

Sports Views

Cents, Kings could be best ever



by **Ron Johnson**

It's hockey season again, and time to make some predictions that will not likely come true by the end of March or April.

Locally, the Midland Centennials and Penetang Junior Kings are ready and eager to do battle in the quest for supremacy in the Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League, and perhaps beyond into the OHA playdowns.

Midland, under second-year coach Ross McConnell, appear to have their best team in several years, perhaps the best ever.

They have lots of scorers up front, and should be a threat to knock off anyone in the GB league.

John Walter and Brian Cadeau, two of the league's top scorers from 1982-83 are back and should once again be in the top handful of snipers in the league. Add to these two, a supporting cast of Shawn Davy, a super midget-aged rookie last year, the fleet Tim MacIntyre from Essa '80's, Al Whidden, who was the Cents' best player from time-to-time last year, Rob Rennard, another jet acquired

from Georgian College over the summer, and some very promising newcomers like Marlon Gieseler and Mike Magloughlin, and Midland should be deep in forward who can skate, shoot and score.

Of course, you need more than offence to win hockey games, and this may be the Cents' downfall.

Midland, like most junior C teams are a little thin in talent along the blueline, but this could change rapidly as the year goes by. Young defencemen have a way of developing in a hurry when they are put to a test in game situations.

Cents do have some experience along the backline however, and these players should help the youngsters develop.

Brad Copeland has seen action in the Junior C ranks before, and also spent a season playing university shinny with the U. of Waterloo Warriors. He should be the workhorse of the blueline brigade. Doug McMann has been an able defender in the past, and looks like he has dedicated himself to his last year of junior eligibility.

Also along to help out are Al Pumputis (part-time) and Mike Yeo who saw some action last year. A surprise could come from Dean Marcellus, a tall, semi-mobile kid, who, if he learns his capabilities and throws his weight around, could be a valuable addition.

In net, last year's best goaler Chris Lemieux will handle the bulk of the job, backed by one or more of these fellows: Dwayne Latondress, Pat Madaire, or Jason Marion.

If this team knits together as a unit, both on the ice and off, it could go a long way. Look for effective leadership from McConnell to establish Midland's best team yet. They'll be second in the Southern Division of the Georgian Bay loop.

Penetang Kings are coming off two straight years of being one of the best four teams in Ontario's junior C ranks.

Can they improve on that with new coach Terry Spiker at the helm? This remains to be seen, but a lot of things are going in the right direction already.

With 14 or 15 starters coming back from last year's team, and the addition of a couple of excellent players with solid junior C and B experience, Kings show signs of getting better.

Rob Roy was one of league's best players last year when he suited up for Essa. He garnered about 70 points and was one of the best skating forwards around. He is now a King, and Spiker and GM Peter Dubeau are ecstatic about the way he has fit in.

Dave Redmond from Collingwood has also earned a spot on the team.

Add to these two newcomers returning vets and dependable starters like the McReynolds twins, Brian Forget, Bob Weatherill, Glen Lesperance, Calvin Sine, and perhaps Brian Abbott, a late season pick-up from Georgian College last year, and Carl Cowan, a flawless offensive star, and the Kings look better than ever.

In net they have signed Brian Lethbridge who is underrated and perhaps the best "money" goalie around. Giving last year's second goalie, Kevin Steele, a run for the back-up spot in camp have been Ray Hook, a last-year junior, and Mike Cinq-Mars, who played some at the start of last season.

Peter Roi, Kings' captain, and maybe the loop's best defenceman, comes back to anchor that unit. He'll have Al Melnyk, John O'Hara, Perry Beausoleil, up from Juvenile, and Dave Gianetto to help him out.

In their one and only exhibition game, Kings downed Gravenhurst 6-3, allowing each of the three goals in the first minute of each period. This is a habit they should get rid of in a hurry.

Kings look as good as ever this time out. They can handle the competition in the Southern Division of the GB to end-up on top. After that, maybe there'll be a real big party at the Dock Lunch!

