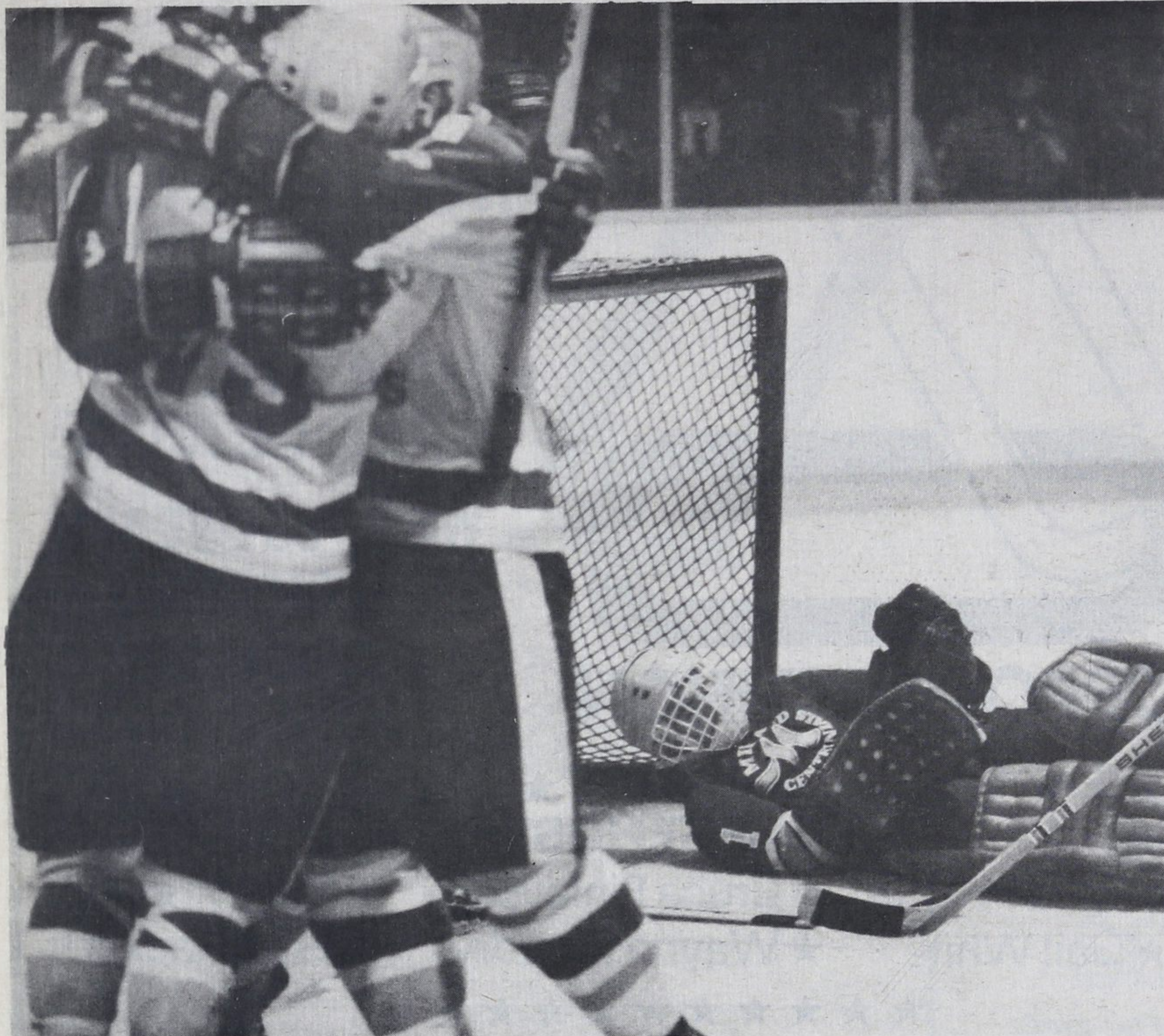


Cents roll at Kings' expense



Last laugh was Latondress's

Midland A Centennials goaltender Dwayne Latondress lies befuddled on the ice while members of the Penetanguishene Kings congratulate Craig Brown on his second-

period goal during action in the Georgian Bay Junior C hockey league game Sunday afternoon in Penetanguishene. Latondress was the last to laugh by the time the af-

ternoon was over, however, as the Cents pulled off a 3-2 comeback victory. The two clubs will go at it again tomorrow night in Midland.

The Midland Centennials are beginning to look like just the sort of thing team president Tom Garner hoped they'd be when he handed over the reins to young coach Ross McConnell.

The Centennials won their second game of the 1982-83 Georgian Bay Junior C hockey league campaign Sunday afternoon at the expense of the Penetanguishene Kings after suffering their first loss at home Friday night against the Gravenhurst Indians.

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Even in that loss, though, the buds of strength were evident, and they blossomed Sunday when the Cents hopped over to Penetanguishene for a dramatic 3-2 comeback victory.

The Kings will have a chance to avenge the loss tomorrow night (8:30) in Midland when the local rivals tangle for the second of five season encounters. It'll be an important one for the Kings, not only for pride, but for points: Sunday's loss was the third in as many starts for the four-time defending champs, and there are only 31 tries left.

