

Two-week hockey trip

Bantams off to Sweden

By Pat Payton

Family, friends and members of the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association were at the community centre Tuesday afternoon to wish the ANAF Bantams good luck as they left for a two-week trip to Sweden.

Nineteen players, four management, and 36 family members and friends are making the overseas trip.

The group flew all night Tuesday via Scandinavian Air Lines to Copenhagen, Denmark, where a Hamilton figure skating team was dropped off. After arriving in Stockholm this morning (Wed.), the St. Marys contingent was bused to Akersberga and welcomed by the mayor at a reception.

The players were then billeted with the host families from Akersberga, a city of about 26,000 located on the Baltic Sea and about 30 kilometres northeast of Stockholm.

Parents and family members are staying at two hotels in downtown Stockholm—the Kommendoren and the Parlan, where the parents of the Cement Midgets stayed during the 1985-86 trip.

Seven games scheduled

The ANAF Bantams will play a total of seven games during their Swedish tour.

After practising on Thursday, St. Marys plays its first game on Friday night in Akersberga against Team RA 73.

On Saturday, the Bantams travel to Gimo—about 100 kilometres northwest of Stockholm—where they will play three games in a tournament.

After sightseeing on Sunday—including watching the changing of the guard at the Royal Palace—the Canadian visitors will be invited to an evening festival.

On New Year's Day, the St. Marys and Akersberga players will play a 'Bundy' match. The game is played on ice, using a ball and large curved sticks.

The ANAF Bantams are scheduled to play other hockey games next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Off-ice activities next week include doing some sightseeing in old Stockholm, visiting a Vikings ruin, and taking a ferry cruise on the Baltic Sea through the archipelago—a chain of many islands.

The St. Marys contingent returns to Canada on Sun., Jan. 7. They leave Stockholm via Fin Air at noon for a short stop-over in Helsinki. They depart from Finland at 5:30 p.m. and arrive at the Toronto International

Airport at 7:30 p.m. EST. They're expected back at the community centre about 10:30 p.m.

"Slightly over \$40,000" was raised through team functions to finance the trip to Sweden, fund-raising chairman Alan Slater said last week.

The players raised \$10,000 of that figure through their 'Rent-a-Bantam' promotion.

"The players had to pay half their air fare and that's how they raised it through all those different projects they were involved in over the summer," Slater explained.

"I think it brought the kids together a bit; they got to know each other working on those things. Sometimes that's more important than anything else."

Members of the ANAF Bantams making the trip are: Jamie McLellan, John Teahen, Joe Philbrook, D. J. Deline, Matt King, Jason Martin, Ben Pook, Jaden Ropp, Billy Rioridan, Dean Sorensen, Nathan Blight, Josh Lambourn, Mike McDonald, Jason Moffatt, Bentley Murray, Jeremy Slater, Kevin Tate, Mike Tkaczuk and Dave Torbet.

Coaches are Ken Schiedel and Gerry Seguin, manager is Dennis Martin and trainer is Bruce Bayly.



CO-COACH GERRY SEGUIN packs equipment on the bus moments before the Bantams left for Sweden Tuesday.

Here we come Sweden!



FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS were at the arena last Tuesday afternoon to wish the ANAF Bantams good luck before they left for a two-week hockey trip to Sweden. The team returns to Canada Sun., Jan. 7. A total of 59 St. Marys people made the trip overseas.