

Jack Harrison honored at Heritage dinner

the HERALD
Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

Wednesday, February 22, 1978 - Page 15



Bill Evdokimoff presents The Herald portrait to Jack Harrison to recognize 50 years of dedication and service to the hockey community in Georgetown. Looking on is Mrs. Harrison.

Four hundred people gathered for the Georgetown Raider's Hockey Heritage Dinner at Holy Cross Auditorium on February 14 to among other things pay homage to Jack Harrison the club's trainer, who has spent the last half century or so devoting part of his life to hockey.

Telegrams were also received from Harold Ballard, president of Maple Leaf Gardens, and Lefty Reid, curator of the Hockey Hall of Fame, which both commended Harrison for the devotion he has given to hockey. Ballard also sent a long a hockey stick autograph-

ed by all the members of the Maple Leaf team.

Danny Cammy, trainer of the Boston Bruins and head of the National Hockey League Trainers Association, was also on hand for the dinner and he presented Harrison with the Golden Towel Award.

Bill Evdokimoff, publisher of the Halton Hills Herald, presented Harrison with a 16 inch by 24 inch color portrait of the trainer in full Raider garb. It will hang in the booster club at Gordon Alcott Arena.

The evening left Harrison speechless. Most of the talking

was done by Georgetown Chrysler Raiders president Bob Hooper.

Early last week Hooper had talked with Harrison's 103-year-old mother who still lives in England.

"Jack's mother said he played cricket and soccer as a boy," Hooper said. "She added that he wasn't anything special... just a normal boy."

Harrison left England to come to Canada, specifically Quebec, in 1928. On the boat on the way here he met his wife Theresa.

Harrison and his wife moved to the Georgetown area shortly

afterwards. Among his favorite pastimes then was playing in local bands in the area.

In the meantime Harrison was becoming more involved with hockey. He served as trainer on many Georgetown teams, most recently the Gemini and the Raiders.

His wife also became more involved with hockey and Hooper said she became one of the biggest supporters of Georgetown teams.

Among the coaches Jack has seen in action he lists Pinky Lewis, Nick Ferry, Jerry Inglis, Junior Tibbitts and Dan Kentner as some of the ones he

considered the best at their jobs. Tibbitts is of course the present coach of the Raiders.

Harrison says the best player he has seen in a Georgetown uniform was Sheehey Tost. Tost died during World War II.

Hooper said that Harrison has, in his job as trainer, washed approximately 80,000 towels, sliced up at least that many oranges and opened more bottles of beer. Judging by the way Jack Harrison looked at the Dinner he will probably be around to equal those figures.



The memorabilia and trophies of past hockey teams in Georgetown was displayed at the Hockey Heritage Dinner last week. Taking a look are (from left to right) Blake Harrison, who spotted his great uncle George Arnold as manager of the Georgetown Hockey Club 1908-09; Tommy O'Brien and Stephanie Kentner, who likes hockey a bit but prefers figure skating.



Raider captain John Boyce and Yugoslav captain Roman Smolej wish each other luck.

Rugged winger entertaining



Terry O'Reilly signs autographs for some of Georgetown's young hockey players who hope to play with or against him one day.

Montreal still team to beat says Boston's O'Reilly

When Terry O'Reilly was asked during the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders' Hockey Heritage Dinner last Tuesday who his favorite National Hockey League referee is, he responded without hesitating "John McCauley". McCauley was sitting no more than 20 feet from O'Reilly and was the only referee present at the dinner.

The Boston Bruin winger, who is leading the team in scoring this year, proved to be a very entertaining and glib speaker.

The Bruins were eliminated in four straight games by the Montreal Canadiens in last year's Stanley Cup final and O'Reilly said the Habs should again be the team to beat this term.

"Montreal has a wealth of talent," O'Reilly said. "If they lost Guy Lafleur they would not miss him all that much because they have so much talent."

O'Reilly said he started his hockey career as a goaltender. He spent three years in between the pipes. He said he was made a goalie because of his skating.

"I was never a great skater," he said. "During my midget year I scored 16 goals and not one was scored while I was on my feet."

O'Reilly's lack of fitness and speed has not stopped him from becoming a star on one of the NHL's top teams. Before this year he was never much of a scoring threat, but got through on his tenacity strength and hard work.

Then suddenly this year O'Reilly became an offensive threat. When asked by a reporter what accounts for his formidable offensive showing this year he replied, "I really don't know, but I hope I don't lose whatever it is next year."

O'Reilly grew up in Oshawa and being so close to Toronto he naturally became a Maple Leaf fan. He said however, that one of his favorite players as a boy was Pierre Pilote, who spent his most productive years as a Chicago Black Hawk and became a Leaf in the twilight of his career. Pilote, who now lives close to Georgetown, was present at the dinner and O'Reilly said it was a real treat for him to meet the Hall of Famer he had admired.

O'Reilly played junior hockey for the Oshawa Generals and he said he never really thought he was good enough to make hockey his profession.

