

# Swede success story

## Midget hockey series is a big hit

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH  
Times sports editor

The Malton Minor Hockey Association has a hit on its hands and has no thoughts of quitting while it's ahead.

Malton's current series with a pair of midget hockey teams from Lidingsö, Sweden has proven to be a hit on all counts, drawing over 3,000 fans in its first two runs and pleasing all with inspiring exhibitions of hockey.

Although the series is barely half over, plans are already in the works for an even bigger and better exchange next season.

"The whole thing has been fantastic," says MMHA president Tony Turnbull. "The arena has never had this many people in it."

"We're working on bringing three Swedish teams over here next year. Things look pretty good for getting approval."

Thursday's opening night, featuring Toronto Maple Leaf star Borje Salming, attracted 1,800 people into tiny Malton Arena. Sunday's games, without Salming, drew just over 1,200.

All were treated to good hockey and even a local victory.

The victory came Sunday as the Malton minor midget Auto\$av Insurance squad dumped the Lidingsö B team 6-2. Good hockey came in every game.

The Lidingsö A team, highlighted by the fluid skating and creative playmaking of Nicklas Nordin, opened with a 3-1 victory over a smaller but spirited Malton Crowle Fittings midget AAA team.

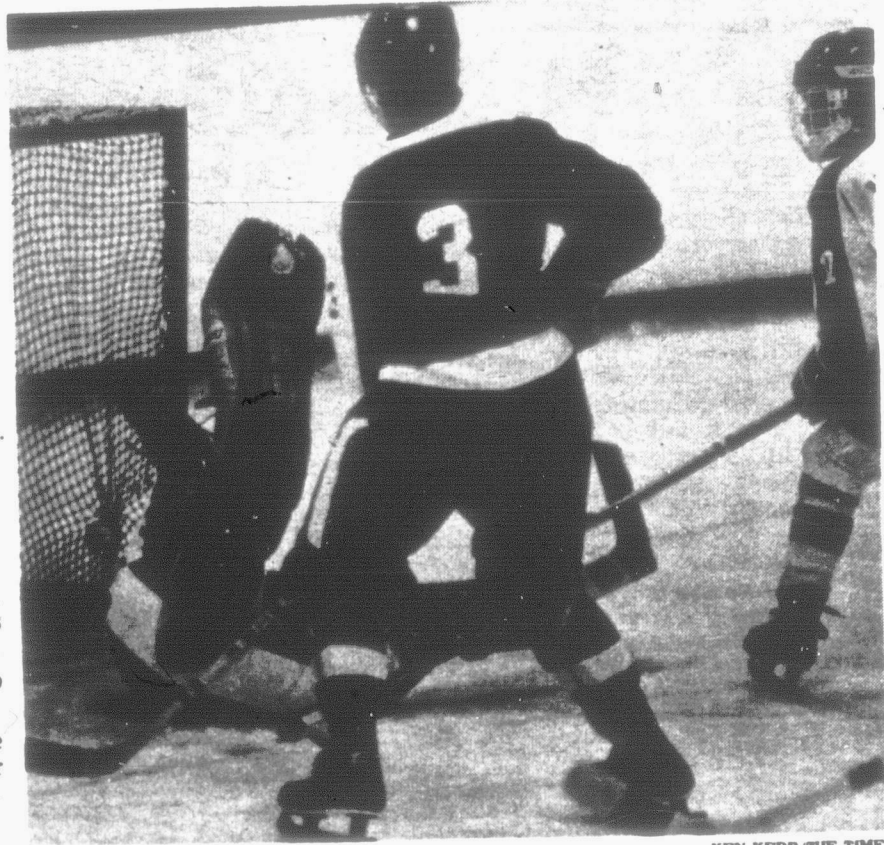
An outstanding performance by Malton goaltender Rick Shaw and impressive penalty killing by Dave Roberts kept things closer on Sunday as Swedes won 2-1.

Nordin got the winner while Andy Paquette scored for Malton.

The Lidingsö B team opened with a 4-1 victory but was no match for Malton in the second game. Smooth-skating Greg Prendergast led Malton with two goals in the 6-2 victory while Domenic Barranca, Scott Jones, Andrew Forsyth and John Zankl got the others. Russ Emo scored in Thursday's game.

The series has also been a hit from the friendship angle, which was the intended purpose of the series.

"They play it all out on the ice, but once the game ends it's all forgotten," says Malton Auto\$av manager John Emo.



