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Hill Rams finally crack goose-egg

It was almost tantamount to defying gravity when the Provincial A hockey Rams — losers of their first six games this season — went out and picked up three of a possible four points last week.

At least it got rid of some of the "gravity" that was starting to line the face of Rams' general manager Sil Steffan.

"They just started to hustle and to listen to coach Ray Floyd," said Steffan in savoring a 3-3 tie Tuesday night of last week against the first division Royal York squad and then blanking Newmarket Thursday night right in Newmarket.

The shutout went to Rick Warren who was playing his second game in a row in the Rams' twines and he was full credit for the goose-egg.

"Rick played pretty well against Royal York," Steffan said, "but he was really impressive against Newmarket.

They peppered him pretty good at times. Of course, he got good protection from his defence."

The Rams broke out of their six-game losing streak against Royal York the hard way trailing 3-0 at the end of the first period.

They came alive in the second period outscoring the visitors three goals to one and again in the final 20 minutes with two goals to one.

Gary White and Steve McAleese led the Rams with two goals apiece with Blair McArthur getting the other one.

The Rams comeback so upset Royal York manager Stu Thompson that he borrowed the phone in Steffan's arena office to tell a Mississauga sports reporter that:

JUST MIDGETS

"We played a pretty good midget team tonight," adding charitably that "a good team plays down to the level of a bad team."

Warming up he went on to say that Rams goalie Warren "played well. The goals scored against him wasn't a true indication of his play. He didn't have anything in front of him."

Rams' manager Steffan choked a couple of times over the remarks but declined to comment.

BEAT NEWMARKET

The "Midget" Rams must have met a "Bantam" one in Newmarket Thursday night, at

least according to Thompson's assessment, because they took a 3-0 lead in the first period and went on to win fairly impressively.

"It was a case of our shots going in for a change and Newmarket having some of the problems that had been plaguing us. We played well," said Steffan.

Rams' goalscorers were Andy Howe, Dan Carlton, McAleese, Bruce Buchan and White.

What made the Rams' showing

even more encouraging was the fact they were missing four regulars for the two games. They were Reiner Pleschberger, Glen Oliver, serving suspensions from a previous game, and Paul Harrietha and Doug Dunec, with injuries.

The Rams added Juveniles' Glen Boyle and Bruce Buchan to the line-up and they responded well with the former drawing an assist against Royal York and the latter getting a goal against

Newmarket. Doug Jones was also back in the line-up and he was steady on defence along with Ian Myles. Also impressing was McAleese with his three goals.

Steffan was also happy with the play of newcomer White who scored a brace of goals against the Yorkers and the final goal against Newmarket which, incidentally, was a nifty effort.

White was standing with his back to the Newmarket net when the puck came to him and, in one

motion, backhanded the puck between his legs into the net.

Notes: Ex-Ram Bill Colville of North York Rangers leads the scoring pack after six games with 19 points off 8 goals and 11 assists. The Rams' Mike McDougall leads his team with two goals and five assists. McAleese has the most goals at five. The Rams are in North Bay Sunday and are at home Tuesday night to the same team starting at 7:45 p.m.



fred simpson

Blah!

I think I've got the November blues a week earlier this year. It must be a sign of advancing years. Advancing years? They're coming at me on the dead run.

Not even this nice "Indian Summer" we've been experiencing is much of a balm to the way things are. It's just a painful stab to remind you what you once had.

Help, help, rush me somewhere for solace. I went to a wedding on the weekend. It was someone else's but it was still depressing. Should have gone to a hockey game instead. That's more my style. You can be three goals behind in a hockey game and still come on to win. I'm not so sure about a wedding.

In fact the only really encouraging note to date in waning October came very unexpectedly last week. At a Richmond Hill Provincial Junior A Rams hockey game.

I was just as pessimistic as a person could be when I found my way down to the Richmond Hill Arena Tuesday night of last week to view the Rams in a game with high-flying Royal York.

It looked like the Rams were safely ensconced in last place and might be ready to roll over and die before November. There's nothing emptier than an empty arena and, believe me, the Rams didn't have much support from "fans" on this occasion.

