Rigid training plan could pay for NHS

NEWMARKET — A new format of team selection plus a rigid practice schedule could pay big dividends for the Newmarket High School badminton team this year.

While more than 40 students attended tryouts for the 16-member team last year, officials this year stipulated that any prospective member attending the initial practice had to own his own racquet.

According to coach Shan Pinkerton the move helped to avoid students with only mild — and possibly temporary — interest in the sport from edging out a prospective enthusiastic team member.

"It's a much healthier point of view," Miss Pinkerton told The Era last week. "They practice a lot more seriously this year than they did last year."

Where the new requirements didn't fully achieve their purpose, the squad's training schedule has.

The school's basketball team occupied a large portion of the gymnasium schedule since the badminton group began its activities last October. In that time badminton was scheduled for fewer than half a dozen after school sessions in the gymnasium.

The only solution was to schedule the club's training programs for four mornings a week beginning at 8 a.m. each day.

That schedule has been going on since students returned to school following the Christmas vacation with Miss Pinkerton only now permitting team members to decide whether they will compete in singles, mixed, or mixed doubles categories.

As one of the youngest school badminton teams in York (only five of this year's members played on last year's team) the Newmarket High School squad should provide some interesting combinations.

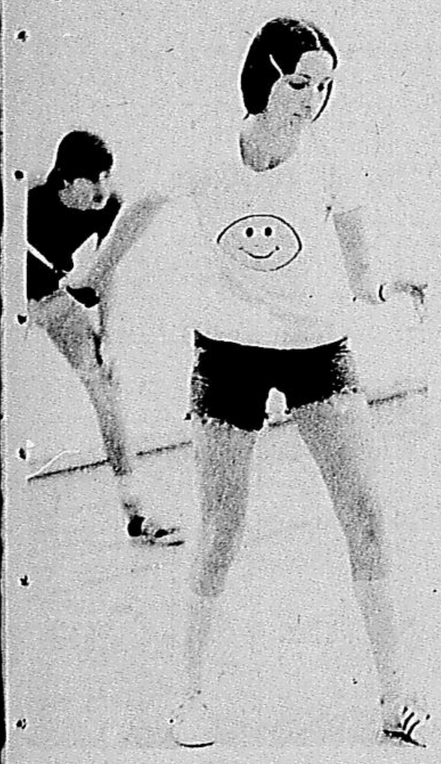
Two of the five players returning from last year's team have asked to be matched for one of two mixed double entries in zone, regional and area competition.

Kim Brown and Stefan Zurawski are rated as the second best female and top male player respectively and carry the best prospect of picking up top badminton honors for the school. Kim was joined by Anne Bosworth last year to capture third place in the girl's doubles zone competition.

Top ladies single hopeful is Sue Waterman, in her first year at NHS after attending high school last year in Saskatoon.

In the men's categories, Bill Teasdale and Terry Dicks team up for what is expected to be a top doubles squad.

The remaining members of the team — which is divided into two men's singles, two ladies' singles, two men's doubles, two ladies' doubles and two mixed double contingents — are all pegged as bright prospects for championship competition beginning the first week in April at Huron Heights Secondary School, continuing with the York title event a week later and culminating with Georgian Bay action the week of April 19.



Kim Brown gets ready to serve during badminton team practises at Newmarket High School. She is a top prospect for NHS team's chances in York County and Georgian Bay competition. Van Halem photo

Midget, juvenile teams in E.G. Optimist tourney

SHARON — Midget and juvenile hockey teams from as far away as Fenelon Falls converge on East Gwillimbury Community Centre east of here Friday for the start of the two-day East Gwillimbury Optimist Hockey Tournament.

The event is an expanded revival of a midget tournament last held at the arena two years ago.

In addition to the host Sharon club teams from Richvale, Elmvale, Fenelon Falls, Kerwick, Sutton, Richmond Hill and Bradford will be entered in the midget category.

Juvenile division squads include Richvale, Aurora, Uxbridge, Stouffville, Keswick, Sutton, Richmond Hill and Sharon.

The tournament begins at 8 a.m. Friday with each team guaranteed at least two games. First round losers will move into the consolation division with elimination resulting from any subsequent losses. Winning squads advance to the championship schedule but are knocked out of action after any loss.

Championship and consolation winners will be decided in both midget and juvenile divisions with the championship and consolation winners meeting for a grand championship in each division.

The midget consolation game launches the championship contests beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday with the entire tournament expected to be completed four hours later.

The tournament has been in the planning stages for the past six weeks. Officials indicate that none of the out-of-town teams will be billeted locally. Fenelon Falls is the only centre represented that is not considered to be within reasonable driving distance and that squad has it initial game scheduled for mid-afternoon Friday.

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