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## Stingers scoop bronze in Can-Am tournament

A local hockey club has returned from the Can Am Invitational Tournament with a bronze medal.

The Acton Stingers, from the Erin Non Contact League, travelled to Lake Placid New York for the tournament and competed against teams from Willowdale, Frankford, Forest, and Mississauga.

The Stingers opened the "B" division of the tournament against Mississauga and in a game that remained close for a 5-2 win.

Game two saw the local squad pitted against the Wellington Warriors from Willowdale and again the Stingers found

stiff competition. It wasn't until the last minutes of the game that Wellington opened the scoring gap and by then it was too late for the Stingers who succumbed to their opponents 4-1.

In round three the Frankford team found themselves facing the Stingers and in another exciting match that wasn't decided until the final minutes the Frankford team pulled ahead for a 4-2 win.

The final match was set Saturday night with the Stingers facing the Grand Bend Colonials from Forest. The Stingers went into the game skating hard and going into

the second period the Acton squad was up 1-0. However, the Forest team returned fire moments later and tied the match 1-1. The tally remained 1-1 until the 14 minute mark in the final frame when the Stingers smashed in the final goal of the game to win the bronze medal.

Team members of the Acton Stingers are Evan Hayter, Steve Marshall, Rick Smith, Elmer Dunn, Ken Stacey, Bruce McPherson, Eric Stokov, Rick Wells, Bob Jarrett, Al Schrepf, Steve Townsley, Henry Koprowski, Roy Leard, Bill Fisher, Bucky Harnden, John Case, Stan Pawlok and coaches Ray Graham and Dennis Harnden.



Ron McKnight is known throughout Halton Hills for his love of the Montreal Canadiens. Last weekend he got a rare opportunity when NHL referee Bryan Lewis of Georgetown invited him to attend games three and four in the "Battle of Quebec". He got to see another side of the NHL and see his favorite team split with the Nordiques before claiming an eventual series win.

## Canadiens fan McKnight sees series first hand

For the past three hockey seasons, Halton Hills resident and Montreal Canadiens superfan Ron McKnight has been very quiet. They have been three long hockey seasons, especially at play-off time for the Town of Halton Hills employee and Acton resident.

This year a sudden turn of events and surprising success has Ron smiling again, especially thoughts of last weekend.

It was a typical weekend for McKnight. Or at least he thought it would be as he prepared himself to sit in front of the television and watch his favorite team in games three and four of the "Battle of Quebec." Ron never got the opportunity to see a minute of the game on the tube. He wasn't complaining.

Long time friend and NHL referee Bryan Lewis had a few surprises in store for McKnight, a cerebral palsy victim. On the Sunday morning Lewis made arrangements with NHL supervisor John McCauley for Ron to fly with Bryan to Montreal to take in the games in person.

It was something Ron will never forget! "It was a spur of the moment thing," admitted McKnight on Wednesday, still on a high from the trip, "Bryan phoned Sunday morning and asked if I would like to go."

By 2 p.m. that afternoon Ron and referee Lewis were winging their way to Montreal for the Stanley Cup playoffs. Ron had been to the Forum before to watch his team but never during a crucial series.

It was like a dream for McKnight, "Christmas all over again." He got the opportunity to meet with the entire NHL staff working the series and had conversations with the "Hockey Night in Canada" crew on more than one occasion.

Before Sunday's game three Ron had an opportunity to meet Quebec coach Michel Bergeron, announcer Bob Cole and Mickey Redmond along with Ralph Mellanby, the executive producer of Hockey Night in Canada, and also Georgetown linesmen Ron Finn and Leon Sickle as well as game three referee Kerry Fraser.

Ron was thrilled with the game that night, a 2-1 Canadian win, helped make a memorable trip even more worthwhile.

Following the contest on the ice Ron and Bryan returned to the hotel to Ron's room where he entertained the NHL officiating staff. Lewis, McCauley, Fraser, and stand-by official Terry Gregson all went to Ron's room following the game.

On Monday, McKnight got a first hand look at how the NHL officials operate. After breakfast in Lewis' room with the Monday night game crew it was on to the Forum for McKnight and the officials. The officials held a pre-game meeting while Ron took the chance to sight see around the Forum with Sean and Shannon Finn, son of Georgetown linesman Ron Finn, who also made the trip.

During the afternoon Ron had a chance to renew some old acquaintances with linesman Leon Sickle, a former Milton resident and spent time chatting with Mickey Redmond and Terry Gregson.

Travelling with the officials meant Ron had to be at the rink early but that didn't seem to bother him. He got the opportunity to meet former great and Canadian assistant coach Jacques Laperriere and Dick Irvine along with Jean Beliveau while waiting for the game to get underway.

With Georgetown's Lewis calling the shots the Canadiens went down to a 4-3 overtime loss. While that disappointed McKnight it wasn't going to ruin a great weekend. "It was a good game to watch," admitted Ron, "and the fans sure got their money's worth."

After the Monday game they saw a few sights. With Lewis at the helm of his wheelchair they took in a few Montreal hot spots, stopping at one of the referees' favorites, the Blue Angel, and then had a snack at Ben's Restaurant.

The pair caught an early flight back to Toronto on Tuesday morning and just in time for McKnight. Ron had taken the week off work to do some visiting and take in the Blue Jays home opener.

Ron was appreciative of the efforts of Lewis, McCauley and the other NHL officials who made the trip possible and exciting.

"How many people would take the time to see something like this up?" questioned Ron, "It makes me feel good that he (Lewis) thinks enough of me as a friend to do that. They made me feel at home in a strange city. They made me feel like one of the fellas," he added, "and they were great games to boot."

McKnight was awed by the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at the NHL. "I'm grateful," stated Ron, "It's something I'll never forget."

