

# Driftwood in double thriller

Penetang Driftwood Peeeweas are tied with Port Elgin at a game apiece after a pair of weekend thrillers. Some hardwork and dedication led Penetang to

a 7-5 overtime victory Friday in Penetang. In the return engagemnet Sunday in Port Elgin, Driftwood dropped a narrow 3-2 deci-

sion to tie the series at one game apiece in the best of five Ontario Minor Hockey Association quarter finals. At home Friday night, Port Elgin opened the scor-

ing in the first frame, but the hosts replied with a pair to begin the second taking a 2-1 lead. Dwayne Johnson was the first Penetang player to beat the Port Elgin netminder assisted by Jesse Bazinet and Chris Vallee. Tim Mason counted with help from Bazinet, before Port Elgin fired two more before the period ended for a 3-2 lead.

The visitors struck again in the third, but David Beausoleil replied for Driftwood from Shawn McConkey to move to within one.

However, with two and a half minutes left in the contest, Port Elgin scored what appeared to be the straw to break the camel's back. But Driftwood's Shawn McConkey connected with 50 seconds left, which set the stage for Tim Maheu's heroics with only five seconds showing on the clock to send the contest into overtime. McConkey and Chris Mar-

childon assisted on the play. In the overtime frame, Maheu tallied again at the 4:20 mark from Marchildon while Chris Diesveld put the game on ice for the locals with a marker at 1:27 assisted by Marchildon.

Claude Vallee was very strong between the pipes in the Penetang victory.

In the game Sunday in Port Elgin a virtually unbeatable goaltender thwarted Penetang's many scoring chances to preserve a 3-2 victory and tie the series.

Port Elgin and Penetang traded first period goals, with Diesveld deflecting Bazinet's low blast.

A pair of second period markers gave Port Elgin a 3-1 lead, before Francois Charlebois clicked in the third for Driftwood from Diesveld and Maheu.

Scott Galt played a very strong game in net to keep Penetang close.

Game three is slated for Penetang Friday night at 8 p.m.



**Tracey Robertson**

Canadian top-ranked skater, Tracey Robertson, entertained the crowds at Penetanguishene Skating Club's World's Fair Saturday. Robertson was one of the guest skaters, who, along with a cast of local talent, delighted the audience.

## MMBA umpire search

by Ken Greenwood

Midland, Penetang and area have a nucleus of top notch umpires and Midland Minor Baseball could use their help.

The game of hardball is fast becoming one of the most popular sports in Canada and we are aiming to be part of its' growth. However, without the assistance of qualified umpires to teach the kids

the do's and don'ts of the game, it becomes an uphill battle.

In the four years I have been president of MMBA, I have listened to countless reasons why it is difficult to get umpires for our games. Throughout that time, the reason I hear most often is the length of the games. There is no doubt hardball games do run longer than slowpitch.

However, if you consider the enjoyment the kids get from playing ball combined with the knowledge that you are out there helping "our children", I am sure you'll agree that it's worth it.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call Umpire in Chief Jim Mahon at 549-2663.

MMBA will be hosting an O.B.A. Umpires' Clinic Sunday, March 8 1 p.m. at Centennial Arena. The fee will be \$10. OBA Supervisor of Umpires, Mr. Dick Willis will be the clinic instructor.

Remember, by investing in our children today, we ensure our quality of our community tomorrow.

## Between the Sheets

by Ed Pearson

Life is pretty hectic for Russ Howard and his rink these days before the Labatt Brier. The phone never stops ringing, media requests have to be satisfied and although employers have been very accomodating, work responsibilities have to be met, practice time is important too. I managed to snag a few minutes of Russ's time while a television crew were assembling their apparatus for a film clip at the Penetang Curling Club. Russ realizes that all this attention comes with the territory and he takes the upheaval in his stride. The other members of the rink, brother Glenn, Tim Belcourt and Kent Carstairs are also very "laid back" characters - be hard to find a more compatible group.

