

Judge puts players on probation for playoff fight

MARKET — Sheardown said "near-riot conditions" prevailed at the game April 14, between Nobleton and a team from Forest, Ont., at the Nobleton Arena.

The capacity crowd of 1,000, some of whom had been indulging in alcohol, also fanned the flames of aggressive behavior shown by some players.

beer bottles on the ice and joined the fight.

Referee Bruce Richardson told the court the fight erupted as players were exchanging hand-shakes at the end of the game, which was won by Forest.

Mr. Richardson said Mr. Bellyk defended himself when Mr. Sheardown punched him. The fight appeared to be under control when Mr. Kennedy stormed into action and everyone else joined in. Mr. Richardson was hit on the head with a beer bottle.

respect for the authority of officials or police." He said the ice surface was "littered with cans, beer bottles, and Coke bottles."

Mr. Wright said that during the evening two men who were harassing the Forest players were removed from the arena. Describing the crowd's reaction, he told the court, "I'd have to say one half were greatly disappointed, the other highly elated."

Constable Vickers said it was at this point that "the crowd went wild." He told the court he narrowly missed being hit with a beer bottle as members of the crowd joined the battle.

Constable Vickers told the court that it was obvious drinking was going on at the arena although some people were checked as they went into the game and other officers patrolled the aisles.

IN THE STANDS
Lawyer Alf Stong, representing Mr. Bellyk, said "there is no doubt that the disturbance was not caused originally by the three accused, but by the crowd who had been drinking. The real disturbance was in the stands, not on the ice."

Mr. Stong told the court the Richmond Hill attorney, Liberal MPP for York Centre, was highly critical of Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry. He said "what the Attorney General is after is a lot of charges

We hear about it all the time." Judge McMahon stopped Mr. Stong at this point, saying, "I must decide the issues here impartially."

Ken Clarkson, Nobleton Arena manager, said off-duty police officers were hired for the game because it was felt there might be trouble. He described

feelings in the arena as "tense".

Mr. Clarkson said that, to his knowledge, police had neither approached anyone nor laid charges regarding drinking.

D. A. Hemstock, past president of the Nobleton Minor Hockey Association, said there had been two previous

incidents involving the two teams. He said the problem had been discussed with York Regional Police and several off-duty officers were hired.

Mr. Hemstock told the court several volunteer firemen were also called in to man the exit doors. He described

the crowd as "belligerent and loud".

Judge McMahon said he accepted the evidence of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wright. He said Mr. Bellyk was defending himself after being hit.

"What Sheardown did was on his own volition and what he did he did wilfully," Judge McMahon said.

ONTARIO FINALS
Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Bellyk had taken part in the final game of the all-Ontario finals held in Nobleton. Mr. Sheardown, who was an alternate goalie, threw the punch which started the melee.

The players from both teams scuffled on the ice and fans threw

BELLIGERENT
Patrick Wright, another official of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, described the crowd as "unruly, belligerent, and with no

York Regional Police Constable Bruce Vickers, who was an off-duty paid policeman at the Nobleton Area, said he knew there was a fight on the ice but had been asked primarily to watch the exits at the arena. He told the court that Mr.

Constable Vickers told Judge J. F. McMahon it is the policy of police not to go onto the

after is a lot of charges

United Way fills key posts
MOND HILL — key posts in its 1978 fund-raising campaign.

Kick-off for the campaign is Sept. 25.

George Boyd,

president of the Newmarket and district branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, has been named the campaign's agency board chairman. He will be contacting all United Way's participating human care service agencies with a view to completing a strong advance canvass of members and supporters of the groups.

Community chairman co-ordinating the canvass of retail, residential, professional and special names groups.

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Stewart Adamson, York County school board purchasing manager, will work with co-ordinators from all key groups in the educational community to develop a campaign.

A Bell Canada executive on loan to the campaign, Ken Gilmore, community relations manager for Toronto north-east office, will work with one of United Way's four industrial-commercial divisions throughout October developing in-plant campaigns.

Marjorie Linton, past president of the Richmond Hill-Thornhill area family services, was named Richmond Hill

TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY
NOTICE

The regular East Gwillimbury Council meeting of September 4th has been cancelled and will be held on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1978 at 1.00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Sharon.

J.F. Hopkins
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