GLOOM

The gloom really got thick when the locals fell behind 3-0 in the early going. Here we go again. Number 7 loss in a row coming up without a win.

Well, I'm happy to say it all ended on an upbeat note. The Rams finally got mobile and the end result was a 5-5 tie. The miserable loss-string was over. They even went on a couple of nights later to beat Newmarket 5-0. It was like winning the championship.

Seriously, it was nice to see the Rams come through. They have a lot of doubters in their corner this season (myself included) but a few key victories will change all that.

I don't expect the Rams to run off and win the league this year but they should be capable of coming up with a few surprises (he said with fingers crossed). And it would be a lot easier to accomplish if the Rams could get some bodies out there to watch them.

DYNESHOT

Elsewhere on the area hockey front the scene seems to be pretty encouraging at the moment. The Oak Ridges Dynes Junior B's are off to a whiz-start in the tough Central Junior hockey loop with something like seven wins in nine starts.

Dynes' coach Pete Artemchuk seems to have a knack of coming up with contenders. The only blur on the Jewellers record to date has been two convincing 7-1 losses to Burlington who would seem to be the team to beat.

"They've pumped us pretty good in the first two games," acknowledged Artemchuk. "But, strangely enough, I think we'll turn out to be a better club before the season is over. We still have two more games with them."

Now that's confidence.

THE BIRDS

Yet another team to be reckoned with has to be the youthful Thornhill Tudor Glen Thunderbirds. Coach Al Morris is another chap who is in the habit of coming up with fine representatives.

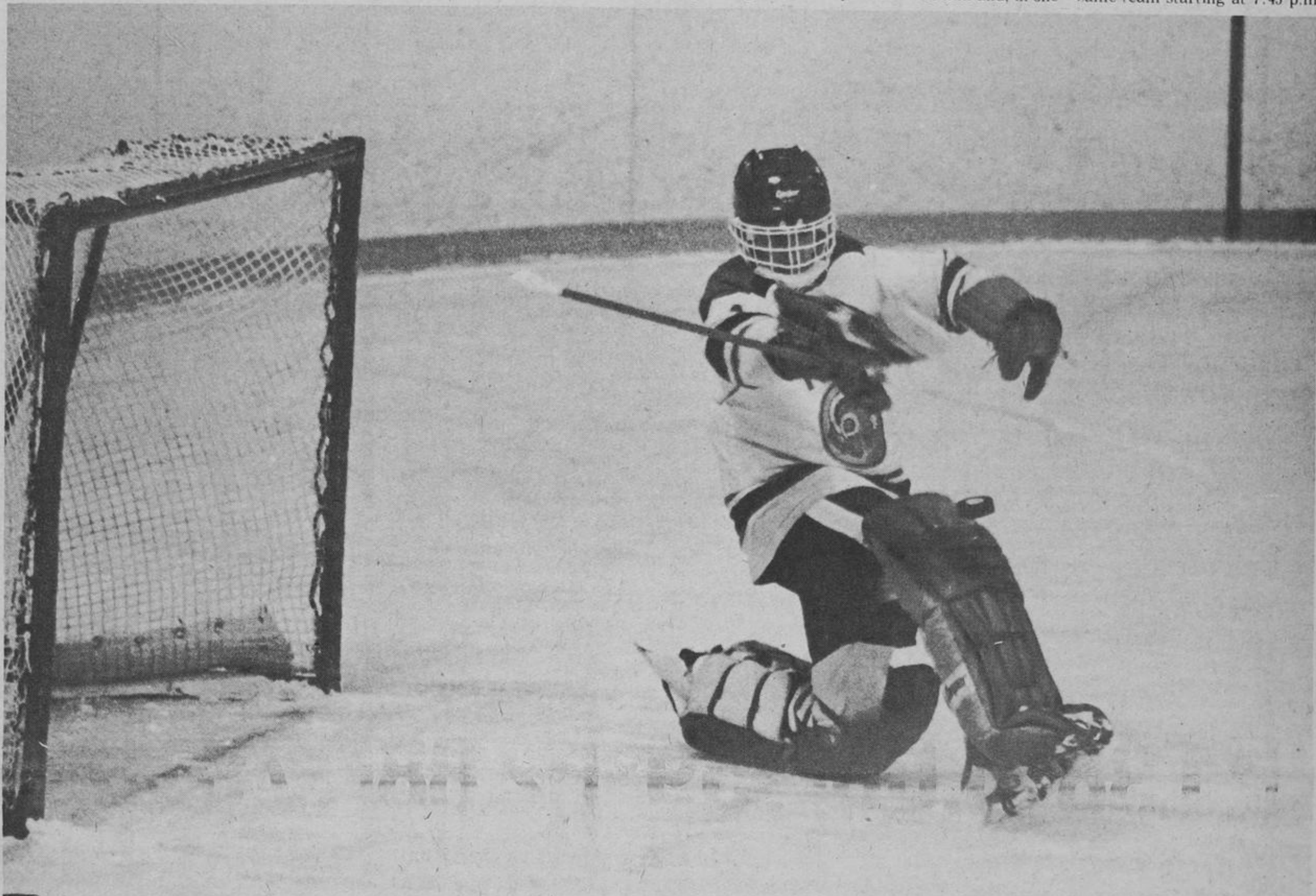
The Birds wouldn't appear to be as strong as the Jewellers right now but, as they say, you never know. They're young and so is the season. One thing for sure, it looks like a pretty close league with the exception of, maybe, Burlington? You never can tell in junior hockey.

