

Geminis may play in six-team division

The Georgetown Geminis and Acton Sabres may be competing a six-league six-team division of the OHA Central Junior "B" league, if one of the proposals made at the association's annual meeting held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto Saturday carries.

In all there were six proposals made for realignment of the 12-team league. However, as it stands now it appears the league will stay with the 12-team even schedule used last year or go with a two-division loop.

Gem president Bob Girdwood said the Central League executive members will meet later this month and decide which route to take.

BLUES ADDED

If the split league goes through the Gems would play against the Sabres, Bramalea Blues, Dixie Beehives, Streetsville Derbys and Brampton Logan-Chevys. They would only play regular season

games against those clubs.

The addition of the Blues will mean the Gems and Sabres would be up against another top-flight club. This past year the Blues surprised all the favorites by winning the Ontario Cup gold medal.

The Derbys are of course a powerhouse squad going to the Sutherland Cup final the last three years. They finally succeeded in taking it all this year by wiping out St. Catharines in four straight games in the final.

"The only thing that would hurt us in that alignment is losing Milton," Girdwood said. "They are a town approximately the same size and are close by."

However, the Gem president said he likes the proposed realignment as it would mean less travelling for his club and also give them two nearby rivals in Brampton and Bramalea.

Another remote possibility is the league having 13 teams compete next year with Owen Sound being the ad-

ditional club. If that proposal goes through it would mean equal schedule against all 13 clubs.

However, Girdwood also said that Orillia is very interested in getting a tier two Junior "A" club. The proposal is that Orillia would inherit an existing floundering Tier two team and disband the club they had this year. Originally the Orillia officials wanted to have their present club raised to tier two "A", but the OHA wouldn't go for it.

MAY 15 DEADLINE

The Central Junior "A" loop will have to decide by May 15 exactly which way to go.

In other business coming out of the meetings which would be relevant to the three OHA teams in town, a proposal which would change how the association receives its money was defeated.

Last year only teams which made the playoffs had to pay money back to the OHA. Under the present system clubs competing in

the playoffs pay seven and a half per cent of their gate receipts back to the OHA for services rendered. This meant that neither the Gems or Sabres had to pay a cent back to the OHA. However, the association made a pretty penny from the Georgetown Raiders who played in front of huge crowds in playing three series before winning the Intermediate title.

Under the defeated OHA proposal it would have received 10 per cent of a team's gate receipts during the regular season games, \$50 for first round playoff games, \$150 for inter-league finals and \$400 a game for the ultimate playoff final. That is for the junior "B" loop.

In the Intermediate "A" loop teams would have had to pay \$20 back to the OHA \$20 for regular season games, \$100 for first round playoff games, \$150 for the inter-league final and \$250 for the ultimate final.

BE BACK

Girdwood said that the motion was defeated, but that he expects the OHA will figure out another formula which would have teams paying fees during the regular season and table it before next season.

Early this past season the Raiders had a tied game against Port Colborne called because the referees of the game said that overtime was not allowed to be played. Previous to that the Intermediate "A" loop had played 10-minute overtime periods to try and break deadlocks.

This season the OHA is going to discourage its leagues from playing overtime games. However, it will be up to individual leagues to decide if they want an overtime session. However, if they decide to institute an overtime it must be a 10-minute affair. If it is still tied at that point each club will be awarded one point. This past year leagues had the choice of playing any form of overtime they decided on.

This past year it cost the Georgetown Raiders \$25 on a couple of occasions to buy back players who had been

suspended for a game. The rate was the same throughout all OHA leagues. This year it will cost teams \$50 to lift a one-game suspension off a player.

BUDGET

The OHA budget report showed that the organization had a \$39,000 deficit this past year.

A major chunk of the loss was consumed by money going towards getting new equipment for referees and having closer supervision of the officials.

The budget showed that \$10,000 went to buying

standardized equipment for the officials. It is a cost that will not show up again for many years. There was also \$10,000 more spent this past season than the year before on the supervising of the referees. Each OHA referee had a supervisor inspect his work for two matches.

There was much discussion at the meeting about the possibility of changing the import restriction on Junior "B" clubs. However, it was decided that each club would still be allowed seven imports.

Tost won't be back, two men up for post

Bob Tost will not be back as the Georgetown Geminis general manager after four years at the post.

"I'll still serve in some capacity with the team," Tost said. "However, it will be in the background...way back in the background."

Tost is the only man who has served in the position as general manager since the team's creation four years ago.

"I've had a lot of years in hockey," he said. "It's about time I started spending a few evenings at home."

MANY YEARS

Tost said before he joined the Gems he served 12 years in the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association and eight more with the Support Group. He said he will not rejoin either of the minor hockey groups in any capacity next year.

"No, I won't be too involved in any form of hockey next year," he said. "It is going to be nice to spend some time at home."

The retiring general manager said that it is about time that someone new took over the helm of the Geminis team. "I've been with it for four years, it's about time to get someone fresh in there."

Last season, with the Gems competing in a 12-team loop for the first time, Tost said he only missed one game and only about a half dozen in his years with the Gems.

New president Bob Girdwood said that Tost's absence is going to leave a big hole in the organization, but that he was not too surprised that he is stepping down.

CONSUMING

"I didn't realize just how consuming a job the general manager's post is until I talked to Bob," Girdwood said. "It is a very hard job for one man to do."

Girdwood said that he has talked to two men about the



BOB TOST

job, but he is not quite ready to devulge their names.

"The two men I have approached about the job are both local guys," he said. "Neither of them has been with the club in previous years," Girdwood said that he should have an answer from one of the two men before the week is out.

Girdwood said that after he names a new general manager, the next chore will be to find a coach for the squad.

The president said that Harold Schooley, who coached the team for the last half of last season, will be the first one approached about the job. He is on holidays right now.

"If Harold is not interested in returning then the new general manager and I will have to start from scratch in looking for a new coach."

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