



STAR PHOTO

**MR. AND MRS. ZEBRA:** Newlyweds Faye and Pat Gaudet have frequently worked the same hockey game. "I remember blowing an offside and her waving it off," he says.

## When ref weds ref who settles fights?

By Lois Kalchman  
Special to The Star

Imagine exchanging the first part of the wedding vows at centre ice and pledging the "I do" at home plate of the baseball diamond.

Pat and Faye Gaudet didn't quite do it that way but it was a joke heard at their September wedding. They are the first married couple in Ontario to officiate competitive hockey together and possibly the first anywhere in Canada.

"We met either on a ball diamond or in the rink," says Pat, 37, a gas-bar manager in Cobourg

for those assignments. As newlyweds, they are still the butt of jokes but Pat concedes they may have one last hurdle to overcome.

"I have had to supervise Faye in the past but not since we were married," he said, looking relieved. "I don't think I will now."

When Faye was asked if she may also be the first woman to find a way to beat the hockey widow syndrome, she simply smiled.

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"We would have been either umpiring or refereeing together. Our whole wedding was jokes about baseball and hockey — how I can wash her back after a game now, how we can actually change together in the same room."

Faye, a child-care co-ordinator at the Cobourg Y, confides that the night before her wedding, "My dad said the dog will have to referee our fights."

### Level three refs

She has her level three in the National Referee Certification Program as does her husband. She has played hockey, refereed for 13 years, played baseball and umpired for 15 years. Pat has officiated hockey for 21 years and umpired for 15 years. He is an Ontario Minor Hockey Association supervisor and not only referees in the OMHA with Faye but also in the Ontario Hockey Association.

"I remember blowing an offside and her waving it off," says Pat. "But we go home and talk about the call and the situation and — touch wood — have not had an argument yet."

Pat says they do everything together. They draw up the schedule for the referees and umpires for Cobourg's minor hockey and softball programs.

"I put the schedule through the computer and Pat fills in the assignments," Faye says.

Faye admits being a first at something is not exactly new to her. A few traditionalists raised their eyebrows when she became the first female referee of boys' games in the area. However, being a rink-rat has been a way of life for her. Her father, George Oliver, was president of the Cobourg Minor Hockey Association. She served on the executive and has played hockey.

"The kids accept her better than the adults who seem to feel a referee should be male," says Pat, a heavy-set 6-footer. "Cobourg has accepted us, but in another town there has been a comment or two about a female."

Faye says she would like to officiate at the women's Senior A level with Pat but has to register with the OHA, which is responsible

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