

Where will Russiani roost next season?

When you are a successful coach the rumors begin to fly about where you will end up next season. I guess that makes former Gemini and Sabre coach Jules Russiani a success.

Really, who would want a guy that coached a United States team to the Arizona State championship, Streetsville to an Ontario midget crown, the Acton Sabres to their first ever appearance in post-season play and an impressive fifth place finish? Or even lifted the Georgetown Gemini from seventh in their league to a seventh place ranking in the province in three months?

Well, let me tell you. Rumor is rife that the Acton Sabres would love to have their old coach back. The Georgetown Gemini are determined to keep him, too. It doesn't stop there. Oakville Blades weren't too happy when the Gemini knocked them out this season. It seems they're after Jules too. So are the Streetsville Derbys—again!

And it doesn't stop there. The Toronto Marlboros are in the market for a Major Junior "A" coach and Russiani's name has come up on at least one occasion. And the possibility of Jules behind the bench of the Major Junior "A" Guelph Platers can't be ruled out completely.

While Russiani won't elaborate on those seeking his services next season he does admit that four teams have been in contact with him. "I can't tell of the offers," commented the much sought after coach, "they're confidential." Every year about this time Russiani

gets a call from old friend Stan Kalapaca, who just happens to be the general manager of the Streetsville Derbys. Rumor has it that he may be after Jules again.

"Returning to Streetsville has always been a possibility," says Jules. "Jules admits that one of the things stopping him is that they are already a contender."

"I didn't want to go back to a top team," states Russiani. "I wanted a young team that I could work with." Although Russiani wouldn't admit that Stan is again on the prowl for someone who might bring another Ontario Junior "B" title to Streetsville, he wouldn't (or couldn't) deny it.

Oakville is another club named recently as a possible home for Russiani but Jules isn't interested in driving that distance. Blades' coach Eric Smith left the team after being eliminated by Russiani's Gems this year. Apparently Jules was approached about filling the position. Asked about the possibility, he replied "I don't think I would, it's too far."

Russiani admitted that if he left the area to coach it would be for a step up the ladder. "If I'm leaving it would be for advancement," stated the mentor, "not for a team in the same league."

Which brings up the possibility of a step up to Major Junior "A" ranks. It has been rumored he will end up in the Toronto Marlboro organization or possibly even with the Guelph Platers. Jimmy Jones is no longer with the Marlles and

'Round Robin

with Robin Inscoc



they have let it be known a search is on. I heard through the grapevine the Marlles were in attendance at the last couple of Gemini play-off games this year but not necessarily looking at players.

Russiani admits that one of the Marlle executive members has been in contact but says he wasn't asked to coach. "He congratulated me on the season and we talked hockey in general."

"If I didn't have the type of business I have I would consider it," admits Jules, "but it's demanding with the A's." For those that haven't had the opportunity to meet Jules through his business, he manages Harvey's Firestone in Moore Park Plaza, Georgetown.

Guelph is another possible landing place for Russiani but one that may be a little further away in reality. "I turned Joe (Holody) down once," says Jules, referring to last season when the Guelph owner wanted him to take over their "B" squad.

Russiani started his Junior "B" coaching career with the Acton Sabres and after a couple of years of success he left for health reasons. At the mid-point of last season he felt healthy enough to give it another go and the Gemini were in need of someone. "My health is OK now," admitted Jules, "last year's problems have tamed down."

As far as returning to Acton where he lives, Jules admits to having talked with Sabre president Frank Allsop. "Frank has asked me to return," stated Russiani, "but there is nothing concrete. I haven't committed to anybody."

Rumors rife around Acton have Russiani returning if Allsop is returned as team president at their general meeting and he was out-distancing Pat Kirton for the job in the first contested Sabre executive vote in some years. Jules had heard nothing to that effect and reiterated that he hadn't committed himself to anybody.

Much to the disappointment of Acton fans who have seen Jules perform miracles with limited talent, it seems that when the final question is answered, Jules will be saying "O.K. green, let's go get them."

When Russiani was first approached about where he might roost this season, he acknowledged he wanted to take some time to think it over. That was last Thursday. The same night he had a meeting called with his returning Gemini

to discuss next season and talked the situation over with his players.

Jules admitted he wouldn't base his decision on one meeting but it could determine whether or not Georgetown is still a possibility. Well, it is!

Jules left it to the players to decide if they wanted him back. If they did it would be on Russiani's terms.

