

Pounding the SPORTS BEAT

AMATEUR HOCKEY in Ontario is in pretty grim shape once you go beyond juvenile age. From juvenile down it's just the opposite—expanding and getting better every year.

Beyond juvenile, most of this province's amateur teams are registered with the Ontario Hockey Association, an old and august body, which, like the words of the song, has been better days. From juvenile down, hockey is controlled by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, a body kept to changes in society in the past couple of decades.

Very few truly amateur teams flourish under the banner of Old Hatpin Annie. The only department where teams seem to appreciate O.H.A. rule is the junior class where the pros have much to say on the formation of the leagues.

Intermediate hockey is a shambles; senior hockey, outside of one well-to-do circuit, is almost a loss. Most of the so-called senior hockey clubs would have their hands full with a good intermediate team.

This is not a situation which has suddenly developed. Danger signals have been flying for years. There's been a gradual and orderly withdrawal from the protective arms of the O.H.A. Reasons were numerous but some of the significant ones included: (i) Lack of funds to compete against teams who supply financial backing to teams representing them; (ii) Lack of player personnel to compete against import-stacked clubs; (iii) Loss of fan interest; (iv) Stocks and stacks of bills marked in red ink.

HOW DID THE O.H.A. react to the crisis? You'd expect they'd be involved in some real soul-searching methods of self-appraisal, trying to figure out ways and means to assist teams to stay within their jurisdiction.

Instead they reacted in a way that lost them a lot of respect. They pretended the situation didn't exist and continued to encourage teams to carry imports. They created super leagues for the communities who wanted to dig deeply into pockets for the benefit of hockey entertainment. They created subsidized hockey.

That's why the teams from this district presently enrolled in the W.O.A.A. rejected outright any attempt by the O.H.A. to control intermediate hockey for all communities over 1,200. Most of the teams have been in the O.H.A. at different times and have had to leave. They infinitely prefer the W.O.A.A. where hockey is within the means of any interested town and where officials lend a sympathetic ear when there are problems. And they're solved without behind closed-door agreements.

If the O.H.A. hopes to regain the image which once made them the only large organization controlling intermediate hockey, they're going to have to think in the terms of the hundreds of small communities which go to make up intermediate hockey. And they're going to have to spare favoritism and secret bargains which have marred their proceedings the past few years.

IN THE WORLD OF GOLF there's been much written of the big tournaments in the States but through some oversight on the part of the strike-bound Toronto papers they missed out on one last Saturday at the Guelph Golf and Country Club.

Participants in the "grudge" match were Messrs. Jack Creighton and Lorne Youngblut representing Beardmore and Co. and Messrs. Murray Scovene and Bob MacArthur of this establishment. At stake—a steak dinner. Advance publicity has been going on for months over the Bell blower. The fact crowds of spectators didn't appear was attributed to the intense heat. Plans to televise the tourney had to be scrapped when the participants declined the suggestion they shouldn't snarl at each other until after the match.

Last year the Free Press team took the Tanners by their soles and revenge was the motivation for a rematch besides a chance to elude their wives for a 12 hour span. According to the Free Press pair the Beardmore brass practiced for at least three months before they figured they were ready to defeat the printers.

Saturday, the foursome went at it unashamed and drivers. It turned out the Tanners hadn't miscalculated. They edged the printers by 28 strokes. Bob MacArthur threw a scare into them on the first hole with a prodigious drive but from therein the match was one-sided. Messrs. Scovene and MacArthur contended to this reporter they were not unduly alarmed at the upset. We won as many holes as they did, they boasted. The other side of the story has yet to be heard.

BEAT BITS ... Georgetown Donmar pulled the biggest upset of the town league season last night by topping first place Legionnaires in a floodlit game. The results in the league may be very interesting come the Monday night's exhibition with the South Wellington Co-ops from Guelph wasn't very good advance publicity for the All Stars. They can play much better than that but they've got to get some batting power in the line-up. Barry Inacoe is playing lacrosse for the league-leading Streetsville club in the Senior B O.L.A. Potting his share of goals, too.

