

## Williams suffers narrow defeat in Regionals

Midland Curling Club's Keith Williams participated in the Ontario Curling Association Labatt Blue Light Regional playoff in Elmvale on the weekend.

Unfortunately, Williams and his rink lost out on a chance to move to the Labatt Blue Light Tankard to vie for Provincial honours, but they certainly didn't make it easy for the winners.

In the opening games, Jim Sharples of Dixie defeated Stanhope of Burlington, while Niagara Falls' Gemmell defeated Watson of Dundas Valley. Paul Savage of Gravenhurst beat File of Brampton, and Keith Williams won over Jackson of Paris.

In the Jackson matchup, Williams was ahead 7 - 4 coming home without the hammer and gave up one for a 7 - 5 victory.

Sharples then sent Gemmell to the "B" side, while Williams did the same in convincing fashion to Savage, who came a half hour late for the game and was penalized by the O.C.A. representative, Mel Saunders. Saunders took away an end plus a hammer for the oversight. Perhaps Williams didn't need the advantage as he defeated Savage 8 - 3 after nine ends.

Watson eliminated Stanhope and File was sent packing by Jackson. Then Gemmell returned the favour to Jackson, setting the stage for the finals.

In Sunday morning's contest, Williams blanked the first three ends before taking a single point in the fourth. With his first rock, Williams touched off his own in front and rolled, leaving Sharples lying two. But with his final stone, Williams drew to the eight foot for the games first point.

Sharples returned the favour in the fifth with a similar set of circumstances.

Williams attempted to blank the sixth, but failed to when his rock hit a stone biting on the 12-foot and rolled for a point, not quite

making it out of the circles.

That failed shot set up the disastrous seventh, as Sharples missed with his final shot, allowing Williams to score three.

Williams was able to pick up one more in the eighth before blanking the ninth, but had to cough up a single in the tenth and fell 5 - 3 to Sharples.

The win gave Sharples a bye into the Ontario finals.

The final game was a rematch between Savage and Williams. This time Savage was on time. A packed house greeted the two teams as they began battle for the right to advance to the provincial finals a.k.a. the Labatt Blue Light Tankard.

Williams got off to a grand start as he took two in the first end and stole one in the second as Savage came up short with the hammer.

Williams stole another one in the third to go up 4 - 0. Savage was looking at two, but airmailed his last shot and it went wide, giving Williams his point.

Savage finally got on the board in the fourth with a pair, but Williams' draw shot in the fifth counted.

Savage blanked the sixth and picked up a single in the seventh. Actually, Williams escaped in the seventh fairly easily as Savage stood to count five or six.

The eighth end turned out to be a tragic one for the Williams foursome as Keith's final rock careened off a guard allowing Savage to count three.

Williams tied the match at 6 - 6 in the ninth, but gave up two in the tenth without the hammer, and went down to a very tough 8 - 6 defeat.

After the match, a relaxed Savage stated, 'We were lucky to be here'. Paul, who curled 10 pounds under his playing weight, felt

the weight loss adversely affected his game. The five-foot 10-inch magazine publisher reported his weight to be a svelte 192.

The newly established foursome features Jim McGrath, a Mississauga fireman as lead, Steve Brown, a partner of Robert Hodge Service in Orillia at second stone, and Graham McCarrel, a real estate agent in Toronto, as vice.

Keith Williams, along with teammates Dennis Gignac, Mark Goodman, and Ron Frankcom were 'very down' after their tough defeat.

Williams threw second stone for the Gary Turner skipped rink at the McDonald's Briar

at Peterborough in 1976. Lou Turner was the vice on that rink, while sporting goods store owner, Peter Vollett was the lead. That was a significant year in Ontario curling as it was the last year for 12 end games.

After mulling over Sunday's double losses, Williams reached the decision Monday morning in cohesion with his rink, to opt out of the challenge round. An understandable, but certainly disappointing decision for the fans and followers of this very affable and talented individual.

Williams, Gignac, Frankcom, and Goodman wish to thank their many friends and fans who came out to cheer them on.



### Deep concentration

Curler Dennis Gignac takes a few moments, during last weekend's play at the Ontario Curling Association Labatt's Blue Light Regional Playoffs in Elmvale, before descending from the hack. Despite a strong effort by the Midland Curling Club's Keith

Williams, the foursome could not sweep their way to the Regional Championship. Williams, Gignac, and teammates Mark Goodman and Ron Frankcom were hopefuls to make their way to the Labatt's Blue Light Tankard.



### Reaching high

Steve Smith, number 14, reaches high for a basket Saturday night at MSS during the annual grade 13 versus of Basketball contest.

The game preceded the Senior Marauder/Alumni contest that capped a busy basketball weekend at MSS gymnasium.

## Rooney paces novice

Midland Gervan and Associates won Novices defeated Meaford last week 2 - 0. Joe Rooney tallied in the first period assisted by Kevin Wood, and again in the third with the assist going to Patrick Brooks. Joe McGill was between the pipes for the shutout.

To prove that the game was no fluke, the two teams did battle again the next day with Rooney scoring both goals, one in the first and the other in the second.

Creemore was Midland's opposition the

following day. Gervan and Associates walked away with a 5 - 1 win.

Rooney converted a Wood pass in the first frame for a 1 - 0 lead. Wood picked up his own marker in the middle stanza with Chris Cadeau helping out.

Rooney and Wood teamed up again in the third as did Aaron Coutts and Mark Charlebois, before Patrick Brooks completed the scoring on a play with Rooney and Scott Blake.

## Boatworks off to good start

They say you only play as good as your competition but not in this instance. Playing against two of the weakest teams in the league, the B.W. Ladies didn't allow their level of play to drop at all. Even with the lineup juggled around there was a consistent aggressive flow for the most part in both matches.

In the first match against Bradford, Midland basically won the match with strong serving and when given the chance executed a smooth attack. Strong serving by Karen Light, Sue Presse, Jean Goodrow, and Paul

Denis. Scores 15-4, 15-5.

In the second match, Orangeville was a little stronger but still no real threat. Strong serving by Paula Denis as well as her setting, Jean Goodrow's and Sue Presse's setting were big factors in the clean sweep. Big improvement in passing by Sharon Hartman and Darlene Cousineau as well as surprise blocking by Darlene. A big obstacle for the team has been digging but Vicki Coutemache and Cathy King with their desire to win led the way in this field to defeat Orangeville 15-6, 15-12.