"To quote a TV series," says Ron, "It was a Thrill of a Lifetime."



Members of the Fergus Thistles Lacrosse team practice at the Acton Arena Tuesday and Thursday nights to get in shape for the upcoming season. Acton resident John Thompson is the trainer with the lacrosse squad and he's also been a trainer with the Acton Sabres Hockey Club for the past eight years.



John Thompson, a trainer for both lacrosse and hockey is at the Acton arena Tuesday and Thursday nights with the Fergus Thistles.

## From stickboy to trainer, Acton man loves sports

Starting as a stick boy with the Acton Sabres eight years ago John Thompson had no idea that the job would grow into a year round pastime.

In the winter months Thompson is a trainer for the Acton Sabres hockey team and during the summer months the 24-year-old Acton man is busy with the Fergus Thistles Senior A Lacrosse team.

Despite the fact that Thompson doesn't play any sports himself, he loves to be close to the action and as a trainer he can't get much closer without being right in the game.

Between the two sports, hockey and lacrosse, Thompson said he prefers being a trainer with the Thistles.

"It's a much more exciting sport because it's fast, hard-hitting and the players tend to be tougher in lacrosse than they are in hockey," Thompson noted.

"There are a lot of similarities between the two sports," continued Thompson, "and I'm able to apply some of the same techniques in both games."

Thompson is the first to arrive and the last to leave a game and to get ready he begins by setting up his liniments, bandages, and tape. When the players arrive, he begins to wrap charley horses, tape ankles and get the slightly injured players fixed up so they can play the game without hurting themselves further.

"I'm not a doctor," admitted Thompson, "I'm more of what could be called a preventive therapist."

professional teams have university degrees in kinesiology and years of training. Thompson feels that the actual hands on training and experience that he's had over the past eight years has taught him nearly as much.

As well he's taken numerous weekend training courses and seminars to keep up with the latest developments in the training field and Thompson has his St. John Ambulance certificates.

After a game is over Thompson checks out any new bruises and sore muscles and carts bags of ice and bottles of liniment into the dressing room.

"It is really important after a game to make sure that players aren't going home with a bad injury and by using common sense there are usually very few serious injuries," Thompson said.

The worst thing that can happen to a player is a spinal injury, said Thompson, and if common sense is used and proper medical attention is obtained quickly, the severity of injury will be limited greatly.

Injuries in lacrosse tended to be much worse, than in hockey, commented Thompson, but there also seem to be fewer injuries.

"I go into each game hoping that nothing will happen to any of the players," Thompson said, "but if injuries do occur then I'm there to make sure that the injured man won't suffer further harm and to give preliminary first aid and get medical help if necessary."

For the future Thompson said he'll be staying on as trainer for the Thistles and with the coming season he'll be travelling to the Pioneer cup games in British Columbia where his team will compete against New Westminster, Victoria and Nanaimo.

Thompson also said he'd like to be back with the Sabres again next year as well.

While his title is "trainer," Thompson said he really doesn't do any training with the players because the training is usually left up to the coaching staff and why he and his peers are called trainers is a mystery to him.

## Refs elect '84 executive

At the year end meeting of the Acton Referees' Association, April 16, a new executive was elected that will see many of the same faces on the board as last year. Charlie Harrison, who was Referee in Chief previously, is now President and Referee in Chief. Harrison replaced Brian Fooks as president.

Ray Nowlan is the new vice-president and assigner. Heath Norton remains as secretary. Brian Farrell is the new treasurer and Ed Norton will remain as a director.

The April 16 meeting was the last until September said Harrison.

## Industrial ball starts Sunday

There are still a couple of teams looking for players as the Acton Industrial Baseball league gets ready to kick off their season this Sunday at 9 a.m.

The league, which was formed seven years ago, has seven teams this season. Last year there were 10 teams.

Teams this year are Canadian Tire managed by Bill Gillies; Acton Royals managed by Ian Campbell; Roadrunners managed by Dave Black; Acton Furniture managed by Al Campbell; Fread Construction managed by Gus Holmes; Acton A's managed by Dan Allen and the Bears managed by Gary Baren.

The league will play most of their games at Prospect Park Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The teams are basically the same as last

year said spokesman for the league, Bill Routledge. They are anticipating a good season because more of the teams are evenly matched. Last year, said Routledge, there were four teams that were pretty close all season with two teams on the bottom and two teams right on top.

This year there should be six or seven teams evenly matched Routledge said.

The Industrial League has booked one weekend tournament at Prospect Park for September 1, 2 and 3 and they will invite 24 teams for the slow pitch tourney.

The executives for the Industrial League this year are Ron McKnight, President, Gus Jeffries, Vice President, Bruce McPherson, secretary, and Dave Allen Treasurer.

Routledge also said that any rained out game will likely be played in Limehouse.

## Ladies' ball starts May 6

The 1984 season for the Harvey's Firestone Ladies Fastball is ready to roll.

According to Sue Poulsen, manager of the team, try-outs will be held this Sunday at Prospect Park and the season opener will be May 6.

Eighteen women are trying out right now said Poulsen and new players are welcome to come out for the practices.

The team will compete against teams from Georgetown, Glen Williams, Erin, Orangeville, Hillsburgh and Eden Mills on Tuesday nights.

Poulsen said that the team finished sixth

last year and hopefully this year they will finish even better.

"We improved a lot last year and we have several team members returning this year so we have some experienced players."

"Tournaments have been scheduled in Port Elgin, Collingwood and Bramalea this year," continued Poulsen, "and we are looking at several other competitions as well."

Each team member has to pay a \$2 registration.

The coaches this year are Stan Clark and Cliff Britton, Poulsen said.