

Hay gets the ball bouncing

Every year, around April, staffs at the Acton Community Centre and the Georgetown Memorial Arena say goodbye to another hockey season and prepare for their annual spring cleaning. This year will be slightly different.

While both rinks open their doors for roller skating through the summer months, evening floor time is seldom used. Until now.

One of the newest sports in the area is summer ball hockey. It's hockey without the skates or ice.

Recreation facilities manager Al Hay initiated the program in Halton Hills and for the longest time it looked as if it wouldn't get off the ground. Then the word got around. Now, in a very short time, Acton has four teams and Georgetown seven.

Ball hockey was a going concern here two or three years ago but ball became popular again and the summer hockey suffered.

Now, it seems ball hockey is on the rise and the summer fastball leagues are

dropping. In Acton ten teams played last year while only eight are competing this season. Georgetown had dropped from nine to six industrial ball squads.

Ball hockey is the big winner so far. "We have to make use of the rinks through the summer months," commented Hay. He admitted that while starting the program was a good chance for exercise for a lot of locals, it was a way to pick up a little revenue for idle rinks.

The initial reaction to the idea of ball hockey returning to Halton Hills was not good. In fact, only seven people turned up at an organizational meeting in Acton. The crowd wasn't much larger in Georgetown where 11 turned out.

Hay was not optimistic about the league continuing in Acton but left it to those at the meeting to do some recruiting if they wanted a league.

In Georgetown, Hay saw some positive signs. Of the 11 people in attendance two represented teams. Hay felt enough players could be found to form another entry giving Halton Hills three teams.

'Round Robin

with Robin Incoe



It blossomed beyond expectations. Every time Hay turns around more interested players are stepping forward.

The Acton recruiters did an excellent job of coming up with players. Last Tuesday evening Hay showed up at the Acton arena to get the league going and they had 32 names of interested players with many in attendance. Now, according to Hay, Acton will have four teams with 11 on each and there is still room for more up to a maximum of 16 players per

team.

In Georgetown the result was just as astounding. Hay had seven teams on the floor last Thursday night in preparation for the new experience. Of those seven teams six are set squads with one team being made up of interested individuals.

Hay admits that he has been impressed with the response. He's hoping the leagues will be thriving by next season to the point where the town can step aside and let individuals run the show.

"I'm not a dictator," comments Hay, "if they want to play interlocking schedules or two nights a week it's up to them." That seems to be the basis on which the league is being run this year.

At present the league is non-contact but Hay and the recreation department are willing to change that if the players want contact. They will also increase the schedule to twice a week if players feel they need more time on the floor. Right now it's a hit and miss thing.

It costs \$47 to participate in the league and that covers referees, timekeepers and sweaters as well as floor time. The

Acton and Georgetown Referees Associations are handling their respective leagues.

Rules for ball hockey can vary but the Halton Hills Leagues are adopting the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association rules for this year with a couple of minor changes.

Any ball knocked down with a high stick will cost the player involved two minutes and the blueline floats. That means once a team crosses the blueline outside they can travel back as far as the centre line and not be called for it. It's confusing and far too complicated to explain. Why not take in a game for yourself and see? I'm sure someone will be willing to try and explain it.

In Acton games are on Tuesday nights at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. In Georgetown games take place on Thursday's at 7, 8, 9, and maybe 10 p.m. if another late entry can be found.

For those late comers that may still be interested in joining they can call Al Hay at the Town, 877-5185 for details. There is still lots of time the 15 game schedules begin this week.

Free Press

SPORTS

Georgetown/Acton Wednesday, May 4, 1983

Roadrunners on track Royal express derailed

by Robin Incoe

The R.J. Roadrunners seem to be getting on track after a slow start to the Acton Industrial Fastball League season, while the high flying Royals have been cut down in two successive matches.

The Roadrunners started their season with a 10-3 loss at the hands of Fread Construction, but have been unbeatable since, topping the Royals 8-2, Canadian Tire 6-3 and the Bears 14-1.

After winning their opening two games the Royals fell victim to the Roadrunners and Fread 7-0. Desmond's split a pair in recent action falling 11-6 to Halton Hills Furniture but rebounding for a 3-2 win over the Acton A's. The A's added a 6-6 draw with Canadian Tire in the other game reported this week.

It took the Roadrunners only five innings to dispose of the Bears this week as they scored five runs in the first and third innings and two in each of the second and fourth frames. Don Richard and Tim Evans scored three runs each for the Roadrunners.

Gary Barens was the lone Bear to cross home. He scored in the top of the fifth inning.

For their other win, 6-3 over Canadian Tire, R.J.'s used two first inning tallies and four fourth inning markers for the win. Bruce MacPherson was three-for-four at the plate and scored the game's first run, rounding the bags on a Chris Tennant homer in the first. Keith MacKinnon, Terry Winters, Dave Black and Mike Coffey scored in the fourth.

The Canadian Tire Wheels counted one run in the third as Dave MacLean rounded the bags. In the fifth Ray Williams and Floyd Foster hit home plate.

