

# A lifelong Baun(d) with hockey

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The last time the Toronto Maple Leafs won Lord Stanley's Cup, Canada was only 100-years-old. That was 12 years ago in 1967. Bobby Baun was a member of that team, along with such players as Johnny Bower, Allan Stanley, Tim Horton, Bob Pulford, Frank Mahovlich, Dave Keon, Red Kelly, Ron Ellis, Eddie Shack and Milan Marceita. Baun wound up his first stint with the Leafs that year. He had been with them since 1956 when he broke in as an underage junior. Later he would play for his hometown for three more years from 1970 to 1973 before retiring as a player.

There's a story about him that says that he scored the game winning goal, that gave Toronto its second last world hockey championship in 1964, against the Detroit Red Wings while skating on a broken right leg.

That's one of the stories told about him. He has a few to tell about fellow players, officials, management and hockey people in general, himself. And, he told a few of them to an interested group of Kiwanis men at their weekly luncheon.

Bobby Baun has been playing and talking professional

hockey since he made the big leagues at the age of 19, more than 20 years ago. In the old days, when hockey was the one and only Canadian sport, National Hockey League (NHL) players were constantly out on the speaking circuit. There were boy scout packs, hockey banquets, business mens' luncheons and boys-on-the-street question and answer sessions.

Baun remembers his first speaking engagement was to his former scout pack. "I got up, opened my mouth, (pause) and never shut it." From there Baun has gone on to tell stories and little anecdotes about the game he loves and still makes part of his income from.

Today he is a vice-president in the Pan American Family Insurance Corporation. It is the largest cancer insuring agency in the world. His company handles insurance for the family of the stricken family member. The company provides the funds necessary to the family members to accommodate them through the necessary treatments. It is strictly for the family and not the medical expenses of the patient. Jim Fishback, a Kiwanian and local agent for the company, invited Baun to

lunch.

Standing with his feet outstretched the width of his shoulders and wearing a blue pin striped double breasted suit, it is not too difficult to remember him standing on the Leaf blue line in his blue and white uniform turning away the likes of Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull and even Bobby Orr. For 17 years he turned back these and many of the other hockey greats, and was sometimes being turned aside himself.

Baun recalls many incidents that have marked his hockey career, from playing in the NHL to coaching in the WHA. Like the time Gordie Howe asked him for advice on gaining a new contract from the Red Wings in 1969. Howe was only making \$47,000 a year, \$500 less than Baun. He had heard Baun knew contracts. Baun showed him how to get a signed blank contract, so Howe could fill the amount in he wanted. He got it and signed for \$125,000 a year.

Baun says hockey is a business and the teams' managements all want to make money. So do the young players who came along with expansions. Baun says they are all minor league players who shouldn't be there in the first place and

who are getting paid to do nothing more than play minor league hockey and live like kings. The Leafs' former number 21 says that in some cases the young players are better than in the old days but in others they are not. He says they have the natural ability to perform the skills but not the discipline.

That was something he found out when he coached the WHA Toros in Toronto. They lacked maturity as young men and hockey players. All they did was play hockey and drink. Gordie Howe would never have lasted this long had he been so inclined.

Punch Imlach would have straightened out some of the players says Baun. "That's the way Punch is, he did that when I was there. Sittler is a class guy. But, (all the recent controversy) that's what brings the team together."

Baun still keeps actively in touch with the game. He speaks up for whatever reason he feels is necessary. He agrees that the game is gaining a comeback in respect and as a form of entertainment. He says that the latest trend in the league now is for the players themselves to go out speaking and sell their game as he has been doing all these years.



Bobby Baun poses for a publicity type photo many Halton Hills fans have in their bubble gum card collections. Baun was autographing the pictures during a visit this week and passed this one along to his faithful followers in the area.

## Flashback

The response we put out last week for the identity of this photo was somewhat overwhelming. One would have thought, by the response, that the picture had been taken that week rather than in 1901. Several people came in to say that they knew the people and some of the history involved.

