

KINGS CAPTURE CROWN

*Score 7-4 overtime
victory to win GB title
— again*

AND THERE'S MORE TO COME...

by Garry Forbes

The dynasty continues.

The Penetanguishene Kings won their fourth Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League championship crown in five years of existence with a victory over the Bracebridge Bears last night in Bracebridge.

The Kings will now take aim at the Ontario Hockey Association Junior C championship. First, they'll meet the winners of the Mid-Ontario Junior C Hockey League (probably the Alliston Hornets, who held a 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven series against the Essa 80's with the fourth game played last night).

If successful in that encounter, the Kings will move on to the newly-instituted OHA round-robin championship tournament, scheduled for April 15-18 in Bracebridge.

Four of the eight OHA Junior C league champions will vie for the Ontario title in the tourney.

Last night's victory was the fourth straight for the Kings in the best-of-seven series. They

lost the first game 17-1 in Bracebridge.

The Bears and the Kings had tied for the regular-season championship, but the Bears received a playoff by virtue of a better win-loss record against the Kings over the course of the season. The Bears won four of their six encounters with the Kings.

The Kings went undefeated through two series against the

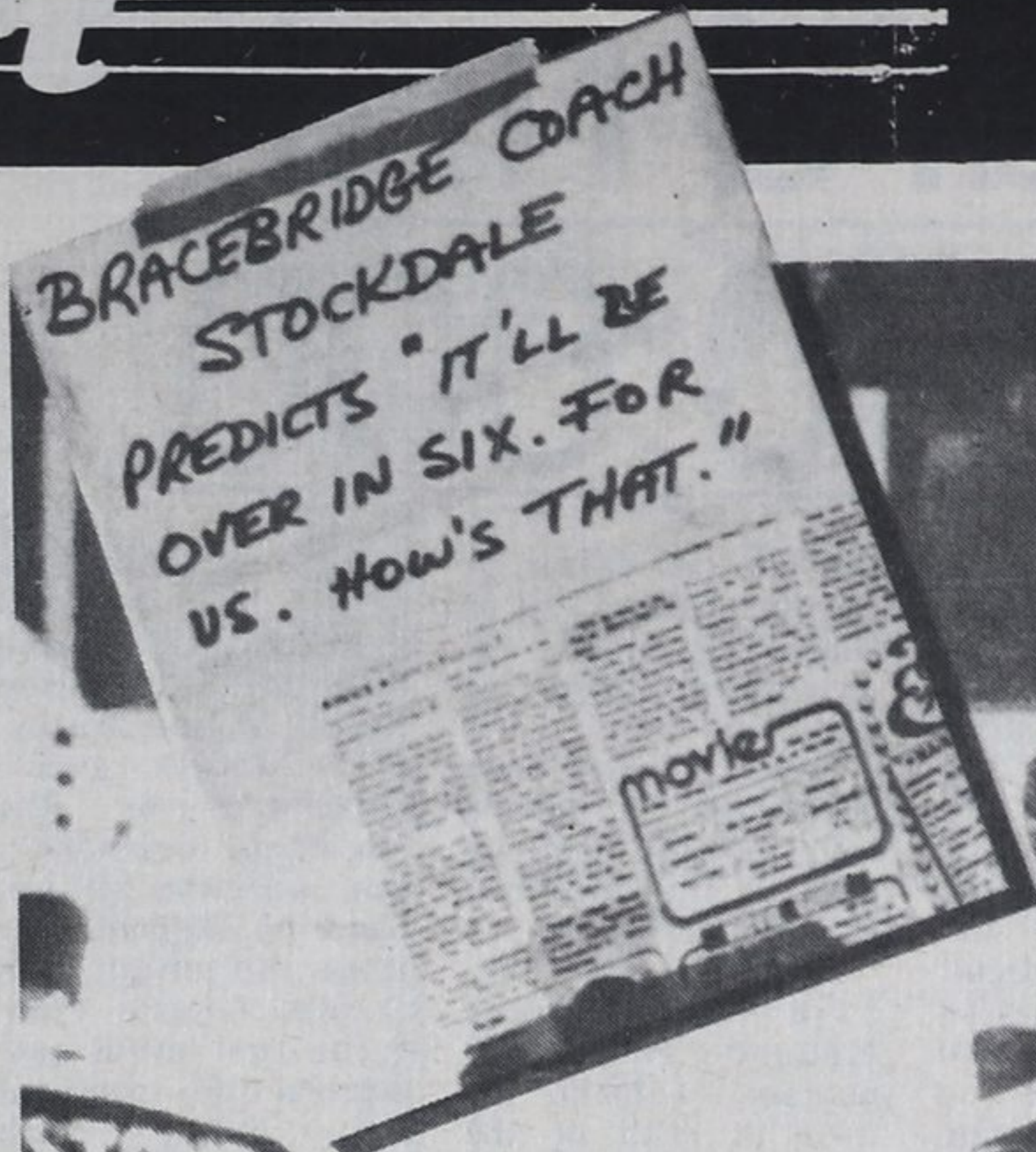
Gravenhurst Indians and the Parry Sound Shamrocks before their series-opening crushing by the Bears.

