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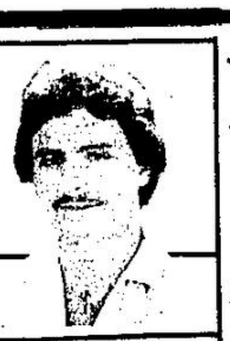
Sports beat



By Tony Panacci

Boyce injures leg

You'd have to go a long way before you would find a more dedicated hockey player than the Georgetown Raiders' John Boyce.

Junior Tibbits, who coached the team for two and half years before Gerry Inglis took over this year, said that Boyce was without a doubt the inspirational leader of the team.

Boyce has been one of the only defensemen who coach Inglis could count on game in and game out this year. Come hell or high water Boyce would be at the game. The only other defenseman who can make that claim is Ron Twiss, who joined the team late.

In last Friday's 8-3 Raider win in Dundas Boyce suffered bruised ligaments in his knee and had to leave the game.

John Boyce

"I had gone into the game with a badly sprained ankle that I suffered in the game in Port Colborne," Boyce said. "If we had had more defensemen I would not have dressed for the Dundas game." The Raiders went into the Dundas game with only Twiss and Gary Barden.

Even after Boyce suffered the knee injury he did not leave the game.

"I tried it for a couple of shifts after that, but then I realized it would not hold up," the defenseman said.

Boyce is seeing a chiropractor and he said Tuesday that the leg felt 100 per cent better than it did on the weekend.

Boyce is hoping that he will be in the lineup this Friday when the Fort Erie Mavericks come to town.

"I'm hoping that I can play against the Mavericks, but I don't know," the veteran said. "I will definitely be back in action for the game the next week."

Boyce is the second Raider veteran that has gone down in the past couple of weeks. Forward Steve Blundy suffered a ruptured spleen in a game in Thorold.

Boyce may be the last of a dying breed amongst the Raiders. Most of the players on the present roster were well-scouted by the Raider executive before being signed.

Boyce, 31, joined the team several years back when he walked into the arena and just asked for a tryout. He has been a mainstay with the club ever since. Last year he was the team's captain.

Soon after Boyce went out in Dundas there was talk that he would not be back in the lineup for quite awhile.

John Boyce is not an easy man to keep down. He'll try it Friday against the Mavericks, and you can bet his leg will have to be in pretty bad shape if he's not dressed when the game begins.

Gem fan leaves

Back on page four a Letter to the Editor appears authored by Bill Innes. In the letter Mr. Innes says that he took Ken Fendley's advice and last Saturday ventured to Alcott Arena to support his Junior "B" hockey team, the Georgetown Geminis.

At the end of the first period of that hockey game a brawl took place on the ice and by all accounts there were also a few fists thrown in the stands. Mr. Innes, who was there with his young son, said he left the game at that point as a result of the unnecessary rough play.

No doubt Mr. Innes had good reason to leave.

The latest rough play occured during my weekend off, so I did not personally witness it. However, after sitting through a season of Gemini hockey I have seen my share of donnybrooks at Alcott Arena.

It is by no means fun or entertaining to watch a bunch of teenagers trying to hurt one another.

The brawl(s) that took place on Saturday sound worse than most if not all that have occured in the recent past. However, it is not uncommon to see fights in Junior "B".

This year seems to be much rougher than last year with the Gems handing out and receiving many more cheap shots than they did last year. Perhaps it is just my imagination.

The Junior "B" league hands out stiff suspensions for needless fighting, but they have not seemed to have deterred the players. They're still swinging sticks and dropping gloves.

There is no one who detests that rough style of hockey more than Gem general manager Bob Tost. For one thing he realizes that that type of play needlessly prolongs games. Who wants to spend three and a half hours of a Saturday night to sit through a brawl-filled junior "B" hockey game.

Tost also certainty does not want to see his best players sitting on the sidelines because they have been suspended for fighting. Several Gems will miss the next couple of games as a result of what took place Saturday.

There is no doubt that all the people involved want to put an end to the endless fighting in Junior "B" and have the young men play good, tough hockey.