It turns out that the six men in question had appeared on a page in this paper in 1969. However, that is not how the answer to our mystery came about.

The man standing on the far right, was David Given. He was the anchorman on the Scotch Block team. He weighed in at 240 pounds. His daughter, now Mrs. Droulard, replied as did her

two sons Bud Snow and Tom Given, both grandchildren of the unsuspecting weighty gentleman. John Hardie's niece also called.

From these sources it was learned that the team members all lived in Georgetown but pulled for Scotch Block. Their average weight was 230 pounds. Their combined weight was half a ton.

They were never defeated and once pulled for one hour and 20 minutes in Guelph.

The team was just one of the many local tug-of-war teams pulling at the turn of the century. They were like hockey teams are these days. Men were men and they worked hard to prove it. This was one of the ways they proved it to others.



Two people called about our Sports Flashback last week. So, now we know that the team pictured was from Scotch Block.

Tom Givens called to say his father was on the team. David Givens, on the right end. The others left to right are William McDonald, Don Adams, John Hardie and Henry Wallace. The gentleman perched in front was Neil Gillis, captain or coach of the team.

## Learning a lesson and applying it

The McNally Construction Firefighters major atom team turned a 5-1 loss against Burlington Thursday into a 5-1 win over Ancaster Saturday. They learned their lesson and took the game away from Ancaster from the start. They completely dominated play and could have widened the margin with a little more determined effort and a few more breaks.

Chris Pearson had his shut-out bid taken away with two seconds remaining in the game.

After a scoreless first period, the atoms went to work scoring four unanswered goals. Mike Chiovitti from Scott Mizener netted the first one just 29 seconds into the period. At 3:28 Craig Chantler from Terry Dixon put the puck in the net. Dixon kept the rally going 11

seconds later when he got a pass from Mark Zebedec. Bob Heidman added an unassisted marker at 7:07 of that period.

Major contributions to the game came from Terry Dixon, Craig Chantler, Mike Chiovitti and Stephen Fletcher.

The team could have used strong performances from any of its players Thursday at home, as Burlington

taught them a lesson, they learned. The score was 5-1 for the visitors. Georgetown never got on track and subsequently allowed goalie Joe Barnes to face many shots which he turned away for the most part.

Fletcher from Zebedec and Heidman was the only scoring punch by the home side.

Tomorrow the team faces Brampton at Memorial and Tuesday at Fiamboro.

## Atom team wins big

The minor atom rep team had a couple of big wins this week, over Streetsville and Brampton. They outscored their opposition 10-4 in the two games.

Tuesday, last, they hosted Streetsville who had beaten Georgetown two days prior on the Sunday. The local side avenged that earlier loss by coming out flying in the first period to take a 3-0 lead. Chris Bewley from Mark Shepherd and Pat McCarthy

got the first Georgetown goal. Davin Ciglen from Serge David made it 2-0 and Bewley from Shepherd and Trent Burton rounded out the scoring in the opening third.

Streetsville got their only goal in the second but that was matched by McCarthy's goal from Shepherd.

Two-final period goals, from Jason Arnold unassisted, and Serge David from Shepherd and Paul Howlett ended the game 6-1 for Georgetown.

Steve Eastwood played well in the nets almost getting a shut-out. His near shut-out was aided on the blue line by the strong performances of Burton and Peter Atherly.

Coach Graham Tyler's shifting of the lines brought about the stronger scoring attack especially by Shepherd and McCarthy.

Sunday in Brampton the Atoms narrowly squeaked out a 4-3 win, despite outshooting their hosts 35-5.

Shepherd scored an unassisted goal to start the game off for Georgetown and was followed by Arnold from Jim Lowry, McCarthy from Ciglen and John Lorito from Ciglen and Burton.

A good offensive effort by Lowry and Arnold led the way for a fine all around game for the whole team. Howlett and Atherly stood out on the blue line. Despite facing only five shots, Brent Barnes did remain solid in the net.

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