Sunday's was a goaltender's duel, with

the Cents' Dwayne Latondress and the Kings' Kevin Steele stopping everything until late in the second period.

The Kings were first on the board at the 15 minute mark when a former Centennial, Craig Brown, opened things up by slapping in a Glen Lesperance rebound past the flying Latondress.

The Cents came back early in the third period when John Walter, assisted by Al Whidden and Shawn Davy, scored at the two-minute mark. Four minutes later, though, the home side was on top again when Greg St. Amant took a perfect pass from Dave Robillard (who was sent up the ice by Al Melnyk) and fed it past Latondress.

But the Cents were far from through. They continued their attack (which finally netted 18 shots in the period to Penetanguishene's eight) and it paid off with a tying goal by Davy, assisted by John Webb and Whidden, at the 12-minute mark, and the winner, scored by Paul Hahn with help from Rick Rever and Dave Wright, with five minutes to go.

Penetanguishene took 28 minutes in minor penalties in their home opener and Mindland took 24 minutes, but no power play goals were allowed by either of the stingy netminders.

Steele faced 45 shots throughout and Latondress handled 34 of the 36 fired at him at the other end.

Those are impressive statistics indeed, but at least as impressive were the ones offered by the goaltender for the Gravenhurst Indians, Dave Lahay, when he travelled south to stymie the Centennials Friday night.

McConnell's troops hurled 38 shots at Lahay but could only manage to put one past him — that from Brian Cadeau, with assists from Paul Hahn and Steve Bressette, in the second period's only tally.

The rest of the game belonged to the Indians, one of the five north divisions clubs the Cents and their southern division-mates will have to face two times each this year.

The Indians came up with three power play goals on Midland starter Chris Lemieux, taking advantage on three of Midland's ten minor penalties. The Indians had 17 minors, but Lahay prevented any damage on any of those occasions.

Both local entries will be in action again on Friday night, when the Cents travel to Huntsville to meet the Huskies and the Kings host the Oro 77's for an 8:30 p.m. date.

A's roster slims after weekend trimmings

After an encouraging opening thrust against one of the OHA Major Intermediate A Hockey League's powers, the Midland Athletics have been trampled, stabbed and beaten back into a corner by two others.

The pair of mugs laying the beatings were the Georgetown Raiders and the Collingwood Shipbuilders, who set the A's back with a pair of weekend losses and, along with previous sufferings, have left the local club's lineup depleted to the point of desperation.

The worst of it came Friday in Collingwood, when, while bumping off the A's 8-4, the Shipbuilders carved two Midland players for stitches and sent another to hospital with a separated shoulder.

Wayne Dixon is expected to be out for about two weeks after taking a crushing blow into the boards Friday and injuring his shoulder. The other two injured, Gary Hansford and Joe Butson, were also sent to the hospital for attention but were back for Sunday's game.

In that one, an embarrassing 8-4 loss before the hometown crowd, the A's lost yet another regular when Tony Stone suffered a badly injured shoulder. He's expected to be out about three months after undergoing surgery yesterday.

Along with Dixon and Stone, veterans Hugh Robertson, Bob Monteith and Wayne King are all out for at least a couple of weeks with various injuries.

In total, it doesn't look very promising to A's coach Earl Scott, who figured his charges were on the right track after soundly thrashing the powerful Durham Huskies in their opener.

"We're going to be really short until the first week in November," Scott said yesterday. "We're going to have to do something, but I don't know what just yet."

What really irritates Scott is the manner of play which caused all the cuts and bruises in Friday's game. The coach had little enthusiasm for the refereeing in the game, which netted only 10 Collingwood minors (to Midland's six), despite the high sticks, surprise cross checks and assorted interfering body slams inflicted by the Shipbuilders.

Terry Spiker scored two of the Midland goals and singles were had by Ken Knapton and Doug McMann. Myles McCauley scored three of Collingwood's goals (though Scott maintains two were kicked in) on Craig Watson.

Despite their anemic roster, the A's started out Sunday night's contest in fine form, holding the defending champion Raiders (now undefeated in four games) to only one first-period goal—and that one came with only 15 seconds left in the period.

But the Raiders came alive in the second and took advantage of what Scott considered a letdown by his crew. After scoring five

second period goals to Midland's one, the issue was pretty much settled.

The A's did show some spark in the final frame ("scoring three goals with ten minutes of hockey," said Scott), but it was too late.

When they were good, the A's were really good, and the net result of their spurts gave them the edge in shots on goal. They fired 47 shots at the Georgetown net while Craig Watson and Brad Bumstead faced a total of 45.

Larry Cowan netted two of the A's goals that night and singles were had by Hansford and Knapton.

The Athletics will have a double workout this Friday when they try to avoid insult without adding to their injuries while facing off against the Shipbuilders in an 8:30 p.m. encounter at Midland Arena.

After that they'll have a week to rest before travelling to Barrie to take on the Flyers a week from next Saturday.

NOTES: Carl Cowan still doesn't know where he'll wind up—with the A's or with the Junior C Penetanguishene Kings—and discussions about a release from the Kings are continuing...

Other weekend Intermediate scores: Barrie beat Port Elgin 9-5, Georgetown handled Durham 9-2 and Collingwood clobbered Port Elgin 11-4...