

Meet the Coaches: bantam's Jack Gudgeon

"You won't see my wingers skating in straight lines up and down their wings," says Georgetown DRG Stationery Major Bantam mentor Jack Gudgeon. "I think that you take the creativity out of hockey when you introduce too many systems to the kids."

Gudgeon, who is in his second year as the coach of the Bantams, said hockey is a game which is full of creativity. "If you let the kids do their own things".

The coach does use systematic plays when his team has the manpower advantage or is killing a penalty, but when it's at even strength he has absolutely no special plays.

Gudgeon actually began his coaching career in the 1967-68 season when he was at the helm of a Pee Wee team that included Tom Forbes, Gary McFayden, Dick



Jack Gudgeon

Machine nipped 2-1

Georgetown's Green Machine Senior Girls took it on the chin last Saturday when they dropped a 2-1 game to Shelburne Kinnettes in a very close game.

Wendy Travis was the big hero for Shelburne as she blocked shot after shot and limited the Green Machine to one goal.

Nicole Fenez and Brenda Mahoney were the shooters for Kinnettes, Jenny Smith from Luanne Reid replied for Georgetown.

Michele Fisher did double duty in the nets, playing for her regular intermediate team first, then standing in for the seniors.

Michele played a good game, having no chance on the two goals that were scored.

Elaine Taylor was a welcome returnee to the blueline coming off the injury list.

The Green Machine who are sponsored by the Men's Industrial hockey league, have their work cut out for them this coming Sunday as they travel to Orangeville and play the league-leading Newfie Bullets (formerly the Sweethearts).

and Dean Popiel.

FORMER RAIDER

At the same time he was coaching the Pee Wees Gudgeon was playing Intermediate "A" hockey with the Georgetown Raiders.

"Also at that time I was beginning a family," he said. "So something had to go." Gudgeon decided to stay with the Raiders, for whom he played one more season.

A few years ago Gudgeon attended a few games in the annual Georgetown International Bantam Tournament. The excitement surrounding the event gave Gudgeon the incentive to get back into coaching.

He specifically asked for the bantam squad and last year proved to be a very good year for his club as they amassed an excellent record.

One disappointment for Gudgeon and his team was being eliminated in the second round of the tournament. Previous to the beginning of the tourney, Gudgeon had said he expected his club to do well and possibly take a shot at winning it all.

"I think that the tournament is one of the most important experiences for the bantam players," the coach said. "Every 14 year old player in Georgetown looks forward to it."

Gudgeon, who played all his minor hockey in Georgetown, missed the tournament by one year. The first tourney was the year Gudgeon turned midget.

The other important part of the season for Gudgeon and his players is the OMHA playdowns.

So far this year the Bantams have defeated Dundas in the opening round and are at present tied at one game each in the series against Owen Sound.

In last year's playdowns his club got passed Owen Sound and were eliminated by Barrie in the third round.

"I'd like to get passed Owen Sound and take another crack at Barrie," he said.

If the Bantams continue to win in the OMHA playdowns there may be a problem when the tournament rolls around in mid-March.

"The OMHA rules state that a team competing in the playdowns cannot enter any tournaments," Gudgeon said. "I have talked the problem over with the executive and we've decided to cross that bridge when we get to it."

Gudgeon said he chose to coach the bantams because at that age the youngsters are teachable and are also able to implement what they have been taught.

"Up until Christmas I work almost exclusively on skating in practises," Gudgeon said. "After Christmas I begin to work on power plays and killing penalties."

SKATING IMPORTANT

The coach said that when it came to choosing his squad, skating ability was the number one criteria in his selections.

"I think that if a kid can skate well then you can teach him the rest of the skills."

The bantams have a small club this year. Gudgeon said that he would prefer to have a few bigger kids on the team.

"We are always the smallest of the two teams," he said. "It means that we have to do a lot of other things better if we are going to win."

Gudgeon said the fact that he played a lot of hockey, both as a youngster and an adult, has helped him in the coaching.

"I think it is easier to coach if you have played hockey," he said. "You understand the emotions the players are going through and you can sympathize with them."

Gudgeon is a teacher at Centennial School. Does being a teacher help in being a coach?

"I don't think it gives me an edge," he said. "It helps in that I know most of the kids because I have taught them but that's all."

He said that anyone who understands kids can be a good coach.

"I think you have to understand kids and know that you cannot apply the same list of expectations to each of them," he said. "They are all

different and each should be treated as an individual."

As far as winning is concerned Gudgeon sees it as being very important, but not everything.

"I'd be lying if I said I did not think winning is important," he said. "However, I think that to teach achieving a set of goals under the team concept is the most important thing hockey offers youngsters".

Up until Christmas Gudgeon gave each of his players equal ice time. In the OMHA playdowns he may go to two lines when the situation warrants it.

Like last week's Coach of the Week, Tom Easterman, Gudgeon has three daughters.

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