

Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport

By Denis Gibbons



Making predictions can be a risky business, but Acton Ram coach Bruce Sears could hardly be called a dreamer for forecasting his club should win half its games in the Western Ontario junior "B" lacrosse loop this summer.

Rams, one of only two junior "C" teams in the nine team group, open their 24 game schedule against Kitchener Braves in the "Suds city" tomorrow (Thursday) night, with all but two members of last year's junior "C" finalists back in uniform.

Sears, who has several years coaching experience in the Long Branch-Port Credit area behind him, has been putting the squad through conditioning workouts since early March, but has avoided exhibition games.

"I don't like exhibition games," he explains. "I feel I can take a look at what a player's got in practice just as well and stay away from serious injuries at the same time."



BRUCE SEARS

Last year the team played a three game exhibition schedule, losing two of the three and attracting barely enough fans to meet game expenses.

Ram fans can expect to see a hustling, close-checking team this season. Defence, one of last year's team's major weaknesses, has been foremost in Sears' mind, since the days he was a hard-hitting defenceman with the Mann Cup champion Port Credit Sailors.

Although lineup changes will be made when necessary, the 18 players who will sport the club's bright new green and gold colors tomorrow night have been chosen.

Bob Turkosz and Mike Marcoux, who totalled over 100 goals for the seventh place Rams last year, will play on separate units. Turkosz will have rugged Paul Cooper and the fast-improving George McPhail as linemates, while Marcoux will centre for Craig Weldon and Brampton product Bob Gowland.

Mike Cooper, Gary Kelley and Dave Cooksley make up the third attacking unit. Chris Sargent and rookie Harry Barends provide additional strength.

A pair of burly policemen, Bob Waller and Fred Barends who should keep opposing forwards honest, head the defence corps. Stu McCulloch, Bob Roughley and Alan McKenzie, the other three rearguards are all hustlers from the word go.

Diminutive Gary Turkosz, a goalie with a small frame but a large amount of ability and courage will be back at his familiar post. Bruce Murray, the team's trainer last season, has made it as backup goalie. Lloyd Smallwood has taken over Murray's duties.

Only two of the 18 starters, Harry Barends and Bruce Murray are rookies, which accounts partly for coach Sears' modest prediction. As a first year team, Rams won only three games, but gained valuable experience playing against top calibre junior "B" teams.

Two of the club's three wins came against the unpredictable Braves, a fact the Twin City lads aren't likely to forget easily. Coach John Nisely is bound to have his charges ready for revenge tomorrow night. Braves lost a 12-10 decision to the tough Mississauga PCO's in their only exhibition game.

But 12 wins against junior "B" teams could be the spark necessary to lead Rams on the O.L.A. junior "C" title which eluded them last year and if Bruce Sears has his way, number one will come in the Kitchener Auditorium tomorrow night.

TIDBITS . . . Harold Speaker is beaming over Galt Hornets' second Allan Cup championship in the last three years. Hornets whipped Calgary Stampede in four straight games. Harold took in all four games plus most of the O.H.A. and Eastern Canada playoff games . . . Parents interested in having their boys attend the Guelph version of the Can-Am hockey schools the final week of August should contact Acton Minor Hockey head coach Jim James at 853-2453 . . . Wayne Marshall, former Acton referee-in-chief has just completed his busiest season of refereeing in the O.H.A. and college ranks. In addition to several junior "A" and senior "A" league games, Wayne handled a host of junior "B" playoff games, including the seventh game of four different series . . . Bruce Andrews' ADHS track team is busy preparing for the Halton County championships slated for McMaster University in Hamilton, Tuesday and Wednesday May 18 and 19. Winners at the meet advance to the Halton-Peel competition in Etobicoke Wednesday May 26. OFSSAA championships will be held at the C.N.E. stadium in Toronto Saturday, June 5 . . .

Napanee nails down title

Napanee Comets blanked Durham Huskies 4-0 last Wednesday night to capture the O.H.A. Intermediate "B" championship. Comets won the best of seven series four games to one.



TOP GOALTENDER in Acton Tri-County hockey was Firefighter bantam netminder David Allan. Denis Gibbons presented the Acton Free Press trophy, Saturday night. — (Photo by Esther Taylor)

Free Press Sports Page

Rams open up on the road

Acton Rams open their 24 game O.L.A. junior "B" lacrosse schedule in Kitchener against the Braves, tomorrow (Thursday) night at 8.

Second game for the team is Sunday night in Mississauga. Bus tickets for the Mississauga game are still available and may be reserved by phoning Howard Dwyer at 853-0436.

Rams purposely scheduled their first four games on the road,

in hopes of avoiding a clash with possible repairs to the arena.

First Ram Home game is slated for Thursday June 3 against Brampton. Rams also play in Oakville Tuesday night May 18.

Grouped in the nine team league with Acton are Kitchener, Elora, Mississauga, Oakville, Niagara, Brampton, Windsor, and Hamilton.

Juveniles to play 16 game schedule

Acton's new O.M.L.A. juvenile lacrosse entry will play in an 11 team league with Orangeville, Erindale, Clarkson, Rexdale, Long Branch, Burlington, St. Catharines, Sparta A.C. (St. Catharines), Niagara-on-the-Lake and Oshweken.