Twelve players turned up at that meeting. According to Jules, the consensus was that if Jules would return so would the players. If Jules flew the coop some of the local talent may hit the road, too.

With that in mind Russiani admits he must give Georgetown careful consideration. "Georgetown has been real good to me," commented Jules. "If I do anything it may be here (Georgetown)."

Jules still hasn't said "yes" to anyone, but it would be a shame if Halton Hills lost him as a coach. His stint with Acton helped the Sabres build some character and a winning attitude. Now he's done the same in Georgetown. His coaching ability may decide which team finishes highest in the Central Ontario Junior "B" standings. Can Acton pull off the off-season upset and lure Jules back to this original stomping grounds or are the ties he is building with the Gems too much? We can only wait and see.

This is one time the winner is going to be decided off the ice. Whatever happens the whole of Halton Hills will wish Russiani good luck.

Free Press

SPORTS

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, April 27, 1983



Tom Shannon of Halton Hills Furniture takes a swing at the ball Sunday during the first week of Industrial baseball. The Acton Royals beat Halton Hills Furniture 9-0 but the Halton Hills squad edged Canadian Tire 6-5.

Teams get Royal beatings as A.I.F.L. season starts

by Robin Inscoc

The Acton Industrial Fastball League got an early jump on the 1983 season this week as their schedule got underway.

After a slight delay from the scheduled Wednesday night start, the action got underway on Thursday evening with Fread and the Roadrunners. The league was back at it on Saturday evening and all ten teams got into the play on Sunday.

Of the action only five game reports were submitted and the early indication is that the Royals, alias Industrials, could be the most improved squad in the loop. They scored a pair of early season wins dumping

Halton Hills Furniture 9-0 and the Bears 10-3.

In other games the defending champs from Fread topped the Acton A's (the old Electric squad) 7-1 and Furniture edged Canadian Tire 6-5. Canadian Tire rebounded with a 5-3 extra inning win over Desmond's.

The Royals used a big sixth inning in their rout of Furniture as they tallied seven runs to go with the two they had picked up in the fourth. Winning pitcher Bob Fendley rounded the bases twice for the winners, belting out a single and a double in three trips. Roy Bosch singled and scored the other fourth inning run with Ken Fendley.

Ken Hurren, Steve Campbell, John New, Paul Campbell and Ian Campbell picking up singles.

Bob Little picked up the only base hit off Fendley, while Fred Allen drew a walk.

In their 10-3 win over the Bears, the Royals jumped early, pounding four runs in the first inning, adding two in the second and four more in the third. The Bears managed one in the second and two in the third.

Craig Weidon, Roy Bosch and winning pitcher Tim Ferguson scored twice for the winners with Bob Fendley, Gord Toth, Murray McNabb and Steve Campbell crossing home for singles.

Losing pitcher Al Telford crossed the plate once for the Bears with Mike Petkoff and John Case scoring the others.

Canadian Tire tried in vain to stage a comeback against Furniture, scoring twice in the seventh, but falling a run short, 6-5.

Furniture took a 1-0 lead in the first but watched it disappear in the third. After regaining the lead in the fourth, Canadian Tire came back to tie. Furniture got a run in the fifth and two in the sixth, forcing the Tire team to rally.

Fred Andrews counted twice for Furniture with Bob Andrews, Al Campbell, Dave Allen, and Mike Morris scoring singles.

Bob Merrican came home twice for Canadian Tire with Bill Gillies, Harry Downs, and Floyd Foster picking up singles.

In the Canadian Tire 5-3 win over Desmond's Floyd Foster and Barry Downs scored in extra innings to clinch the win. Bill Gillies, and Bob Merrican picked up the other runs as Gerry Paul hit a four-bagger.

Don Archibald and Clint Peacock scored in the third for Desmond's, with Terry Powless adding another in the sixth.

Fread Construction spread their scoring out against the Acton A's picking up one in the first, two in the third, three in the fifth and another in the sixth on their way to a 7-1 triumph.

Rick McArthur went three for four for Fread scoring three times while Moe Leeking, Dick Spear, Roy Spear and Grant Clatworthy picked up singles.

Bill Routledge crossed the plate for the lone A's run for pitcher Kevin Franks.

Games continue tonight (Wednesday), Thursday, and Saturday with five scheduled for Sunday.

Oldtimers young when it comes to ball

by Paul Nolan

Oldtimers baseball: pretty boring stuff, right? Wrong. Acton Oldtimers coach Ray Graham is probably more excited about the upcoming season than a lot of T-ballers.