NOTES

Some repeat notes about happenings in the area: Don't forget, the Richmond Hill Atom A's will be collecting old newspapers this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They'll likely be knocking on your door so be prepared.

And come November 3 the Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association will be holding its annual Skatathon to raise funds. That'll be at the Richmond Hill Arena. The youngsters are out collecting sponsorships right now.

And the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club is continuing to hold registrations each Saturday in October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lobby of the old Richmond Hill Arena. For further information call Stan Wilson at 884-3840.



A save

Richmond Hill Rams' Rick Warren makes a fine pad save here in game against Royal York which saw the locals, winless in their first six games, come alive and tie the game

5-0. Two nights later they went on to blank Newmarket 5-0 behind the shutout playing of the same Mr. Warren. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

Jewellers roll some sevens

The Oak Ridges Dynes Jeweller Junior B's rolled three sevens in a row in their latest outings but they weren't all that lucky.

Dynes, still riding high in the Central Ontario Junior loop with seven wins, two losses, and a tie, had their high and low moments in their last three games.

They started out on a low last Friday night when they were crunched 7-1 by powerful Burlington for the second straight game in a row.

Things picked up when they bounced back to handle the Thornhill Thunderbirds 7-4 Sunday night in Thornhill but sagged a bit Monday night when they blew a 7-6 lead at home to Acton and had to settle for, yep, a 7-7 tie.

FREE-SCORING

That free-scoring contest saw the Jewellers build up what appeared to be reasonable 3-1 and 5-3 leads at the ends of the first and second periods respectively only to fade badly in the final 20 minutes.

Never-say-die Acton rapped in

two quick goals in the first seven minutes of the third period to tie the game at 5-5.

Then it was Karl Taylor, who had a great scoring game along with linemate Robin Searle, getting the third of his four goals to put the Jewellers in front again.

Acton came back to tie it but the indomitable Mr. Taylor scored again from Tom Graham and Searle at 14:25 to put the Jewellers out in front once again with time running out.

PENALTY

Misfortune struck at 16:31 as Dynes goalie Dave Heisey was nailed for tripping and the visitors struck for the tying goal courtesy of Dennis Charboneau.

Highlight of the game had to be the play of the line of Taylor, Searle, and Gino Cavallini.

At least one of them was in on every Jeweller scoring play.

Taylor had the aforementioned four goals and two assists while Searle had five assists and Cavallini a goal and an assist. Shawn McDowell and Brent Dobson got the other goals while

Ed Gundert had two assists.

The Jewellers had a rather easy win against the Thunderbirds who couldn't get untracked until late in the final period trailing 7-1 at one juncture. (See story below).

