

Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport

By Denis Gibbons



The Lucan-Ilderton Jet has finally been grounded!

That's the word out of Durham this week, where the hometown Huskies, who were barely hanging on to the wing tips less than 10 days ago, are now aiming their missiles at the Strathroy Rockets in the O.H.A. Intermediate "B" semi-finals, while the defending O.H.A. champions sit on the sidelines.

Some well-organized snooping by the Huskies finally paid off when it was discovered at a special O.H.A. hearing in Toronto last Wednesday night, Lucan not only failed to dress the required number of four homebrew players for a playoff game against Durham, but what's more didn't even have the required number signed!

For the second time in two weeks the O.H.A. upheld a protest over failure of a team to dress the required number of homebrew players and washed out an 8-3 Lucan victory in the first game of a total goals series. When Jet officials couldn't guarantee they'd abide by the rule for the rest of the season, the O.H.A. forced them to forfeit the group title to Durham.

Hire Eagleson

Jets didn't go down without a fight, however. Durham held a 3-1 lead in games at one stage and led 4-3 with less than a minute remaining in the fifth game. The defending champs tied the game up in the last minute, then won two games in a row to force the total goals series.

If that wasn't enough, when informed of the Durham protest, Jet execs went right to the top and engaged the renowned Toronto lawyer Allan Eagleson to plead their case before the O.H.A. protest committee according to the St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Eagleson's efforts apparently were in vain. Evidence of naughty Jet deeds was too clear. According to OHA convener Bob Braithwaite, the protest committee as much as told Lucan officials they had warned them about exactly the same thing last year and weren't going to put up with it a second time. Braithwaite claims Jets had registered London based players at rural route addresses in the Lucan area.

It's been fairly well-known for the past two years Jets have been resorting to illegal tactics in signing players. We commented on the very unfair situation in this column last November after reading a report in the St. Mary's weekly which listed Lucan players with such varied addresses as St. Mary's, Brantford, London, Hyde Park, Centralia, Ilderton and Lucan.

Need protest fee

Acton Tanner officials were among those who knew what was going on, but when they complained to the O.H.A. about a similar use of illegal players by Cheltenham Harvesters all they were told was "Don't even talk to us unless you put up the \$75 protest fee."

Now \$75 is slightly less than Tanners took in at some home games and a lot of money to risk throwing out the window on something that's been so unpredictable in the past as a protest over the use of illegal players.

Harvesters used the same goalkeeper under two different names in separate games. Rick Sikerzycki, who tended goal for Cheltenham and shutout the Tanners January 8, suddenly became Rick Hyponen on the game sheet in Mayfield Arena one month later!

Offer protection

In spite of all the criticism the O.M.H.A. receives, nobody can say they don't offer member teams protection against use of illegal players by the opposition. Team managers must be prepared to produce player's certificates before every game if necessary, and if there's any doubt about their validity investigation will cost the protesting team only the price of a long distance phone call to his convener, which is a far cry from \$75.

Acton Tanners have not been overly successful on or off the ice over the last five years. But it can be honestly said team executives have not resorted to beneath the table tactics in recruiting players. Although they've chalked up a dismal 31-79-1 record, Tanners have the dubious distinction of having been eliminated in the first round by the eventual O.H.A. Intermediate "B" champion three of the last four years and thanks to some fancy undercover work by the Durham Huskies, it looks like they could make it four of the last five this time!

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Georgetown Raiders are still smarting from the results of a similar protest lodged against them by Dundas Merchants. Word out of Georgetown is that O.H.A. didn't consider Blake Inglis a homebrew, even though the veteran centre lives in the village of Glen Williams just a whisker away from the town itself and has played all his minor hockey and a good part of his intermediate hockey in a Georgetown uniform.

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The successful Dundas protest takes us back a few years to the time Georgetown Giants earned the right to enter the Ontario Baseball Association playoffs, after winning a protest against Dundas Chiefs over the use of illegal players in the Halton County Baseball League. Relations between the two towns were never quite the same after that. Chiefs had beaten Giants three out of four times in the regular season and were ready to make a run at their second consecutive O.B.A. Intermediate "A" title, when Giants discovered an unsigned Hamilton player on the Dundas roster.

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Paul Robinson, who coached Georgetown girls' softball team last season, is looking for an Acton entry for the Halton league this season. Anyone interested in organizing a team can get in touch with Paul at 877-3070.

