



**Gemini grab**

Georgetown Gemini goaltender Rick Tomkinson outraces Dixie Ventures Rory Carroll (12) and Mike McElroy (17) and snares the puck in a Central Ontario Junior B hockey game Thursday at Dixie Arena. The Ventures tied the Gemini 1-1 but lost 6-2 Friday in Burlington.

**Managing appeals to Callam as Arrows' slide continues**

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH  
 Tony Callam, coach of the Mississauga Golden Arrows, expects about 15 spots to be open on next year's team. One of the spots will probably be for a new coach.  
 Callam isn't ready to desert the Senior A team yet, despite their 2-20 record. He just feels he might do the team more good as general manager.  
 "I'm not really sure I want to coach next year," Callam said following two weekend losses. The Arrows suffered a narrow 4-2 defeat to the Orillia Terriers Saturday night before 475 fans at Malton Arena. Monday night they were bombed 9-2 by the Lindsay Lancers in Lindsay.  
 "Right now I'm leaning towards managing the team," he said. "I think I can do the team a lot more good there. This has been a learning year for everybody — me, Les (owner Les Gall) and players — and I think we're all benefiting from it. One thing I've learned is that a team needs a full-time manager."  
 Les wants me to manage and coach next year. I think I'd prefer to manage."  
 Another thing Callam learned this week is that there's no way to predict the performance of his team.  
 The Arrows were just short of brilliant Saturday in losing to the second-place Terriers. After falling behind 2-0 in the first period, Malton products Bob McCarthy and Chris Bootland pleased Callam and the crowd by scoring and sending the Arrows into the third period tied 2-2.  
 But Orillia took advantage of a few Mississauga penalties to score twice in the third period and send the Arrows deeper into the cellar.  
 Monday night the Arrows ended all hopes of escaping last place when they sleepwalked through a 9-2 defeat. Chuck Stevens and Eric Duncan scored the Mississauga goals.  
 "They were just great against Orillia," Callam said. "But everybody was out to lunch in Lindsay. Nobody was ready to play."  
 The Arrows did receive a needed boost when defencemen Robin Ares and Handy Fitzgerald were signed. Both played on the weekend and impressed Callam.  
 "Ares helped out a lot," he said. "Fitzgerald is only 19 but he skates well and he's a real scrapper. He's still a year away, but he's helping us this year."  
 In addition to the two defencemen means the Arrows have used all of the cards for this season. They won't be able to add any more players.  
 "Right now," Callam said, "we're just assessing the talent we've got. We're going to give the guys we want to keep for next year a lot of ice time. The guys who won't be back probably won't play that much."  
 Callam didn't say whether or not the same held true for one man who may not be back — Tony Callam the coach.

**Xoces-Eagles gymnasts top in Elite testing**

Eight members of the Xoces-Eagles Gymnastics Club, including three Mississaugans, were among 14 Canadian gymnasts to pass the Level III Elite tests held recently.  
 Testing was done in late November, but results of the testing were not made public until last week.  
 Karen Gould of Mississauga led the Xoces-Eagles contingent with an 8.68 score. Mississauga's Ellen Stewart was next with 8.60 and Connie Reid of Mississauga had an 8.39 score.  
 The other Eagles passing the Level III testing are Elli Schlegel, who passed the testing in 1975, Shannon Fleming (8.17), Teri Mildon (8.14), Janice Lyon (8.04) and Diana Carnegie (8.01).  
 Geoff and Mary-Lea Palmer of Mississauga are two of nine Xoces-Eagles coaches who instructed the eight gymnasts.  
 The 14 Level III gymnasts who passed the testing will attend a National Gymnastics camp in Toronto from Jan. 11 to 17.  
 Members of the Xoces-Eagles will be competing for the Ontario Winter Games sometime in January.  
 Mississauga Gymnastics Club members will also compete for the Games, Jan. 2 in Oakville.

**Venture rise almost secret**

By PAUL WILLIAMS  
 Despite what you may have heard, dancing bears will not be featured between periods at Dixie Venture games in the new year. Nor will the Central Ontario Junior B hockey club ante up the funds to raffie a 1977 Cadillac Seville at each home game.  
 Chances are that Club president John Donoval will not be arranging free trips to the sunny South for the lucky Venture fan who happens to buy the winning program in a lucky draw. And girls won't be winning a free date with the Venture of her choice, because after all most of them have girlfriends.  
 But the Ventures are going to do something to encourage people other than the popcorn vendor and the occasional parent to attend the Venture home matches every Thursday.  
 The Ventures have performed well on the ice this season. Since the inception of the team three seasons ago the Ventures have gradually improved to the point where coach Norm Dowdall can realistically aim at catching and passing fourth place Georgetown Gemini.  
 The Ventures' on ice performance has been extremely satisfying to the club management, but it irks them that less than 100 people are on hand each Thursday night to appreciate the Vees' improvement.  
 Dixie will have its work cut out trying to increase attendance. It seems that as a town or metropolis gets larger, interest in amateur or minor sports grows smaller.  
 Junior B hockey clubs in the Toronto area have to compete with the wide range of entertainment goodies that a large city has to offer. They usually lose out.  
 However, Dowdall says, the Ventures will try something in the new year in order to promote the team. In their quest to promote the team, the Venture management has one advantage — they are starting with a good product.  
 The Ventures suffered a minor setback this week in their climb to respectability. A 1-1 tie with Georgetown Thursday and a 6-2 loss to Burlington on the road cost them ground to the surging Oakville Blades.  
 The Blades were one point ahead of the Ventures at this time last week, but after back to back wins over the Streetsville Derbys and an 8-6 victory over the Acton Sabres, they are one point behind the first place Derbys and Burlington Cougars.  
 The Ventures are five points behind fourth place, Georgetown but have three games in hand.

"The Ventures are in a minor slump," Dowdall said after the Mississauga club was dumped 6-2 by Burlington Friday.  
 The Cougars jumped into a quick 2-0 lead in the first period. Guy Mortson, who scored both Venture goals, scored near the end of the first to narrow the gap.  
 The Cougars added two more in each of the remaining periods.  
 Rookie John Deyman scored in the second period Thursday to give the Ventures a 1-1 tie. Mortson had a penalty shot in the second period but failed to score.  
 NOTES: Goalie Grant Sloane's 4:30 average is one of the finest in the league. Burlington's Rick Katchanoski leads the league with a 3.53 average.

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