minutes in penalties to Haliburton's 28.

The Penetanguishene power play made itself felt Friday in the Kings' home rink as well, as the hosts romped to 9-4 thumping of the Oro 77's.

Cowan counted for two of the Kings' four power play efforts as

well as assisting on three other goals. Team captain Frank Hall found the net twice, as did Robillard, including one power play goal, and Phil Cinq-Mars, who scored the club's first goal during an Oro power play.

The other Kings' marker came from Terry King. Robillard picked up three assists, Hall had two, as did King and Blair

McReynolds. Penetanguishene outshot Oro 45-34. The Kings picked up 26 minutes in penalties to Oro's 42.

Al Melnyk suffered a sore back and Blair McReynolds injured his knee during weekend action, but both are expected back in uniform for Friday's home game against Haliburton. Game time is 8:30 p.m.

St. T's grab more titles

The St. Theresa's Junior Crusaders captured the Eastview Wildcat Invitational title Saturday with come-from-behind victories in both the final and semi-final games.

The Junior Crusaders dumped Park St. of Orillia 11-15, 15-9, 15-4 in the final and scraped past Midland Secondary School 17-15 -- after being threatened at 15-14 -- to earn the advance ticket.

The Midget Crusaders dropped to Barrie Central in the semi-finals of their division of the tournament.

In exhibition play Friday at the Midland YM-YWCA, the Senior Crusaders tuned up for this weekend's High School Classic at York University with an exhibition outing against the University of Laurentian University Voyageurs.

Laurentian won the match 15-8, 15-5, 15-7, 15-5, but St. Theresa's came up big in the last game with a 15-11 victory.



Taking a Flyer

Gary Hansford raises his hands high as the Midland Athletics put one past Dunc Brownell in the Barrie Flyers net. Unfortunately for Hansford and

the rest of the A's, Brownell had the last laugh by holding off their third-period attack while his club chalked up a 7-4 victory.

All hockey players should wear face protectors certified by the Canadian Standards Association.

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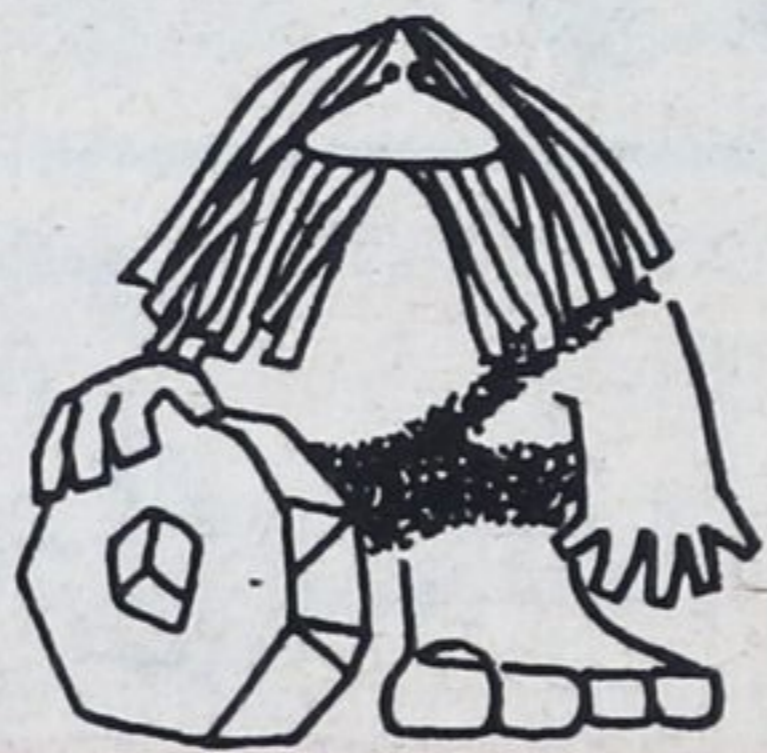
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