Keith Ranney Wins Half-Mile At Police Games

Keith Ranney, former high school track star and member of the Guelph Legion Track Club, paced competitors to win Saturday in Toronto when he trotted home first in the half-mile race at the Toronto Police Games.

The popular Action youth had little difficulty winning the event and crossed the finish line in one minute, 58 seconds, at Varsity Stadium, where events were staged.

Other competitors from Action in events included Allan Hall, Paul Murr, Gary Murr and Bruce Andrews.

Local athletes will be flying the colors of the Guelph Legion Track Club this Saturday when they enter track and field competitions at Brantford's Mohawk Park.

John Gay Jr. will compete in the juvenile pole vault; Dave Ryder, who is still in the middle category, will be tossing the 12 pound shot in the juvenile shot put for the first time; Paul Murr will take on competitors in the juvenile mile; Allan Hall will be running the 880 yard dash; and Gary Murr will be pacing himself in the junior two mile race.

On Monday, the same boys plus Keith Ranney will journey

Town League Softball Standing

As of Tuesday, July 28

Legion	13	11	2	846
Fire Fighters	13	10	3	777
Dominion Hotel	14	7	7	500
Station Hotel	13	6	7	462
Donmar	13	3	10	231
I.G.A.	12	2	10	154

Guelph Co-ops Blank All-Stars

Guelph Co-ops had little trouble blanking the town softball league All-Star team 9-0 in an exhibition game under the lights here, Monday night.

The Co-ops, a third place club in the tough Inter-City fastball circuit, scored four first inning runs on two singles a home run and an All-Star error and they were never threatened. They got single runs in the third and fourth, a pair in the fifth and another in the sixth. The All-Stars loaded the bases twice but couldn't buy a run.

Jim Robinson and Bob Shaw shared the pitching duties of Co-ops, who have two town league softball allstars in their lineup, Butch Richmond and Del Walters. Robinson didn't allow a hit in his five inning stretch, while Shaw was nicked for three scratch singles.

J. Rowley started on the hill for the All-Stars and he was relieved by Frank Daley in the fourth with Action trailing 6-0. Daley restricted Co-ops to three more hits out of nine and as many runs. Two of the Co-Op hits were homers from the bats of diminutive Ron Nichol and Butch Richmond.

Jeff Fryer's running catch of a long ball into deep right in the second frame was the fielding highlight of the game.

Action All-Stars: P. McCristall 1b, T. Waterhouse lf, W. Marshall cf, J. Fryer rf, J. Casburn 2b, B. McCristall ss, D. Archibald 3b, B. Cargill 3b, D. Archie 3b, F. Thompson c, J. Rowley p, F. Daley p.

Penny Carnival At Park Friday

Pennies flowed like water Friday morning at Prospect Park as children enrolled in the summer playground program eagerly played games during the annual penny carnival. Everything was paid for in pennies and boys and girls were dipping into pockets for more and more brown coins.

Highlight of the event was a sponge toss. Target for the marksmen was leader John McGeechie who ducked out in a bathing suit. As pennies were paid for a toss each thrower dipped a large sponge in a pit of water and attempted to hit a target painted on John's stomach.

Other games which attracted much attention included the ring toss, penny toss, squirt the candle, drop the clothespeg in the bottle, and guess the number of beans in a jar. Children also spent pennies on comic books, home baking and freshie stands. A raffle for a cake was won by Colleen Spielvogel.

Proceeds from the carnival will be used to provide supplies for the senior group sleep and cook-out later this summer.

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Two Close Decisions In Sunday Softball

Firefighters scored all three of their runs in the sixth frame as they blanked Georgetown Donmar 3-0 in the first game of Sunday's town league softball double-header. I.G.A. rallied to nudge Dominion Hotel 6-4 in the night-cap, which like the first game was abbreviated to seven innings because of the intense heat.