I would suggest to Mr. Innes that he not give up on Junior "B" hockey without giving it another chance.

At its best it can be a very entertaining brand of hockey.

The Gems have played some very good tough, but clean hockey this year. They played that way in separate contests against the Streetsville Derbys and Burlington Cougars, the two strongest teams in the league. In both games, although losing, they held their own.

I agree with Ken Fendley when he says that the players look up to the empty stands and they become dishearted. They must wonder why more people are not in them.

More people are not in those stands for the same simple reason Bill Innes left them on Saturday night. No one, or hardly anyone, is interested in seeing a couple of teenagers paste one another. And then after they finish, another two go at it.

If the Gems played the style of hockey they played against the Derbys or the Cougars every time out, I would bet my bottom dollar that there would be more people in the stands.

A Junior "B" game should not last more than two and half hours. Between two hours and two hours and fifteen minutes would be ideal. The two games mentioned both lasted for a much longer period of time.

The junior "B" season is not yet half over. The Gems still have a chance of making the playoffs.

My advice to the Gems is to pretend that they are playing the Derbys or the Cougars every time out. They would come up with their share of victories and certainly play more watchable hockey.

My advice to the fans is to give the youngsters a chance. They can play good, solid hockey if they put their minds to it.

Ian Clark is Canada's top junior runner

Georgetown's Ian Clark is the best junior cross-country runner in all of Canada.

Clark, a grade 12 student at Georgetown district high school, won the Canadian cross-country championships held at Vancouver's Stanley Park on Saturday.

Ray Paulins, who two weeks ago won the senior OFSAA championship at Scarborough College, finished second some five seconds behind Clark. It was run over a 8,000-metre course.

Clark said his strategy for the race was to hang on Paulins' shoulder for the first part of the race.

"I knew Paulins would take off fast," said Clark. "I hung on his shoulder for the first half of the race and then at about the halfway point I took the lead." The Georgetown runner stayed in front the rest of the way.

The last half of the race became a duel between Clark and Paulins as they pulled away from the remaining 70 or so runners in the race.

Paulins had demolished the senior runners at the provincial race, winning at OFSAA by approximately 30 seconds. Clark won the junior race at OFSAA by about the same amount.

"It was the toughest competition I've faced so far this year," said Clark, who has won most of his races with ease.

The Scarborough College course was rugged with a couple of monster hills and for the most part uneven terrain.

"Stanley Park was much different," Clark said. "It was mostly flat and therefore very fast."

In the high school meets Clark normally ran 5,600-metre courses as a junior. Paulins had somewhat of an advantage there in that as a senior he ran 7,000 metres or better in all of his races.

By finishing Clark qualified for the World Junior Cross-Country Championships. They will be held in Limerick, Ireland during the March school break of 1979. Clark said he will leave for Ireland on March 20 and stay there the week.

The runner also said that he will get in shape for the race by running indoors during the winter.

Jon Lancaster, who had the misfortune of suffering leg cramps during the OFSAA meet, also had a very strong race at the Canadians coming a very respectable seventeenth.

Last week it was incorrectly reported that only Clark and Arnold Brakel from Georgetown would compete at the Canadians. Actually there were five runners there.

Brakel also ran well as he finished thirty-seventh in the junior race. There were approximately 70 runners competing and they were all top notch.

The other two Georgetown runners competed in the juvenile class and again both fared well.

Fergus Barnes finished fifteenth and John Warnock came in twentieth.

The runners from Ontario dominated the meet as they had the first place finishers in three of the five classes.

Jon Lancaster

Ian Clark

Arnold Brakel

Fergus Barnes

The Georgetown Gemini's Greg Thompson does some backchecking during Saturday's 12-5 loss to the Oakville Blades. The game saw several players from both teams ejected as a result of a donnybrook which took place in the first period. It was also the Gems' third loss of the week. (Photo by Muggie Hannah)

Gems lose to Oakville in brawl-filled match

The Georgetown Geminis and Oakville Blades had five players each suspended for a first-period melee which took place during the visitors' 12-5 victory at Alcott Arena Saturday night.