"We just had another bad night," was Dynes coach Pete Artemchuk's assessment of the second straight loss to Burlington. "I was hoping we'd come out skating after being beaten by them in Oak Ridges but it didn't work out that way."

Artemchuk felt his team did

show what "they can do in the third period against Burlington but it was too late by that time. Despite the fact they've beaten us badly in our two meetings I still think we'll be the better team by the time the season gets very much older."

"We still have two more games with them."

Glen Wright got the only Dynes goal in that game.

The Jewellers are in Brampton next Sunday night and are at home to Orillia Monday night for an 8 p.m. game.

Lose to Dynes

Birds beat Milton

It wasn't exactly the way Thornhill Tudor Glen Thunderbirds' Junior B coach Al Morris would have liked to start off a new season of rivalry with the Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers Sunday night at home.

They lost 7-4 to the high-flying Jewellers and, even at that, the score was slightly flattering since the Birds trailed 7-1 at one juncture.

The Birds were coming off a 6-3 win over Milton Friday night and couldn't get anything going for the first two periods against Dynes.

"We seem to be saving ourselves for the third period lately," commented Morris.

It was the second period that killed the Birds in the Dynes contest as they went into it losing 1-0 and left it trailing 5-1.

Even at that Thornhill could have made it closer having had two goals called back. The first one came at the end of the second period with Mike Davidson jamming the puck home just as the whistle went.

Davidson was also involved in

another disallowed goal in the final 20 minutes.

INCREASE

Coach Morris was unhappy about the latter call agreeing with the official that "Davidson had his foot in the crease when the puck went in but it was there because an Oak Ridges player was pushing him into the crease."

Morris still gave Oak Ridges full credit for the victory. "Coach Pete Artemchuk has a pretty good team going for him again this season."

"We allowed them to roam at will in the slot in that second period and they just killed us. You can't get away with that when you have shooters like they have."

Karl Taylor got the lone goal in the first period for Oak Ridges and Mark Roberts made it 2-0 at 2:41 of the second period from Andre Damonze. It was 3-0 with Glen Wright clicking from Taylor and Gino Cavallini at 4:22 and then Brian Risk making it 4-0 at 4:46 on a power play effort.

Thornhill's Jamie Kennedy

finally got his team on the board at 12:30 of the same period on a power play score from Dan Kennedy.

The goal failed to inspire the Tudor Glen Birds and they fell behind 10 seconds later with Dan Henderson pulling the trigger from Ed Gundert.

Thornhill was off to a slow start in the final 20 minutes with Cavallini scoring for Oak Ridges at 2:25 and Dave Woolrich adding another one at 5:03.

COME ALIVE

They came alive after that rapping three straight goals with Jamie Kennedy scoring his second at 7:55 from Paul Howson and Mike Davidson; Dan Kennedy at 12:19 from Mark Wiltshire and Paul Howson on another power play; and Steve Sampson rounding out the scoring at 19:47 from Bill Chappell.

The Thunderbirds also stuttered around for the first two periods against Milton before getting going in the third period which saw them outshooting the home team 20-3 and outscoring

them three goals to zip.

HERO

Jamie Kennedy was the scoring hero in this one rapping in the final two goals in that last period. Steve Sampson scored the other one to go with the opening goal which gave the Birds a 1-0 lead in the first period.

Eric Ellison scored two in a row for Milton before Mike Davidson scored from John Thompson at 11:13.

Milton's Marty Vennec gave his team the lead in the second period at 14:03 but Paul Howson tied it at 15:43 from Rob Humphreys and Mike Davidson.

Then came the final 20 minutes and it was all Thornhill. Rick Seeley picked up two assists on the final three goals with singles to Murray Downs, his second of the game, and Mark Wiltshire.

NEXT

Thornhill is now three wins and three losses on the season. They are in Action next Saturday and at home Sunday night to Oakville for a 7 p.m. game. The following Tuesday they are also at home to Acton for a 7:30 p.m. contest.



PETE ARTEMCHUK
Optimistic