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Reminder to local Tri-County hockey executives. Annual meeting of the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association is slated for Milton Legion Sunday April 25 at 2 p.m. Each town must have representation equal to the number of teams they have entered, plus their Tri-County rep.

—Don't forget

boys, Legion Minor Hockey House League banquet and trophy presentation this Saturday afternoon at the Legion.



LEAPING TO AVOID a collision with Elmvalle goalie Bob Boyle, Acton Lion centre Bill Field appears to be frozen in mid-air. The action took place in Acton Lions juveniles 4-1 semi-final win over Elmvalle in the Tri-County Juvenile

Hockey Tournament in Milton on the weekend. Standing by the Elmvalle net is Gord Williams (11). Gord Murray moves in from the right. —(Staff Photo).

Tri-County tourney

Hagersville hands Lions championship game loss

Hagersville juveniles whitewashed Acton Lions 5-0 Saturday night in Milton, to capture the "C" championship of the 13th annual Tri-County Juvenile Hockey Tournament.

Hagersville ousted Woodbridge, Alderwood and Port Perry on their way to the title game, while Lions knocked off Waterford and Elmvalle.

The champs grabbed an early 3-0 lead and added two more markers in the final 20 minutes of the penalty-filled contest. Referee John Wright of George-

town handed out 15 minor penalties to Hagersville and eight to Acton, plus two fighting majors.

Goalie hot

Hagersville goalie Kirk Brown was unbeatable. Lions had their scoring opportunities, but Brown foiled them all. Goal scorers for the winners were John Kincaid with two and Ray Miller, Terry Fryett and Glen Hewson with one apiece.

Lion goalie Craig Weldon looked weak on three of the Hagersville goals, but his team-

mates were far from sharp around the Hagersville net either.

Lions came up with one of their best efforts of the season to sideline Elmvalle 4-1 in the tournament semi-finals, Friday afternoon.

Bill Field paced the Acton attack with two goals. Mark Nielsen and Joe Tarr netted one apiece. Gord Murray and Ken Marshall earned a pair of assists, while Charlie Gidden, Gord Williams and Mike Field collected one each. Don Monteith

scored a first period goal for Elmvalle. Elmvalle took four of the game's six minor penalties.

Milton champs

In other tournament action, Milton doubled the score on Port Huron Mich., 6-3 to cop the "B" series championship and Welland edged Dorset Park 2-1 to walk off with the "A" title.

Consolation champions were Burlington in the "A" series, Preston in the "B" series and Applewood in the "C" series.

Richard Murray of Milton was chosen tournament MVP and Welland goalie Yvon Poulin, who gave up only two goals in four games, won outstanding goalie honors.

Saturday night's game marked the end of the season for Lions who lost out to New Hamburg in the O.M.H.A. playoffs, but were Tri-County juvenile "A" finalists.

O.H.A. upholds protests

Raiders and Jets make unexpected early exit

Failure to comply with an O.H.A. rule, which states intermediate teams must dress a minimum number of homebrew players for each game, has resulted in unexpected early exits for two O.H.A. teams.

Dundas Merchants lodged the first protest against Georgetown Raiders, after Raiders had whipped them 7-3, Sunday, March 28, to even up the best of five Niagara District Intermediate "A" semi-final series at

a game each.

Decision on the protest was not made until the following Thursday, after Raiders had beaten the valley-towners twice more, to apparently wrap up the series. Raider officials were already making arrangements for the final series with Brantford, when the O.H.A. upheld the protest, cancelled the Georgetown second game victory and handed the two points to Dundas. A fifth game was ordered in Dundas Friday

night and Merchants chalked up an 8-3 win to sideline Raiders.

One week later, Durham Huskies were on the ropes, after bowing 8-3 to Lucan-Ilderton Jets in the first game of a two games total goals series the O.H.A. ordered to try to declare a group winner in the Central Ontario Intermediate "B" loop. The teams had three wins each and a tie in their first seven game series.

Protest opener

Huskies, who had the Jets down three games to one and were within 50 seconds of winning the fifth game, then protested the total goals opener on the grounds Lucan did not have the required number of homebrews, (4), dressed for the game.

At a special hearing in Toronto last Wednesday night, the O.H.A. upheld the Durham protest and awarded the game to Durham. Lucan officials were told they could continue the series if they promised to abide by the homebrew rule in the future.

Much to the surprise of all it was discovered Jets didn't have the required number of homebrews signed, let alone dress them. The O.H.A. had no alternative but to hand Durham the series and allow them to advance to the provincial semi-finals against Strathroy. Lucan are defending Ontario champs.