But, as parallels the history of the club, the Kings displayed an ability to pick themselves up, dust themselves off, and continue on their winning way.

The Kings won the league championship in the first three years of their existence—in 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80—before losing out in the opening round last year to the Midland Centennials.

The Kings dynasty has every chance of continuing, as well, with all but three players eligible to return next season.

For now, though, there are more immediate thoughts on the minds of the Kings. There's the next series (which may get underway this weekend, but schedules have yet to be released), and, of course, the Provincial title—now only a few strides away.



How many?

Bracebridge Bears coach Barry Stockdale unwittingly provided the Penetanguishene Kings with a shot of incentive during their Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League championship series by predicting, after the second game, that "It'll be over in six. For US." Kings leaders had the

remark prominently displayed on their dressing room wall when they won the third and fourth games of the series to take a three-games-to-one lead. Last night in Bracebridge, they finished off the Bears to capture their fourth league crown in five years.

Never look back

"Hey, mister?" said the kid, hanging over the iron railing of the Penetanguishene Arena's east-end steps Sunday afternoon.

"Did the Kings really lose seventeen to one?"

After a brief explanation that yes, the Penetanguishene Kings did in fact lose the first game of their Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League best-of-seven championship series 17-1 to the Bracebridge Bears, the kid turned back to his friend.

"Gee," he said, "you were right."

The score, at that point, just past the midway mark of the third period, was 7-2 for the Kings. Forty-five seconds later it was 8-2, and it finally wound up 9-3.

Suddenly, or so it seemed, the Kings held a commanding three-games-to-one lead and that series-opening trauma in Bracebridge now seemed like some kind of early April Fool's prank.

But it did happen. And the Kings won't forget it.

They never forgot it for a minute when they skated to a 6-4 victory in the second game, had it

with two goals in the second frame from Brian Norwood and Chris Anderson, and the place went wild each time the Kings set up and slapped one past Bears goaltender Dave Finch in the third.

Brian McReynolds and Robillard did it to Finch twice before Knox answered back, but it proved to be the Bears' final answer.

McReynolds, Brian Forget, Doug Gillespie and Phil Cinq-Mars continued the flailing until it stopped with a minute and a half to go.

Finch faced 46 shots from the Kings shooters. At the other end, Ken Dunlop handled 32 of the Bears' 35 shots.

Friday in Bracebridge, a busload of Kings fans had the opportunity of cheering their club to its first victory in that town all season.

Gillespie, Forget, McReynolds, Robillard and Frank Hall each scored once to give the Kings a 5-2 lead early in the third period before the Bears began a comeback effort late in the game.

Jeff Epps, the league's regular-season

scoring champion (one point ahead of the Kings' Carl Cowan) scored his second of the game shorthanded with two minutes remaining, but that was it.

Epps' goal was one of 37 shots fired at Dunlop.

The Bears' Pat Thompson was confronted with 43.

Both games had been hard-hitting but, fortunately for the Bears, not debilitating.