Graham has been with the club since it began four years ago, and he's "been ecstatic about it all for a couple of years now." The idea behind the team came to Graham and some other baseball diehards out of the Blue (literally), and from that a "happy-go-lucky" group of over-35 ballplayers found a summer home.

Not that the team is a last resort in the least. The Oldtimers would be competitive at any level of play, according to Graham. "We could still play in the men's town league today if we wanted to" says the coach.

However, the Oldtimers have opted for a more social outlook upon the game. "Our wives get together more; we have social events for the team, and after the game we can still socialize with the other team." Social, but competitive.

This is the second season that the Acton Oldtimers will play in the Old V Fastball League. Graham is league president. The Acton team will compete against similar oldtimer teams from Glen Williams, Rexdale, Milton and Bramalea. They will also be travelling to five tournaments in the

summer, as far away as Scarborough and maybe Peterborough.

The team has been practising every Monday evening, in preparation for their May 15 season opener. All home games for the Oldtimers will be Sunday nights under the lights at Prospect Park.

Graham is optimistic about the continued growth of oldtimer baseball all over the area. He reports that a four-team league is beginning in Scarborough this season.

In the first year of their existence, the Acton Oldtimers simply went from tournament to tournament.

They grew hungry for more diamond time and decided to give it a try in the town industrial league, in year two.

Then came the oldtimer loop.

Besides Graham, original Oldtimers include Al Avery, Jules Russiani, Don Archibald, Jim James, and Grant Usher.

One of Graham's main priorities this season is a good fan following. He admits that the Sunday evening game time is a bit unfortunate, since a large portion of last year's crowds were made up of senior citizens. However, he hopes that it won't be much of a hindrance.

If early enthusiasm is any indication, this squad will go a long way towards refining many people's ideas about Oldtimer baseball, this season.

Ball hockey in Acton

Last night (Tuesday) a new hockey league started in Acton. The Halton Hills Summer Ball Hockey League.

Early indications were that no interest in the league had been generated and only a handful of players showed up at an organizational meeting. Recreational

facilities manager Al Hay was willing to let the league die a natural death.

However, a resurgence in interest now has the league at three teams with a Rockwood entry as a possible fourth.

Any individuals or teams wishing to get involved in the league can do so by calling Hay at 877-5185.

Maloney stresses education at A.M.H.A. awards night

by Paul Nolan

Dan Maloney, assistant coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, told the young players all about a typical season in the NHL at the annual minor rep hockey awards banquet Saturday at the Acton Legion.

In his address, Maloney went through a careful description of what a team (in this case the Leafs) goes through during the course of a season.

He began with last season's training camp and ended with an account of the Toronto playoff showing against Minnesota in the playoffs earlier in the spring.

Maloney stressed that the Maple Leafs had a young squad this past year. He believes that the play-off experience earned against the North Stars will prove "very valuable" in years to come.

The guest speaker went on to stress to the players in attendance that "education should be the most important thing on your minds right now. You can only play hockey for so long."

Before coming to the Leafs, Maloney played for three years each in Detroit, Los Angeles and Chicago. He was known as something of a policeman around the league.

Maloney defended his reputation as a

fighter near the close of his address, when a player asked him about his fight record. "I haven't been in any (fights) in the past year or so," claimed the wiry veteran of many a knock.

Maloney looked back upon his earlier hockey days, as well. He grew up in Barrie, Ontario, where he played minor hockey. He went on to skate with the London Knights at the Junior A level.

He recalled being invited to Team Canada's training camp prior to the 1976 Canada Cup. Although he didn't make the team's final cut, Maloney said he felt that he had played the finest hockey of his career over that period.

Maloney advised the Acton players that the most important quality a player can have "is the ability to co-operate with their coach and teammates."

League president Steve Yaroshak closed out the banquet by admitting that the past season wasn't all it might have been. However, he also added that he is looking for a better year to come, feeling that more success isn't far away.

The president recognized the teams that went the farthest in their divisions, commending them on their representation of the town in many tournaments and games throughout the area.



Isalah Green, center, presents novice trophy winners Matthew Robertson, left, the Lady Byng award, and James Lloyd, most-improved player award.



Acton Referee-in-chief, Charlie Harrison, left, presents Minor Hockey Rep President Steve Yaroshak with a cheque from the referee CKOC Hockey Puck game proceeds earlier in the season.