In the Roadrunners' triumph over the Royals they had to come from behind scoring two in the fifth, three in the sixth and another pair in the seventh to erase a 2-1 Royals lead.

Dave Black did most of R.J.'s damage scoring in each of the final three innings. Don Richard crossed the plate twice with Tim Evans, Chris Tennant and Al Hachey collecting one each.

Bob Fendley and Roy Bosch crossed the plate for the Royal tallies.

The Royals' other loss came at the hands of Fread by a 7-0 count. In that match Fread pecked away scoring two in each of the first, fourth and sixth innings and a single in the fifth.

Tim Baker and Grant Clathworthy were the only Fread players to cross the plate twice, Clathworthy's second on a home run. Dick Spear was one batter away from a perfect game, hurling a no-hit, one walk, shut-out. Spear struck out eight along the way.

Fread's other victory was a late reported game. In the opening game of the season Fread started quickly against R.J.'s Roadrunners picking up seven runs in the first inning on their way to a 10-3 triumph.

Fread sent 12 players to the plate in the

first inning with Moe Leeking, Dick Spear, Roy Spear, Bob McKay, Lloyd Smallwood, Ruddy Holmes, and Mike McGregor all crossing the plate. Roy Spear hit a pair of circuit breakers in the second and fourth innings, while Bob McKay counted one in the fourth.

Bruce MacPherson, Chris Tennant, and Glen McKenzie scored in the first inning for the Roadrunners.

In other matches Desmond's picked up a split, edging the A's 3-2 but falling 11-6 to Furniture. In the 3-2 win Desmond's got a pair of sixth inning runs to break open a 1-1 tie. Terry Powless, Karl Killingbeck and Gary Robertson scored for Desmond's.

The A's got single runs in the fifth and seven from Jamie Franks and Brian Canary Sr.

Desmond's had trouble stopping the Furniture attack in the 11-6 loss, holding the opposition scoreless in just two innings. Don Archibald belted a homer and scored twice for Desmond's with Ray Russian also picking up a pair. Kevin Archibald and Mike Matlocks scored the others.

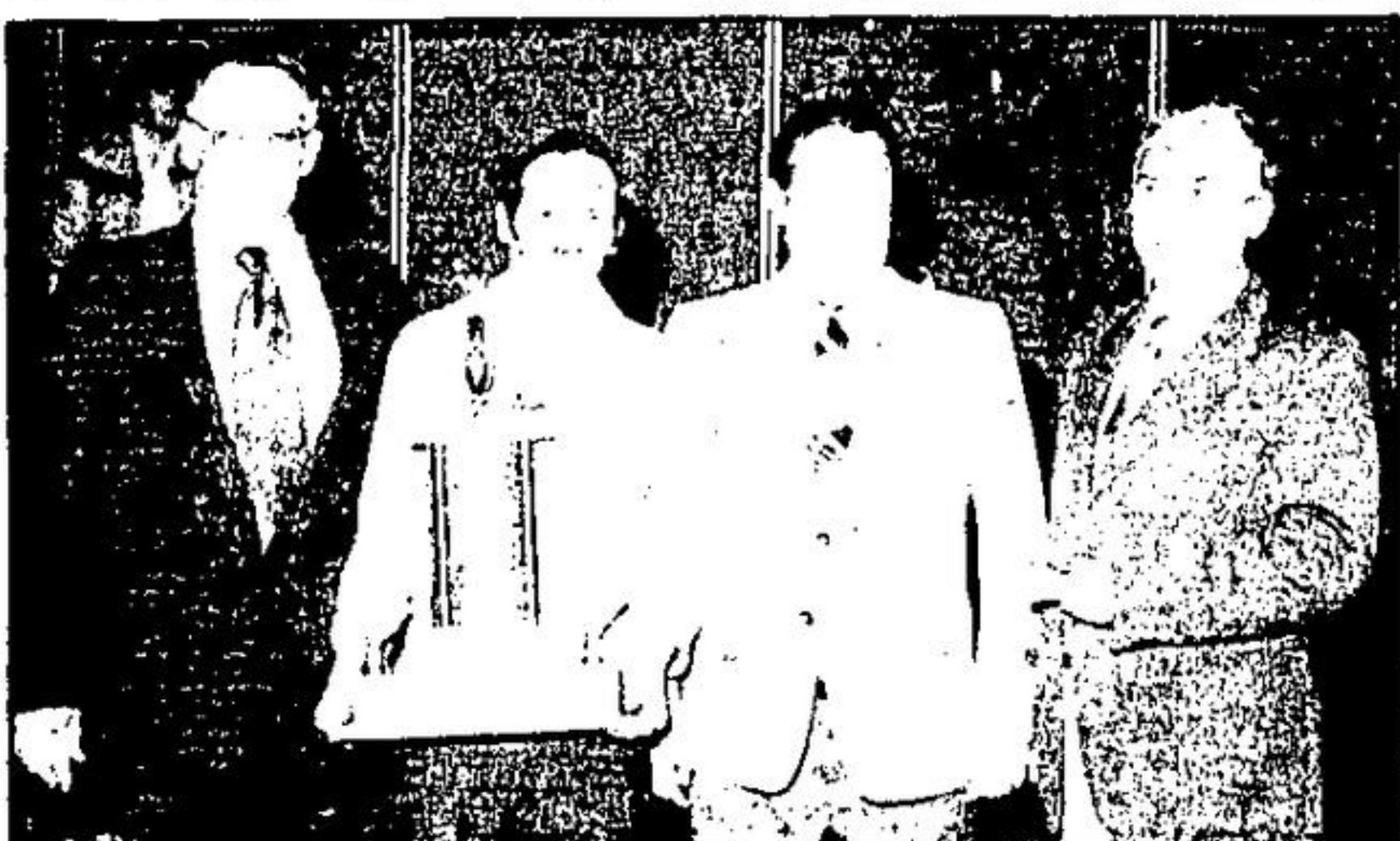
Furniture got three runs from John Ahearn to lead the way. Fred Allen, Ken Fiddeland and Al Campbell all scored twice.