Butch Homers
Butch Richmond's disputed three run homer was the deciding blow in the opener which saw Frank Daley and B. Newmann wage a tense scoreless hitting duel until the bottom of the sixth when Scotty McCristall and Don Archibald cracked out back-to-back singles. Richmond, the next batter, powdered one down the base line to score both runners and himself for the only scoring play of the game.

The Georgetown club claimed Butch's drive was foul but plate ump Bobby Anderson ruled it fair.

Both pitchers hurled excellent ball with Newmann allowing only six hits, three of which came in the sixth. He didn't walk a batter and whiffed three Daleys, allowed five scattered hits, one a two bagger to Bill Somerville. He struck out 14 and saved no bases on balls.

I.G.A.'s Second Win
Dominion Hotel took a two run lead in the opening frame of the second game and added single

runs in the third and fifth but I.G.A. won their second game of the season by plating one in the fourth, three in the fifth and a pair in the sixth.

Winning pitcher was Dick Dupuis the same hurler who was declared illegal for the Legion earlier in the season but was later given league endorsement to play with I. G. A. He took over from Bruce Cargill.

Jeff Fryer pitched for the innkeepers.

Propane Gas Leak Accident Averted

Prompt action by Corporal Ray Mason of the Action O.P.P. Department averted what might have been a catastrophe at Action high school on the weekend.

A valve on a propane gas tank had been opened by what police believe to be children playing around the building and gas began to leak. Mr. Mason heard the hissing noise at his home nearby and notified Jack Gordon, building superintendent.

Mr. Gordon immediately drove to the school to close the valve. Had anyone lit a match near the seeping gas an explosion would have resulted with considerable damage and possible death of anyone nearby.

Down Donmar In Ninth Frame

When it comes to winning games in the final frame, second place Firefighters could give any of the town softball league clubs a lesson in know-how.

Last Thursday night under the arcs they romped home four times in the ninth inning to take away a 10-8 win from Georgetown Donmar who led through the first eight frames of the contest.

Donmar built up a 4-0 lead in the first inning and added four more in the third to take an 8-1 lead only to have the brigade switch pitchers at that point and blank the papermillers the rest of the way. Meanwhile the flame squelchers added two in the fourth and three in the fifth.

Ahead 8-6 it looked like a sure Donmar win when both clubs failed to score over the next three frames. But a couple of juicy Donmar errors and three Firefighter hits, two of them doubles, in the ninth broke the game open.

Frank Daley came in relief for Don Archibald and he was given credit for the win while Ross Cunningham started for Georgetown and Newmann finished up. Jamie Cunningham, Jim Golden and Bill Somerville had two hits apiece for Donmar with one of Bill Somerville's a homer. Frank Spielvogel with a home run and a single, Butch Richmond with a double and single and Bob Bruce with a double and single paced the Firefighter hit parade.

Richmond's Blistering Bat Rallies Firefighters to Win

Butch Richmond's big bat pounded out two home runs and a double rallied Firefighters to overcome an 8-0 deficit at the end of the second inning and go on to defeat Dominion Hotel 13-8 in town league softball activity Tuesday night.

The innkeepers looked to have the game in the bag with an eight run lead tallied from three first inning runs and five in the second frame off the slants of Frank Daley, but the smoke eaters tightened up from that point, blanking Dominion the rest of the way. Daley, the victor of eight hits in the first two frames, allowed only four more over the next seven innings.

A seven run explosion in the bottom of the sixth, highlighted by Richmond's grand slam home run into deep centre, sewed the game up for the firemen. They notched two in the third, two more in the fifth and singles in the seventh and eighth.

Freddy Archibald took the loss for Dominions, allowing 13 hits, walking one and striking out none. Winner Daley yielded 12 hits, walked one and whiffed five.

Both clubs committed errors but the innkeepers fumbled 10 of the 12 to win in that department.

Besides Richmond's blistering batting, Don Archibald, Herb Dadds and Scotty McCristall each had a pair of hits for Firefighters. Receiver Don Lindsay smashed three singles to pace Dominion at the plate with Chas Pycha, Leo McGilgaw and Brian Shultz rapping two hits apiece.

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