Acton will play a home and home series with the first six teams and single games with the last four, all Niagara peninsula

centres, for a total of 16 games. Two other groups complete the O.M.L.A. slate of juvenile teams. Scarborough, Ajax, Whitby, Stouffville, Orillia, Sunderland and Kawartha will play in the Southern league, while teams from Kitchener, Brantford, Fergus, Arthur, Owen Sound, London, Windsor, Wallaceburg and Sarnia will make up the West Central loop.

Minor Soccer

Chinguacousy blanks atom Spitfires 5-0

Chinguacousy atoms white-washed Acton Spitfires 5-0 in the opening game of the Halton-Peel Minor Soccer schedule at Prospect Park, last night (Tuesday).

Kevin Gardner scored the only goal of the first half. Daren Keer booted home three goals and Colin King added one for the visitors in the second half.

Referee for the game was Bill Gentles.

Acton also has entries in the Halton-Peel squirt and mosquito age groups. Squirt team is nicknamed the "Angels."

House leagues in all three age groups have also been formed. At present there are four squirt teams, three atom squads and three mosquito elevens.

Tri-County banquet

Minor pucksters pepper NHL'ers with questions

Brian Lewis travelled over 64,000 miles refereeing professional hockey games last winter, so a 30 mile jaunt from his home in Cooksville to Acton, Saturday, seemed like small potatoes in comparison.

But for over 100 Acton minor hockey players, coaches and managers, Lewis' appearance along with N.H.L. linesman George Ashley and referee Ken Bodendistel, both of Guelph, was the highlight of their annual Tri-County banquet and trophy presentation at the community centre Saturday night.

The youthful officiating trio, all graduates of the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association, are three of the seven Tri-County grads who make up more than 20 per cent of the N.H.L. staff. Along with Lewis, a Georgetown native, Ashley and Bodendistel, Bruce Hood of Milton and John McCauley of Brampton are referees and Willie Norris of Guelph and Leon Stickle of Milton linesmen.

Lewis, who has just completed his fourth season as a pro referee, handled 28 N.H.L. games this year in addition to several Central Pro and Western Hockey League contests. Also completing his fourth year with the N.H.L., Ashley now works full time in pro hockey's top league. Bodendistel, a second year man, refereed in the minor pro ranks this year, but is steadily working his way up the ladder.

Blows whistle Much to the amusement of youngsters, Lewis allowed them a minute to do all the hooting and hollering they wanted, before literally blowing the whistle and threatening (with a smile) to hand out misconducts to those who spoke out of turn.

Questions posed by the minor pucksters kept the guests thinking all the time.

Who are the toughest players to separate in a fight? Ashley offered names like Ferguson and Magnusson, but hinted in the future linesmen may start standing back and letting combatants wear themselves out, providing they're evenly matched.

It's not the referee's job to break up fights, replied Lewis to a question on why referees don't come to the rescue of linesmen. Referees must stand back and watch for other possible outbreaks.

Bodendistel, who refereed the Boston-St. Louis exhibition game in which Ted Green suffered a serious head injury, as a result of a stick-swinging duel with Wayne Maki, was completely exonerated from blame for the incident even though he said one owner criticized him for not stepping in to help separate the pair.

Refs are fined Among other interesting bits of information the refs revealed were, referees as well as players are fined for making mistakes and money paid out in fines by players goes into a fund for destitute players.

What does an NHL official do in the off-season? Bodendistel returns to his job as salesman for a paint company. Lewis will probably keep in shape making

Kentner Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the best all-round player in Acton minor hockey. Hansen walked off with the Acton Referees' Association Minor Byng plaque for the player best combining sportsmanship and ability and shared the Dodds-Townsend award as bantam MVP with defenceman Russ Coultrup.

Bantam goalie David Allan earned the Acton Free Press Trophy as outstanding goaltender on all five Tri-County teams. Doc Harkley Memorial Trophy for the association's top defenceman went to juvenile rearguard Brad Timbers.

Most valuable player awards in the pee-wee and midget teams went to Robin Insoe and Pete Morrison respectively. Insoe received the Grant's Motors Trophy, while Morrison accepted the A-B Supermarket Trophy.

Team awards Teamwork played such a large part in successes enjoyed by the A-B novice team that officials weren't able to select individual players for the two awards

allotted to the team. On behalf of the team, captain Scott Malcolm accepted the George Green Memorial Trophy for the team's MVP and the Wendy Legate Memorial Trophy, usually awarded to the team's most improved first year player.

Official presentation of the cup novices won an "B" series champions of the Port Colborne-Humberstone tournament in March, was an added highlight of the night. Captain Scott Malcolm accepted the trophy on behalf of his teammates.

President Ron McKnight complimented coaches and managers of all five teams individually. He described the past season as the greatest and best ever for Tri-County hockey in Acton. Mayor Dudy brought greetings from town council and pledged support for the minor hockey program.

Larry Brown, B. J. Legate and John Hansen presented gifts to the three special guests on behalf of the players.



PLAYERS LIKE John Hansen make a the player best combining sportsmanship and referee's job easy. N.H.L. officials Brian ability. The trio were special guests at the Lewis, Ken Bodendistel and George Ashley Acton Tri-County's annual closing banquet at pose with John, after he was named winner of the community centre Saturday night. — the Acton Referees Association plaque for (Staff Photo)

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