Huskies won the first two games of the Strathroy series 6-4 in overtime and 6-2. Winner goes against Napanee in the Ontario finals.

Orangeville track opens

Improvements made to the one-half mile track promise even better racing and faster miles at Orangeville Raceway, this season. Wagering at the Orangeville oval last year was bettered by only one other B-Circuit track in Ontario.

The most modern in wagering conveniences, including a covered grandstand, heated betting area and an electric tote board contribute to the track's reputation as one of the most progressive B-Circuit raceways in Ontario.

Racing will continue every Sunday afternoon and occasional Saturdays until late November.

Sign up for soccer

Acton Minor Soccer Association will hold another registration this Saturday morning at the Legion Hall between nine and 12 noon.

About 90 boys have already registered, but the association has room for more.

Besides entering rep teams in the Halton-Peel league, officials hope to start house leagues this year as well.

Bradford tops midgets in tournament finals

Acton C.F.A.W. midgets battled their way to the finals of the East Gwillimbury tournament last Friday, before losing 7-1 to Bradford.

Acton eliminated the host East Gwillimbury team in the first round, when captain Pete Morrison connected on a penalty shot at the end of regulation time. The teams were tied 3-3 at the end of the third period.

A two goal effort by Dale Fisher and spectacular netminding by Steve Webster vaulted the locals past a tough Fenelon Falls team 5-1 in the finals.

Acton, a "B" town in the O.M.H.A., was the highest classified team in the tournament. Three of the other teams, Bradford, East Gwillimbury and Bolton are "C" and the other four Elmvalle, Orono, Fenelon Falls and Beeton are "D".

Head coach satisfied

Acton Minor Hockey head coach Jim James told the Free Press this week he is satisfied with improvements in the calibre of minor hockey in town over the last year and that he hopes for even better things next year.

Mr. James, who served as head coach for all coaches of Tri-County and house league entries, appreciates the co-operation of coaches and manager throughout the year.

Junior hockey reps hold meeting here

Representatives from Erin, Fergus, Milton and Acton attended a junior "C" hockey meeting in the Acton community centre, Monday night. The meeting was called to try to get an indication of the number of area towns planning to form junior "C" teams next season.

Acton junior vice-president Bob Marshall chaired the meeting. Atter'ing from Erin were minor hockey president Gordon Gregson and executive member George Ware, from Fergus, minor hockey contact man Gord Brown and juvenile

manager Paul Cook, from Milton, juvenile coach Joe Auger and juvenile assistant manager Wayne Arnold and from Acton, junior president Kerwin McPhail and O.H.A. contact man Harold Speaker.

Representatives from Galt, Bramalea, Mount Hamilton and Georgetown were invited but failed to appear. Elmira, Guelph and Orangeville are apparently interested in icing teams as well, but none have formed local executives as yet.

Among topics discussed were cost of operation, sources of player talent, group formation and scheduling. Another meeting is planned before the O.H.A. annual meeting in Toronto.

First error is ours

The Free Press committed the first error of the minor baseball season when it listed the date for the next Acton Minor Baseball Association meeting as Monday, April 21.

The notice should have read Wednesday, April 21. The meeting will be held in the community centre at 8. Anyone interested in helping with the minor baseball program is welcome to attend.

Hope our fielding average improves with a little more practice!

Novices nip parents 7-6

Acton A-B novices wound up their hockey season, defeating a team made up of their mothers and fathers 7-6, at the community centre Sunday April 4.

Special referees for the exciting contest were Dottie McGiloway and Jean McPhail. A-B's were southern Ontario novice "B" semi-finalists and Port Colborne-Humberstone tournament "B" champions.

Name The Team Contest (ACTON JNR. "C" HOCKEY TEAM)

FILL IN ENTRY FORM BELOW

My suggestion for a name for Acton's Junior "C" Hockey Team is: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Entries should be addressed to Box 749, Acton, and postmarked not later than Midnight, Sat. May 1, 1971
FIRST PRIZE \$50 BOND

MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING & REGISTRATION

— GENERAL MEETING —

April 21st at Community Centre at 8 P.M.

Anyone interested in lending a hand please attend to assure Baseball for the youngsters

— REGISTRATION DATES —

Age Groups 7 Years to 16 Years

Saturday, April 17th

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE!

"Tee Ball" will be organized

for further information phone

J. MITCHELL 853-0769

R. SWAN 853-0624

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