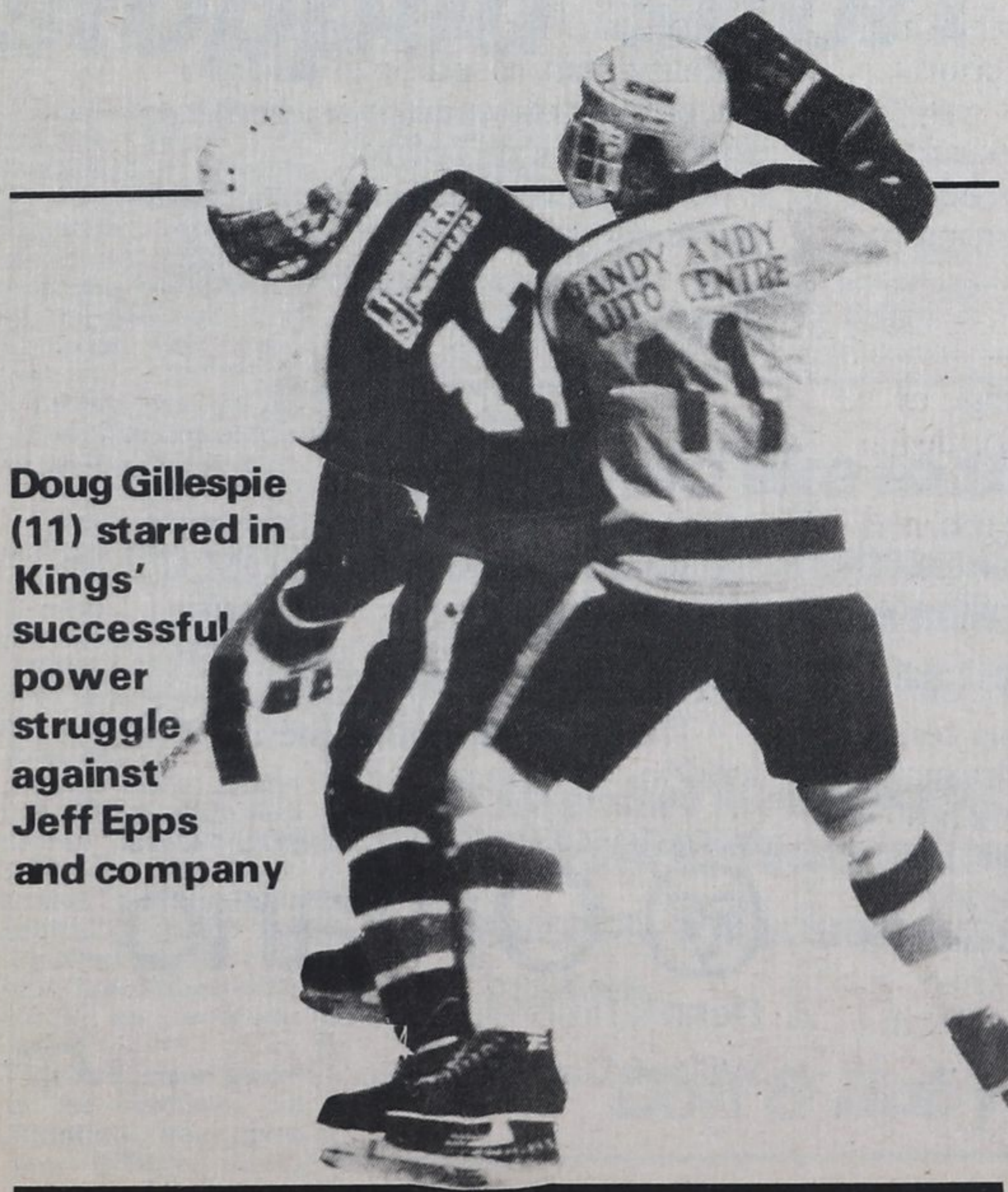
Bracebridge had been able to field only 12 or so skaters throughout the series (two others are on seven-game suspensions from the second-last game of their previous series and another is out for the year with a broken leg), and their fatigue showed in both games.

The only major outburst, in fact, came late in Sunday's game when Mark Lascelle and Tim Lefler both acted up and received game misconducts. (They both returned last night after the club paid \$25 fines).

That kind of thing is only one kind of outburst the game of hockey offers, though.

The other kind has been served up by the Kings — and by their appreciative followers.

The Kings came back



Doug Gillespie (11) starred in Kings' successful power struggle against Jeff Epps and company