



**Mark
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Sports Editor

Has organized hockey run it's course

First of all, if you haven't read the front page story on Jeff Talbott, please do so. It is prerequisite reading for this column.

When Jeff Talbott's mother called me Monday morning to inform me of her son's dilemma, regarding the balancing of hockey teams, I like many others was unaware that such practice was going on in the Georgetown minor hockey house leagues. I can't say I wasn't aware of the concept of evening out teams to prevent stronger teams from dominating weaker teams. But, I didn't realize that it was affecting young hockey players the age of eight-years-old in the atom league. I always believed that it was just something they did in the professional leagues to balance out teams and help draw at the gate.

Teenage hockey players are traded around not to help even out the league but to win hockey games. To enhance the competitive aspect of the game. That is not the same as doing it with little guys and gals.

The spirit of hockey will be the one to take the beating in this type of practice. Granted no team likes to lose but, when a team is winning because of what appears to be good coaching rather than all star players, then perhaps the National Coaching Certification program should be mandatory for all coaches.

Such appears to be the case here. Pat Dowdall, the pee wee league commissioner, is a first year man on the job trying to do his best to help the young players, as are all people involved in the minor hockey. He took what appeared to him to be a situation where one team was dominating the rest of the teams and supposedly spoiling the fun of the game for the players on the losing sides. At question to me is not his sincerity but his youthful wisdom in this regard. Perhaps, as he has suggested himself, he may have waited a little long in the season before spotting what he termed as an imbalance in the league and acted on.

He took what steps were most readily available to him and which would seem to work best. The fact that they had seldom been used is not the point either. The point is that very few parents or players are aware that such an option is open to hockey officials. People just want to know where they stand. It is assumed that once a player is drafted by a team in the house league he will stay there for the two years of his age limit or unless he is called up to one of the four-town teams or tri-town teams.

If the matter were out in the open to parents, as it will be now, perhaps other players and parents will feel that this is not the way to run a game being played by children.

Young Jeff's Barragers team has developed a sense of team about them, which coach, Doug Lowe has always stressed with his teams. This is probably one of the reasons for their rise from a weak team last year to a strong one this year. Both the Raiders and Gems stress team work.

As any member of anything will tell you, part of being on a team is feeling a part of it. Getting along with the others. Developing a kinship. Maybe water is as thick as blood.

HUNKS OF MEAT

The consequences are already high. One lost hockey player is one too many. If Jeff has been affected this way it is possible that others will be too. As the parents say, they are only children and they have feelings which can easily be hurt or upset by a move away from some form of security. Playing the game for the fun and sport of it seems to be going by the wayside with such practices as treating the players as commodities and hunks of meat.

More and more people are advocating the non-competitive aspects of the game today. No body contact and more skills training. If more skills were learned then most players would be of the general level and the imbalance, as is supposedly seen, would not occur.

Some people say that there is not that much difference in the talents of the players in the house league that would warrant balancing. Once the two upper hockey groups pick their players the rest are rated on the same plane in ability.

Maybe organized hockey has run its course. Less organization could be the best thing. Too many cooks spoil the broth. Let the kids return to playing the game for the fun of it. The town should spend the money it hands out, for the upkeep of the big arenas, and put into several smaller outdoor rinks where the game began and prospered.

Swimming lessons end with Red Cross testing

The final week for swimming lessons in the Fall session at the Georgetown and Acton indoor pools ended with Red Cross testings.

Registration for the next session of lessons (Jan-April) will start Tuesday, December 18, (through) to January 11, starting at 4:00 p.m. Registration will be taken at the Georgetown Indoor Pool, (behind the high school), and at Acton Indoor Pool, (McKenzie-Smith Middle School).

Tadpoles, pre-beginners, beginners, pre-juniors, and R.L.S.S. classes were tested during their last lesson. Juniors, seniors and intermediates were tested by Red Cross examiners on Monday night in Georgetown, and Tuesday, in Acton.

Georgetown swimmers that passed the junior level are, Linda Wenham, Ginny Stewart, Nancy MacMillan, Bob French, Glen Hopkins, James Fortier, Lisa Walters, Scott Carscadden, Robby Morris, Mark Reed, Gary Teeuwissen, Braden Hulme, Derek Pollit, Kendra Nicolucci, Geoffrey Goodfellow and Debbie Longley. Passing intermediates were, Christine Harris, Cathy Tutt, Kevin Stein, Joanne Bettles, Sylvie Washbourne, Jennifer Lovely, Karen Braun, Charlie Gibbs, and Glenna Wellstead. Those passing their Red Cross senior are Todd Collins, Jackie Bettles, Keith Spiller, Norlene Corry, Ruth Douglas and Anita Pryer.



Who says it's not easy getting a rebound? Paul Karoldis doesn't. Here he goes up with ease to get the jump on an agonizing Dundas Hawks player during Saturday's Acton basketball tournament. The Georgetown Rebels lost out in the tournament championship but won the consolation championship.

Brian Hayward at Cornell

More news from south of the Canadian border. Brian Hayward, a sophomore at Cornell University, Ithica, New York, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hayward of 20, Dandridge Crescent. The Erindale Secondary School graduate is a business administration major enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He is in his second year as a goaltender with the varsity hockey team. Last year he was a second team All-Ivy selection and recorded two shutouts on the way to a 3.68 goals against average. He was named ECAC Rookie of the Week for his play in the Cornell Holiday Festival, and earned Player of the Week honors for his outstanding performance against Boston University.

This year he should be a key player in the Big Red title hopes when he recovers from a bout with mononucleosis.

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NOTICE

PARKING

Parking of a vehicle on streets between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m. for a period of time longer than three consecutive hours, is prohibited by by-law. As violations, please comply with the requirements of this by-law.

Authorities may have vehicles ticketed or towed away at the owner's expense.

SNOW CLEANING:

Placing of snow or ice on streets in any manner as to obstruct or encumber is prohibited by by-law. As improper snow and ice cleaning can be a serious hazard, please comply with the requirements of the by-law so as not to create a hazard.

Authorities may have the snow and ice removed at the property owner's expense.

YOUR CO-OPERATION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE WINTER CONTROL MEASURES AND SAFE CONDITIONS.