

Pounding the Sports Beat . . .



The period designated as Minor Hockey Week in Canada is with us again.

Stay, I know, there are 52 weeks in the year set aside for something special. We have National Health Week, National Baby Week, National Fire Week and National Weather Week, to name a few, but Minor Hockey Week is something special!

In spite of the success shown by the hockey in Canada's national game, Canada puts itself on top of the business by developing of its best players.

Yesterdays all over the world back to Canada for evidence, and believe me you would just believe the Russians, who claim to be the best in everything. Watch Canadian hockey teams throughout the world.

Right here in the town of Acton we have a minor hockey set up second to none. Interested citizens with a love of the game and an eye to the development of good hockey in town see that our schools has a place and a team to play in.

The Legion operates a local league for boys of all ages. It's divided into Junior A, American and National hockey leagues.

Walter Kowall and Gordon McRae with the aid of Action-hustle, necessary, and most teams of Samuels and Arnes.

The Five Fighters sponsor and supply coaches and managers for an O.M.H.A. Bantam team.

Blow Press sponsors a midget entry in the Tri-County coached and managed by Emerson Baxter and Bill Buchanan.

And last, but not least, the Lions club conducts a Juvenile club coached and managed by Ben Bayliss and Ernie Marks.

This minor hockey setup is estimated to cover over 200 boys. Have you ever tried to look after five let alone 200 active, healthy specimens of growing male?

If you have, then you've got some idea of the task the gentlemen who give of their time and talent liberally each week face.

Motto of the week is "Don't send your boy to the arena."

Some of the fellows who run these minor hockey teams sometimes get the idea that they are nothing but a band of glorified baby sitters when parents fail to take an interest in their boy's hockey activity.

They could use some encouragement.

Why not slide down to the arena next time YOUR boy is playing and have a look at them. Not only the coaches and managers will be happy, so will your own boy.

Coaches in the Junior A circuit are a trifle unhappy over recent impositions of rules by the O.I.H.A. for players leaving the bench to participate in fights. Lates and most flagrant of these violations took place in Guelph when Toronto Marlboro's beat the Royal City last Friday.

Over \$300 in fines were levied against the Royals, including a fine against Emile Francis, Guelph's mentor.

Actually there is not much the coach can do when the players decide to leave the bench, except caution them. Surely no O.H.A. Junior A coach would urge his

charges to take on the other team in his dominoes?

The O.H.A.'s action must have been prompted by the thought that pressure on the coach's pocketbooks would channel down to the players in the form of more club restrictions to players breaking the code.

MEAT NICKS — Fans in Acton have their choice of two top hockey games in this district on Friday. The faithful will be able to see Guelph Royals and St. Michaels Majors meet in what should be a tilt in Guelph. In Milton, Georgetown Raiders clash with Milton Merchants in an Intermediate A contest.

Guelph's win streak of 18 games was shattered by St. Mike's a week ago Sunday and the Royals, class of the Jr. A circuit this season, are trying to vindicate their first place position to the home fans.

Milton Merchants, on the way up after a dismal start, hope to add two points at second place Georgetown's expense. Orville and Port Credit were the last victims of the impaled Merchants' spear.

As immediate Erine Marks' intimation, Ben Bayliss and his legion of winning sons of names Saturday night in Hespeler was a thriller.

Fans here are nursing a hope that the Lions will nail down a playoff berth and advance into the O.M.H.A. playoffs.

Baseball isn't far off. Already some of the younger players are on their way south to training camp, including several Canadians.

Prediction department: Five gives von 10 Montreal Canadiens finish on top of the N.H.L.

Action midgets play host to Milton here on Friday night. Game time 8:45.

The Legion Minor Loop Starts Hockey Pot Boiling Here

Action Legion-Minor-Sports hockey action divided into three sections, Junior A, American and National hockey league, played in the arena last Thursday night.

Fast ice and keen competition produced three-action filled games.

Guelph Royals eked out a 2-1 win over Hamilton Red Wings in the Junior A group of the league.

The Junior A class takes in boys from 8 to 10.

BOYS 10-13

In the American league it was another tight battle but Rothes entered the winners by a 5-3 score over Buffalo Bisons.

Bruce Shultz and Keith Dunk with a pair of goals each paced the winners with R. Hibbard counting the fifth marker. Keith Dunk picked up a pair of assists on the Shultz goals with Dave Mellor also in the brackets twice and Bruce Lambert once.

John McNabb, Reid and John Cooney were the Bison marks men with McNabb also picking up an assist.

N.H.L.

Unlike their professional namesakes, Toronto had no trouble disposing of Montreal in the National League. The Leafs powered in six goals to defeat Canadiens 6-2.

Ron Heller, Kevin Hall, McKenzie, Harris, Almquist and Muri all shared in the Toronto victory with goals. McKenzie and Heller also contributed two assists while Muri, Shannon and Van Hocken each assisted one.

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The competitions will be held at St. Catharines next year.

Linda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Braida and Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Force.

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Clark and Papillon were the Montreal scorers with Doug Ford picking up an assist on Papillon's goal.

Four penitents were sent to the sin bin for a two minute stretch with a misconduct penalty also going to one of the Leagues.

The youngest competitor in a class of 23, 12-year-old Linda Braida placed third in the novice ladies' classes in the Western Ontario and Niagara Peninsula sectional championships. Held annually, this year they were in the Guelph Memorial Gardens Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 12, 13 and 14.

Competitors figures for novice ladies began at 10 Thursday morning. Sharon Davis of the Guelph club won the contest of three compulsory school figures, with Linda Braida of the same club coming a close second.

The 23 were eliminated to 10 after the figures, and these 10 finalists performed two and a half minute solo programs to complete the event. In total points Linda placed third with 75.85, while clubmate Sharon Davis had 77.79.

From Large Area

The girls competing with Linda were well up in their teens, and

the youngest skater showed her grace and ability again this year. Entered were figure skaters from the large district including Owen Sound, Windsor, Stratford, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Guelph.

Linda has been obtaining high marks consistently in tests and competitions, and has been a feature skater in carnivals in Guelph and Milton. The versatile youngster also sang a lead part in the school operetta.

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