KEN KERR/THE TIMES

Malton's Stu McDougall scores on Swedes

# Ghost of Christmas future brightens Beehives' holiday

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH  
Times sports editor

Dixie Beehives coach Larry Stern had a Dickensian Christmas holiday, receiving visits from the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

The ghost of seasons past returned to haunt Beehives on Sunday night as they looked like the bumbling Beehives of old in a 6-0 loss to the Provincial Junior A Hockey League leaders, Guelph Platters at Dixie Arena.

The ghost of things to come paid a visit in the forms of a Mississauga Rep, a Dixie Bee and a newcomer, who all made Stern's Christmas a bit brighter.

The ghost of Christmas present was in evidence as

## Oh starry night

Former World Hockey Association player Bob Sicinski will be behind the Mississauga Intermediate Hockey League All-stars bench Saturday night when they meet the CFTO Bassett Hounds at 8 p.m. at Port Credit Memorial Arena.

Tickets are \$1 with all proceeds going to amateur hockey in Mississauga.

Fans over the age of 18 are invited to meet CFTO personalities and players in the lounge following the game.

the Beehives continued their yo-yo performance, up one game, down the next. Beehives dropped a 6-3 verdict to lowly Aurora Tigers on Boxing Day and dumped fourth-place North York Rangers 7-1 on Friday before losing to Guelph.

Stern wasn't overly upset by the visit from Christmases past or present. "I can't really complain," he said following the loss to Guelph. "We're still over 500 and considering the lack of experience we have, that's not bad. We're still going to surprise a few people."

Stern was pleased with the glimpse of the future he saw in North York on Friday. Goaltender Orest Okpysh, called up from the junior B Beehives, held the league's top-scoring club to one goal and was named first star.

Todd Kwiecien, up from the midget major Reps, had a goal and two assists and was named second star. Chris Boucher, up from the Bees, also scored.

The newcomer, left winger Andre Hidi, was a present from coach Tom Watt of the University of Toronto Blues. Hidi, in his first game, scored twice against Aurora.

Randy Cunneynworth scored twice in North York with Randy Dupre, Ross Belcher and Chris Costello adding singles.

The fifth-place Beehives are in Wexford tonight and host third-place Royal York Royals at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday at Dixie Arena.

# Bees still stayin' alive

Dixie Beehives lost another Central Ontario Junior B match Sunday in the never-ending quest to keep the battle for the eighth and final playoff spot as tight as possible.

Milton Flyers scored 7-6 victories over Brampton and Georgetown last weekend to move into eighth spot one point ahead of the Beehives.

With a win over first place Burlington Cougars, Dixie could have moved back into the final spot but three second-period goals by the Cougars in Burlington were enough as Dixie lost 4-3.

Despite the loss to Burlington, Beehives have been playing some of their best hockey of the season. Dixie defeated Brampton Logan 9-6 last week for its third consecutive win.

Dave Hanafin, Wayne Glendinning and Steve Pollard scored two goals each against Brampton. Mark Palmer, Darryl Flynn and Mike Brady scored the others.

Norm Watson, Keith York and Rob Spath scored against Burlington.

Dixie hosts Barrie tomorrow at 7:45 p.m. and Oakville Sunday at 2 p.m.

# Gurowka sweeps up

Dixie Curling Club's Joe Gurowka continued his winning ways over the Christmas holidays.

Gurowka's rink of Carl Zylak, Jim McGrath and Craig Harris won \$1,300 in the second event final of

the Molson's Major Curling League before Christmas.

Last week they won the Guelph Curling Club's Schenley Bonspiel with a 5-4 victory over host Cam Davidson.

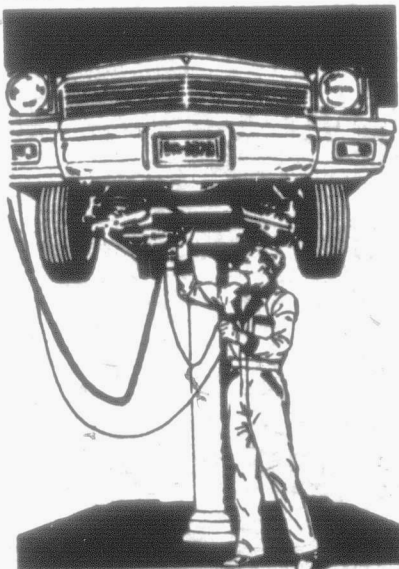
The victory boosted the rink's winnings over the \$5,000 mark this season.

Bob Charlebois of Dundas Granite won the second event over Port Elgin's Max McIntyre.

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