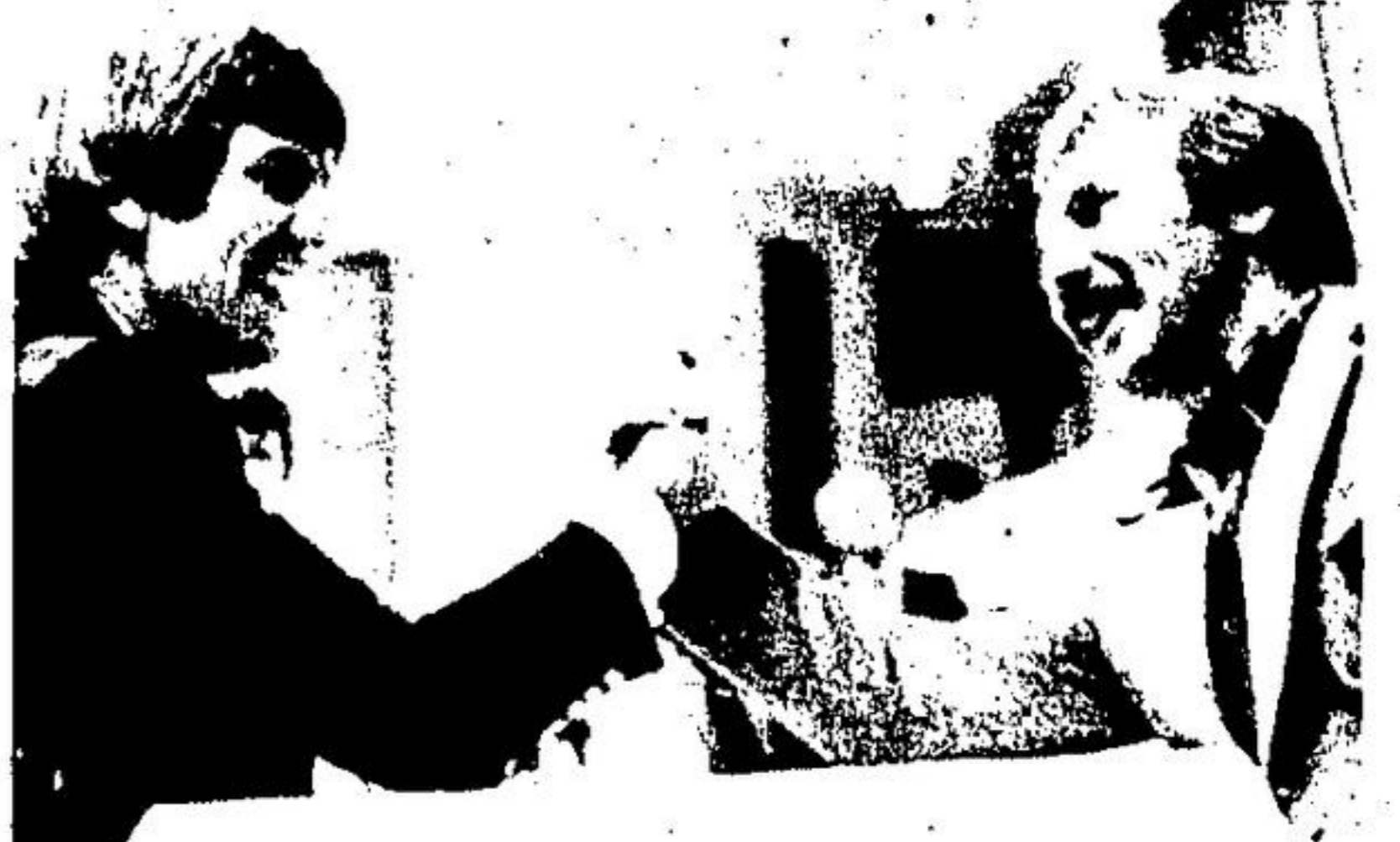
However, in 1971 he was the Bruin's second round draft pick. He spent his first year in the minor leagues and the next year he joined the Bruins. He said he, Greg Shepard and Don Marcotte formed what was then the Bruin's kid line.

The winger's career has steadily progressed until this year when he was chosen to be a member of the Whales Conference All-Star team. He had played in another all-star game but it was because a few of his Bruin teammates were injured.

O'Reilly also talked about the young career of Mike

Forbes, the Bruin rookie who played his minor hockey in Georgetown. "Mike was a surprise on the team. He wasn't expected to make it. Until he was injured he was playing well. He has been sent down to play himself back into shape and may be called back." Forbes suffered an ankle injury earlier this year.

O'Reilly said among the present players who he most admires is the Leaf's Darryl Sittler. "He is a great player and a great leader."



Terry O'Reilly and the Raider's Art Webster have an arm wrestling match for our photographer.



Terry O'Reilly poses with the members of the Yugoslavian team.