The incident started with just six seconds left on the clock when the Gems' Marty Power and the Blades' Brian Marvel got into a scrap. Power was getting the better of it and another Oakville player joined the fight. That triggered all the players who were on the ice to get involved.

When the smoke had cleared the Gems' Power, Bruce McCandless, Larry Melton, Andy Broadbent and Billy Taylor had all received a two-game suspension.

Five Oakville players also will sit out two games with Lou Carnevale, who received a match penalty, possibly more.

The Blades went up by two goals when Willie McFarlane and Frank Carnevale scored on power plays before the game was five minutes old.

Marvel then scored twice more before the halfway point of the period and the Blades had a 4-0 lead. The second goal came with Broadbent off serving a illegal stick infraction.

At the 12:22 mark the Gems got on the board as John Barnes scored on the power play from Lance Doucette and Paul Martin.

The Blades, who have been a hot team lately, got two more goals from Adam Campbell and Kevin Joyce before the period was out. Campbell's marker came with Mark Falby off serving a cross-checking penalty.

Martin scored on a power play from Broadbent with just six seconds left in the period to make it 6-2. It was this goal that started the fight which led to the ejections.

With both clubs having seriously depleted lineups for the final two periods the game settled down somewhat although there was a fight in each frame.

The Gems got two goals from Greg Thompson in the second period. Paul Ancinelli had assists on both of them and Paul Martin helped out on the second.

The Blades came up with five more goals in the second period with Craig Kowalchuk getting two and Kevin Adam, McFarlane and Carnevale singles.

Howie Hulme, who was up from the juveniles, took over from Brad Miller in the Gem net for the third period.

The youngster handled himself quite well having only one of 21 shots go by him.

With the departure of goaltender Steve Garry, who was cut last week, the Gems are going to bring back Mark Winner. Winner, from Brampton, was cut from the team after the exhibition season.

Tost said that the team will bring up players from the juveniles for the games this week.

The team faces two tough matches against the Acton Sabres away Friday and the Brampton Chevy-Logans here Saturday. Those are two of the teams the Gems will have to beat out for a playoff spot.

Apparently new coach Harold Schooley will be bringing in a couple of new players to add to the roster.

Tost said the Gems tried to sign Brian Osborne, who is playing with Philp Publishing in the GIHL, but the defenseman was not interested in playing Junior "B" hockey.

After the ejections Saturday the Gems had to dress Mark Euteneier, who was sitting in the stands for the opening period. The reason Euteneier, who was injured, had to be dressed was because captain Bob McCandless had to be taken to hospital after he had a tooth knocked out in a freak accident in that first period.

The general manager said that although the team is mired in last place in the league, they are still hopeful they can come up with a playoff spot.

The playoff system has been changed this year. The first four teams will draw one of teams from the bottom four. That means that with some luck the eighth place team could play the fourth place team. Last year the sixth placer team, the last to make the playoffs, had to play the first place team in the opening round.

Sabres trade Pickard to mighty Streetsville

The Acton Sabres had to trade one of the best forwards in the OHA Central Junior "B" loop because of the 'annomisity and jealousy" that player generated from his teammates said coach Fred Buchanan.

Last Thursday the Sabres consumated a trade which sent Paul Pickard, one of the leagues' finest forwards, to the already powerful Streetsville Derbys.

The three players the Sabres received were goaltender, Kent Moffatt, 18, and defensemen Les Smith, 18, and Ernie Lambert, 17.

Buchanan also said he will get a forward off the Derby roster. The Acton coach will be at the Derby's practise tomorrow night and he will choose a forward off the roster. Not just any forward. Derby coach and general manager Tom Barrett has named nine untouchables. Buchanan will have his choice from among the remaining five

The Acton coach said local Acton players were not ready for a player of Paul's abilities and talents. He said 40 per cent were willing to see the big forward log a lot of ice time and be at centre stage, but many of the others sulked because the coach's abundant usage of Pickard came at their expense.

"We are sorry to see Paul go," Buchanan said. "However, we felt it better that we trade him to a team were we could get something in return."

