

Not protesting suspended game

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fight. After being ejected from the game the two players left the ice through the same home penalty box door. As the two players were passing by the Dixie dressing room, witnesses say Hughston knocked Crossman down from behind, knocking him unconscious, then jumped on him.

Andy Broadbent, who had also been thrown out of the game for being the third man in on the on-ice fight, came running back from the Gem dressing room he was going into and jumped in. From there a spectator joined in, followed by team management, arena staff and players from both clubs and then more spectators who came down on top of the fight from the balcony seating above.

There were more than a dozen people flailing away at each other during the 10 minute charade, which went

on around a sprawled out unconscious Crossman, who was receiving emergency medical attention.

By the time the fight was broken up and the two teams separated, four police cars had arrived and the game had been suspended by the referee. Police remained on the scene while the arena was cleared to escort Dixie players to the waiting bus to take them home. Spectators were given free passes to another Gem game.

NO PROTEST

Gemini President Bob Girdwood said the team received word that Crossman, Broadbent and Marty Power would be suspended for the four games, on Monday afternoon. Three Dixie players Rob Hughston, Les Smith and Daryl Flynn were also given the same suspensions. The \$200 fine is a standard mandatory item

when there is a fight on the ice during the game.

Girdwood says the team can not lay any charges and that he didn't think that Crossman would. "Had he been more seriously injured, requiring thousands of dollars of medical expenses, I would have recommended it. It's too messy, too long and too futile."

The Gems have written a letter to the OHA "to give our side of the story," says Girdwood "It is not a protest but just a matter of explaining that we felt the game was not out of control and could have continued in the final period. The fight involved players out of the game and fans over whom he (the referee) does not have control. We think Dixie agrees."

The Gems are in Barrie Thursday night.

Camp novices lose

The North Halton Sports Camp Novices travelled to Stayner over the past weekend to compete in their 11th annual invitational tournament. Competing in the 'A' Division against teams of mainly triple A calibre, the Campers split their first two games before losing the consolation final to a tough contingent from Rexdale.

In the first game, Georgetown took on one of the few tournament favorites but, came away on the short end of a 5-4 score.

Oshawa opened the scoring before Brent Presswood, Jeremy Felce and Travis Gardner tallied to give the locals a 3-1 lead at the end of the first period.

However, Georgetown never quit and their efforts were rewarded when Presswood connected for his second of the game with five minutes remaining. Unfortunately they were unable to get the equalizer despite several good chances.

In their second game, a goal two minutes into sudden death overtime, by Jason Knight, gave Georgetown a 5-4 victory over a tough squad. Both teams played strong defensively until Kevin Roe deflected Adam Bennett's shot from the blueline into the top hand corner midway through the second period. Brent Presswood and Doug

McDermot on solo efforts, and Bennett from Roe counted the other Georgetown goals in between goals from the opposition.

Goal tenders Chris Berry and Curtis Green made some key saves to preserve the victory while John Brooker and Chris McCarthy contributed some solid hits on defence.

In the final, four unanswered goals in the second and third periods powered Rexdale to a hard fought 6-3 victory. The game was far closer than the score indicated however as the sports camper's actually had a decided territorial advantage. Unfortunately they had trouble finishing around the net. Finding the mark early was Brent Presswood with two and Jeremy Felce with one. Dean Giray and Travis Gardner had assists while Joel Burton, Mark Lorito and Andrew Hodinott skated miles all tournament and checked hard in the corners.



The fight at the Gem game had spectators getting into it as well as the players. (Herald photo by Mark Clairmont)

Raiders split games with the top teams

The Raiders split a pair of road games with the top two teams in the Georgian Bay league over the weekend, playing with depleted line-ups. Friday they beat the league leading Collingwood Shipbuilders 3-2 then lost to the second place Dundas Merchants Sunday night 7-2.

Goaltender Peter McDuffe, who coach Steve Blundy says has been the team's most valuable player to date and of whom he also says "there's no damn reason why he isn't playing (back) somewhere in the NHL," held the Raiders in both games.

UNBELIEVABLE

Friday night, at the Shipbuilders home in Collingwood, McDuffe played "unbelievable in the first period," said his coach. Backed by the solid goaltending, Captain Ray Tonelli notched a pair of goals in the first 20 minutes aided both times by linemates Gary Ford and Bruce Ellison.

Collingwood rebounded in the second to even the score forcing number 14 Colin Gordon to come up with the game winner midway through the third on an unassisted effort.

Sunday night it was just a

case of "running out of steam," said the coach. There were only 13 players, including spare goaltender Lloyd Vaughan, suited up for the game. "If we'd have had one more line we would have beat them," Blundy said. "If we had scored early it would have been easier to protect a lead than make a comeback."

There are a lot of ifs when you lose. As the coach says the team just ran out of steam. They were only down 1-0 after the first period and only behind one goal at the end of the second, 3-2. However, in the third the heavy workload took its toll with five Merchant goals. Dundas outshot the Raiders 46-25. Bruce Ellison counted on two of the Raiders' shots. His assists went to Peter Mara and Tonelli on the first goal and Juri Kudrasovs and Ken Steen on the second. Bob Sneddon was the Collingwood goaltender.

LACK OF PLAYERS

Part of the team's trouble over the weekend, as it is with most teams in the intermediate league, was the lack of road players. Since all or most players are working men, travelling to road games can be difficult.

Either it is getting off work in time to make an out of town game, since Raiders travel by car and not bus, or getting home at an unreasonable hour to get up for work the next day, that causes the shortage.

The Raiders may be able to solve part of this problem by filling the remaining two unsigned, of 21 eligible, cards with University of Guelph players. They could fill backup spots, says the coach. And they probably won't be working.

Friday the Raiders are at home to the Owen Sound

Greys. The last time the two teams got together here at Gordon Alcott was back on Nov. 16 when the host club clobbered the visitors 13-6. Then two nights later in Owen Sound Georgetown was humiliated even worse, by a score of 14-2. Game time is 8:30.



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