The other game is one that may cause the league some controversy before things are resolved. The A's and Canadian Tire played to a 6-6 tie, but didn't try to solve the game with an extra inning.

In the game Canadian Tire scored three times in the seventh to claim the tie after the A's had built up an early 4-0 lead.

Ian Paul, Steve Waring and Ray Williams each scored twice for the Wheels with the A's scores unavailable.

Acton continues this week with games tonight (Wednesday), Thursday, Saturday and all day on Sunday.



Reliable Taxi placed first in the regular season in crib competition at Acton Legion. Shown here are, left to right, Len Draper, Bob Woodcock, Ivan Kilby and Bill Taylor. Absent are Jim Hughes and Don Grein.



Firement A were the Legion crib playoff champs. Team members were, left to right, Doug Mason, Mel Storey, Bob Allonby, Cal McIntyre, Dave Ford and Syd Morris.



League dart champs at Acton Legion this season were the team of Alex Richards, Norm Roy, Rod Leech and Reg McKnight. Kevon Lumbers was absent.



Winning both the league and play-off crowns in ladies' Legion darts this season were the team of Barbara Leech, Pat McDowell, Janette Regular, Valerie Lewis and Doreen Speir.



League dart play-off champs were the squad of Brian Campbell, Dave Barclay-Smith, Peter Cumstive, Fred Blain and Ed Smith.



Barbara Leech captured the ladies' dart singles crown.



Singles champ in Legion darts competition was once again Rod Leech.



Doubles champs in Legion darts were Lorne Marsh and Kevin Conroy.

Gals' softball league set for new season

by Paul Nolan

Prospect Park does not hold a monopoly when it comes to competitive softball in Acton. The Acton Ladies' Recreational Softball League is living proof of that.

Once again this season, the six team league will travel a more modest circuit; one without outfield fences, lighted diamonds and windmills (as in pitching). Instead, the ladies will be found on the M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little ball diamonds this summer.

When they are found, the finder will likely see surprising softball. (Surprising if the finder ever underestimated the Acton Ladies.)

"It's recreational, but we play good ball," explains league president Karen Smith.

League games will be played Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings all summer long. Rockwood matches are scheduled for Saturdays and rainouts for Mondays.

The Marauders, The Curling Club, The Gold Diggers, The Rockwood No-Stars, Double Trouble, and Ballinad will all be contesting the league crown. Rather than hold conventional playoffs, however, there will be a one-day fun tournament to end the year, according to president Mrs. Smith.

This is the second term as president for Mrs. Smith. Joining her on the executive for the league will be: Bonnie Walker, vice-president; Fran McKnight, secretary; and Sue Robson, treasurer.

The Acton Ladies League teams are due to compete in two tournaments this season. The Curling Club Tournament at the park in July which will include out-of-town clubs as well, and the Powder Puff competition in August in Georgetown.

The league is up one team from last year, according to Mrs. Smith. Through the year they will also be holding various fund-raising events, she said.

Ladies' fastball squad hopes to build on strong '82 finish

by Paul Nolan

The Acton Ladies Fastball team hopes to continue the improvement they showed in last year's playoffs, this season. The ladies finished in the basement of their Inter County loop last term, but rallied to take the post-season consolation crown.

Player-manager Sue Poulsen expects seven regulars to return from that line-up. In addition she is counting on a number of over-age midget girls to fill some big gaps.

"It looks pretty good this year," says Mrs. Poulsen. "We lost a lot of players, so we'll have a fairly brand-new team."

Stan Clarke and Cliff Britton will be returning as coaches. The club has been training indoors for about a month now, in preparation for their league opener on May 11, in

Erin.

Georgetown, Glen Williams, Orangeville, Hillsburgh, Hornby, Erin, and of course, Acton, will all be battling for the league crown this season.

Home games will be played at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings, at Prospect Park.

Although there are "a few players from Georgetown, the Glen, and Limehouse," explains Mrs. Poulsen, "the players are mostly from Acton."

The team is planning to play in and run a food booth around a "Back To Action Days" tournament in early July. They are also hoping to enter more tournaments in the area.

If their hard work pays off, the Acton Ladies will be looking at even more silverware to come, this year.