The Derbys' Barrrett has a habit of taking the leagues' best players off other teams' rosters. Before the season began he acquired Paul Cook, who was the Brampton Chevy Logan's best player last year.

Barrett is gearing his team up for the Ontario Games' qualifying round and having a player of Pickards' excellence in the lineup certainly enhances his team's chances.

Pichard has been a terror in the league so far this year. He is among the leagues' top scorers, although he sat out a suspension, and in one three-game stretch he scored 11 goals.

Moffatt is familiar to Acton fans. He is from there and began the 1977-78 season with the Sabres.

Barrett traded for the goaltender when it became apparent he needed a solid backup last year. Moffatt has seen very limited action with the Derbys this year. They acquired Jim Lockhurst, who was a top junior "A" goalie last year, and he is seeing most of the action.

Smith has been with the Derbys for the past two years. Lambert joined the team this year. Neither has been a front liner with the club.

Buchanan said that the three players will all be in the lineup this Friday when the Sabres host crosstown rival Georgetown Geminis. As for the player to be chosen at tomorrow night's practise, he may or may not be in the lineup to face the Gems.

Pickard joined the Sabres this year after previously playing junior "A" in the Ottawa Valley Hockey League.

Acton takes Cougars, beaten by Milton

No one plays the Burlington Cougars tougher than the Acton Sabres. So far this season the Cougars have suffered through one loss and one tie. In the rest of their games they have come out winners. Both the loss and tie came against the Sabres.

On Saturday the Sabres nipped the Cougars 4-3 right in Acton. The victory put a stop to a four-game losing streak for the Sabres.

The Cougars led after the first period 1-0 and at the end of the middle frame the visitors were ahead 2-1.

Scoring for the Sabres in that second period was Glenn Murray.

The Sabres came on strong in the last 20 minutes to take the victory.

Scoring for the Sabres in that third period were Scott Malcolm, from Wade Vickery, Drew Gareau, with Jeff Shields earning the assists, and Kelly Shaw, with Shields again the playmaker.

On Wednesday of last week the Sabres lost 6-3 to Milton Flyers, who have suddenly become tough.

Paul Pickard scored his last goal as a Sabre in that contest. The next night he was traded to the Streetsville Derbys. Also scoring for the Sabres were Shields and Shaw.

January 5 match

Austrian game okayed tickets being printed

It has been confirmed. The Georgetown Raiders will host the Austrian National Team on January 5.

The Raider executive has been informed by Brent Ladds of Ontario Hockey Association offices in Toronto that the Austrian team will definitely be the second national squad to face the Raiders in two years.

Preparations for the event have begun. Tickets will be going on sale as soon as they are printed.

The ticket outlets will be the Alcott Arena box office during Raider home games and Creative Camera.

The price of tickets will be $4 for adults and $2 for children.

There will be 1,700 tickets sold for the event. Thirteen hundred will be adult tickets and the remainder childrens.

Last year there were also several other events which went hand in hand with the Yugoslavian match. Events to surround the Austrian's visit are at present being planned.

Centennial volleyballers go to the semi finals

The Centennial School junior boys volleyball recently did very well in a 20-team tournament at John McCrae school in Scarborough.

The team played six matches, winning three, losing two and tying one.

The team beat MacKenzie 16-13, St. Margaret's 24-10, and Blantyre 18-11. The tie came against Samuel Hearne 16-16. The losses were to Highbrook 9-19 and Robert Service 15-17. That last close loss came in the semi-final and eliminated Centennial from further play.

Each of the games was played with a 20-game time limit.

Members of the Georgetown team were Dave Leblanc, Dave Doucette, George Osborne, Andy Jones, Darren Kemp, Mark Snow, Bruce Marriott, Rich Fontanna, Joey Moneypenny and David Taylor.

Intermediates lose 6-0 to Orangeville

The Georgetown Court Rose intermediate girls showed good improvement, but came out on the short end of a 6-0 decision against Orangeville.

Pam McMeekin, Kathy Malanuk and Elaine Hughes all played very good games.

Hughes was recently named captain of the squad.

Malanuk and Grasby will be the alternates.