Late ace at MGCC

There was a late-season hole-in-one at Midland Golf and Country Club on Monday afternoon.

Bob Voorzanger Sr., playing with his wife Shelley and Mrs. Art Roy, aced the 177-yard 11th hole.

Voorzanger hit a three-wood on the par three hole for his ace.

Marauders win consolation at 'All Pro' tourney -lose to Bishop Ryan -again

"It would be beneficial to beat one of the big teams to help raise our confidence. The girls don't know how good they are or could be until that happens." That was coach Andy Wicksted's analysis of the weekend tournament at the

University of Toronto's Benson Building sports complex.

Midland Secondary School senior girls basketball team took part in the U of T's "All Pro Invitational Tourney" last Friday and Saturday, and once again stumbled against Hamilton's Bishop Ryan in the tournament which featured seven of the top eight teams in Ontario high school basketball.

After dropping a narrow two-point decision last week to Bishop Ryan in a tourney, MSS hoped to redeem themselves in this week's tourney opener.

It was not to be however, as poor shooting in the first half, some dubious officiating, and the fouling out of top guns Carolyn Meech and Angie Pumputis led to a 43-38 win for the Hamilton school.

MSS fell behind early by a 20-10 score and couldn't recover, although strong play by substitutes Lori and Mary Chambers, along with starters Linda Ferraro and Kelly Edwards narrowed the gap to just three points late in the contest.

This loss on Friday night, relegated the



Angie Pumputis High Scorer

Marauders to the consolation side of the tourney.

A return to form by Angie Pumputis, and a better all-around team effort paid off in a 52-40 win on Saturday against a smaller Timmins Secondary School team.

Midland led 31-16 at half, and Pumputis scored 21 points in the game to lead MSS scorers. Edwards had 13 and Meech 11 and point guards Renaty Friedrich and Linda Ferraro each played well as MSS went inside

to dominate the smaller Timmins players.

The consolation championship game pitted Midland and Mimico High School, which was coached by Jim Henderson, who helps Brigg Harvey coach his regional provincial team.

Although Mimico features three girls from the regional squad, MSS blew them out of the gym on a fine team effort.

Marauders built up a 34-14 halftime lead as Pumputis scored 17 of her game-high 20 points. Edwards had 14 and Mary Chambers added 10 points to lead MSS scoring.

For the tournament, some positive points emerged.

Mary Chambers has proven that she belongs in senior ball, and is a potential starter. Linda Ferraro has shown she can handle a pressure defence and be the type of floor leader needed to feed the big forwards.

Midland has also improved their bench strength to the point where the coach can go to the subs in the case of tired starters or foul trouble, and the team will not lose its overall effectiveness.



MSS girls swamp ESPSS

Midland Secondary School senior girls basketball team rode roughshod over Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School girls in area high school action last Thursday. Score of the mismatch was 85-6.

MSS first stringers only played about 12 minutes of the first half as they ran up a 26-2 first-quarter margin and coasted to the win.

Junior grads Linda Ferraro, Mary Platt,

Mary Chambers, and Suzanne Bourgeois all played well, and the team rolled up 31 points in the second quarter en route to a 57-2 halftime margin.

Top scores for the Marauders were Kelly Edwards with 15, Lori Chambers with 13, Mary Chambers and Mary Platt with 10 each, and Linda Ferraro and Carolyn Meech with nine points apiece.

This game gave the MSS powerhouse a

chance to work their subs into the action and give them valuable playing experience for the larger tests down the road. It appears that the bench strength of the Lady Marauders is increasing each game.

MSS does not see action this week in local league play, and the next tourney action is not until the weekend of Oct. 14-15 when they do battle in a Laurentian University competition.

Tight defence

Lori Chambers (55) and Linda Ferraro (23) worked some tough pressure defence against the ESPSS senior girls last week as MSS Lady Marauders whipped their rivals from Penetanguishene 85-6 in local high school

basketball. MSS seniors are having trouble finding suitable competition in the area, and it has hurt their performances in provincial tournaments so far.