

# Teach discipline, Hayward says

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There is no secret way in to the NHL — it just takes blood and guts, Bill Hayward, manager of the Cooper Hockey School, told about 350 minor hockey players, their fathers, minor hockey organizers, sponsors and coaches at the minor hockey support group awards banquet at Holy Cross Auditorium Saturday.

Young hockey players have none of the "masculine toughness" they used to have, Hayward said, because they live in a very soft, very advanced society.

"We could have had a young Darryl Sittler skate 15 to 20 lengths of the rink in practice at one time," he said. "Now it would have to be about 100."

Hayward spent 20 years as a physical education instructor in the Armed Forces, and is now running the Cooper Hockey School and coaches' clinics across North America. He also works on fitness at the Leaf training camps.

### LOTS OF MILES

Hayward logged a lot of miles last year talking to about 2,500 coaches in 40 states and all ten provinces.

"These coaches are the people who are the most important part of hockey in North America, and especially Canada," Hayward said. "The most important part of

coaching in Canada is right here in this room, with these minor hockey coaches".

Hayward warned at the outset that he would be criticizing some aspects of the way hockey is being taught in Canada, but he said the criticisms did not necessarily apply to the hockey programs in Georgetown.

"We're wearing a black eye as Canadians in the way we teach skating and hockey," Hayward said. "85 per cent of the European program is what Canadians used to do before we became fat cats."

"We used to skate like hell," he continued. "We used to skate like the wind."

"The main aspect we're after is to teach every boy to be the best skater he can be," Hayward said. At the Cooper hockey school, the boys sometimes skate over 100 lengths in a morning, he said.

"The youth among you are as good as any generation," he said. "Our job as adults is to teach them rules and orders." A young hockey player "has to realize his place", Hayward said.

A young man should be expected to stand when an adult enters the room, and to answer "yes, sir" and "no, sir," when talking to an adult, Hayward said. They must learn to be punctual,

and to keep their language clean, he added.

"Learn from older people," Hayward told the boys. "They know it, baby — they've been through it. Ask them for advice. Don't make all your own mistakes."

### SKATING

Hayward said the importance of skating well in hockey can't be over-emphasized.

"The higher you go in hockey, the more you skate," he said. "How can we spend all this time teaching strategy when little Charlie Brown can't get from Point A to Point B?"

"The guy who has the puck 85 per cent of the time is a skater," Hayward added.

"If a hockey player looks on skating as work and punishment, he should be looking for a soccer ball," he said.

Hayward said a player's time on ice should be spent learning to skate well; not learning to shoot. Shooting practice can be done anywhere, with any type of equipment, he said.

"It's inexcusable if we talk about this being our game, if any boy in this room doesn't have knowledge of even the basic shots," Hayward said. He listed all the different shots, concluding with the slapshot, which he described as the least effective shot.

### SLAP HAPPY

The slapshot goes in the net

least, he said, and should be taught last, after the other shots have been mastered.

"By the time he's 12, a Canadian boy should be cap-

able of terrorizing a goalie from the blue line with a wrist shot," Hayward said.

Hayward also talked about successful coaching.

"I'm not a successful coach when I play a little Bobby Orr 45 minutes and keep 14 others on the bench,"

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Jeff Brake, left, and Chris Pearson, right, of the Al Piliutti Minor Atoms took the Dave Hulme Memorial Trophy which goes to the rep goalies with the best goals against average. Herb Kewley, of the Sunny Acres Farm Major Midgets, won the Most Valuable Major Midget Player Award.



The Georgetown Firefighters and McNally Construction Major Atoms received the Harold Gilmer Trophy. It goes annually to the novice, minor atom or major atom team which goes the furthest in Tri-County or OMHA play. Kneeling are assistant captains Danny Kent, left, and Mike Hurley. Standing left to right are assistant coach John Doherty, coach Harold Gilmer, captain Jon Hammer and manager Fred Hammer.



The Georgetown Labelmasters Minor Midgets took the Yeo-Christie Award, which goes to the most improved rep team. Kneeling are coach Bruce McMeekin and captain Brad McMeekin. In the back left to right are assistant Jerry Brush, manager Henry Cull, assistant coach Dempsey Snow, Connie Christie and Tim and Randy Yeo.

(Herald staff photos)