Noting that other top curlers, like Ed Worenich and Paul Savage, constantly change personnel, I asked if there was any chance that the Howard rink would break up in the future. Russ ventured that he would not swap any one of his rink for any other curler in the country. I persisted, are all the others content with their positions and has there been any thought of switching roles? A look of panic came into Russ's eyes, he said, "I hope not, I can't sweep." Plainly, a case of, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Lead Kent Carstairs is evidently comfortable at the sharp end. He was lead for Russ in the 1980 Brier in Calgary. Tim has been with the rink since 1985 - the year that he was on the rink that won the Ontario Governor General's Trophy. Brother Glenn has, despite his tender years, plenty of experience. He was on the 1981 Provincial Juniors runners-up rink.

Russ credits their Dad with giving them a headstart in their curling careers. He took them down to the rink when they were eleven years of age and got them started right. He found time to school them in the basics and infected them with his love for the sport.

I wondered whether Russ felt alighted because, away from home, his rink was often viewed as "Brand X" in relation to

the high profile rinks. Even the Ontario Curling Report rated them fourth in the standings behind Werenich, Hackner and Harden in the February issue. This will be the Howards' third appearance in the Brier and they are still neglected by the Toronto media. Russ is not bitter. While admitting that the national newspapers are not aware that there is any curling going on north of highway 7, he allowed that being 100 miles north of Avonlea does create a communication problem. He thought that the genuine support that the rink receives from the Huronia area more than makes up for the indifference shown by the urban areas.

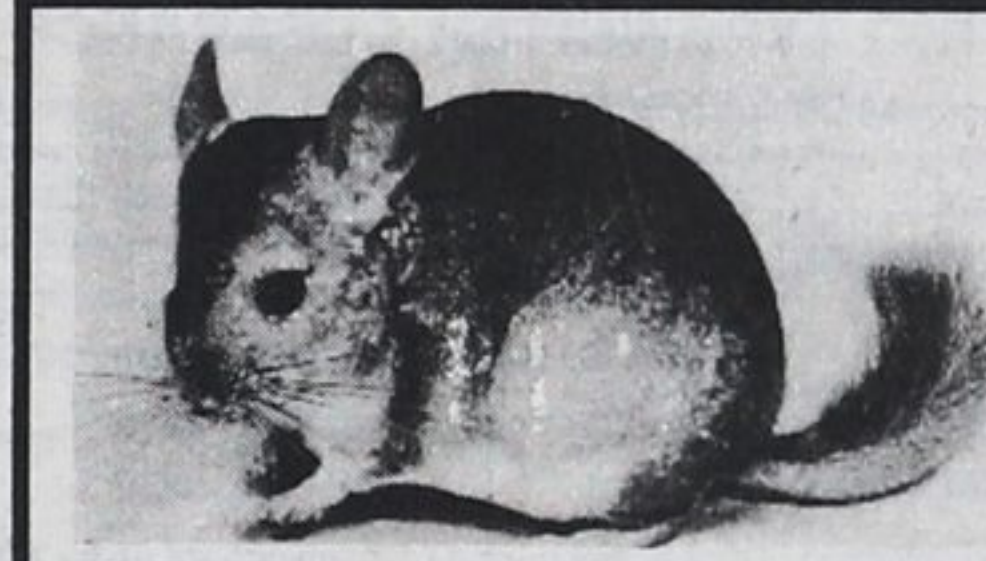
I pressed him for a prediction on the outcome at Edmonton. He said that they are going with a positive attitude and they have a vested interest in winning the Brier because that would force the Olympic Committee to consider the front end when making up the Olympic rink. At the same time, curling is a humbling game and after eighty rocks have been delivered it is often the last rock that decides the winner.



**Lacing up**

Lise-anne Desroches laces up her skates as showtime approaches Saturday afternoon and evening at the Penetanguishene Arena. The Penetanguishene Skating Club hosted its World's Fair this weekend.

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