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PLAYING THE FIELD

GERRY TIMBERS
 Herald Sports Editor

What price victory?

Wayne Pries, the vice-president of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, and on the surface at least, as level-headed and easy-going a man as you are likely to meet, put the hard facts in front of me this week over a cold beer.

"Competition matters to kids," Pries said. "They want to strive for the top. You like to think they're out there playing for fun, but rep hockey is a serious activity."

We were all reminded just how serious the role minor hockey can play in the day-to-day life of a young man, and his family, by a front-page story in the Toronto Daily Star last week. The story named a bantam-aged hockey player from Georgetown, Craig Chantler, as one of several boys who may play his minor hockey for the Young Nationals of the MTHL this winter.

The issue is this, simply. Craig is a darn good bantam hockey player, who up until this winter, his first in high school, lived and played his hockey in Georgetown. Now he attends Victoria Park Collegiate in Toronto, living away from his family in the city, and there are people who believe Craig is there primarily to play hockey in a highly-professional hockey system, where he will receive better training, more ice time, and be tested against the best competition. In short, some feel Craig is there because others feel he may have what it takes to develop into a professional hockey player.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association rules strictly prohibit a boy being moved to and taking up residence in a new community with the express purpose of playing hockey there. That's not to say it hasn't been done before, and won't be done again. The newest way to circumvent OMHA rules seems to involve the natural parent giving up legal custody to his son in the Supreme Court of Canada, if necessary to a relative or stranger.

It's at this point that all those little alarms inside of me start ringing. I must ask myself, at what price victory?

Personally, I think it's a moral question. Sending a 14-year-old boy on the road in search of his fortune, especially when his travels will take him into the world of athletics, is a risk that could have catastrophic ramifications.

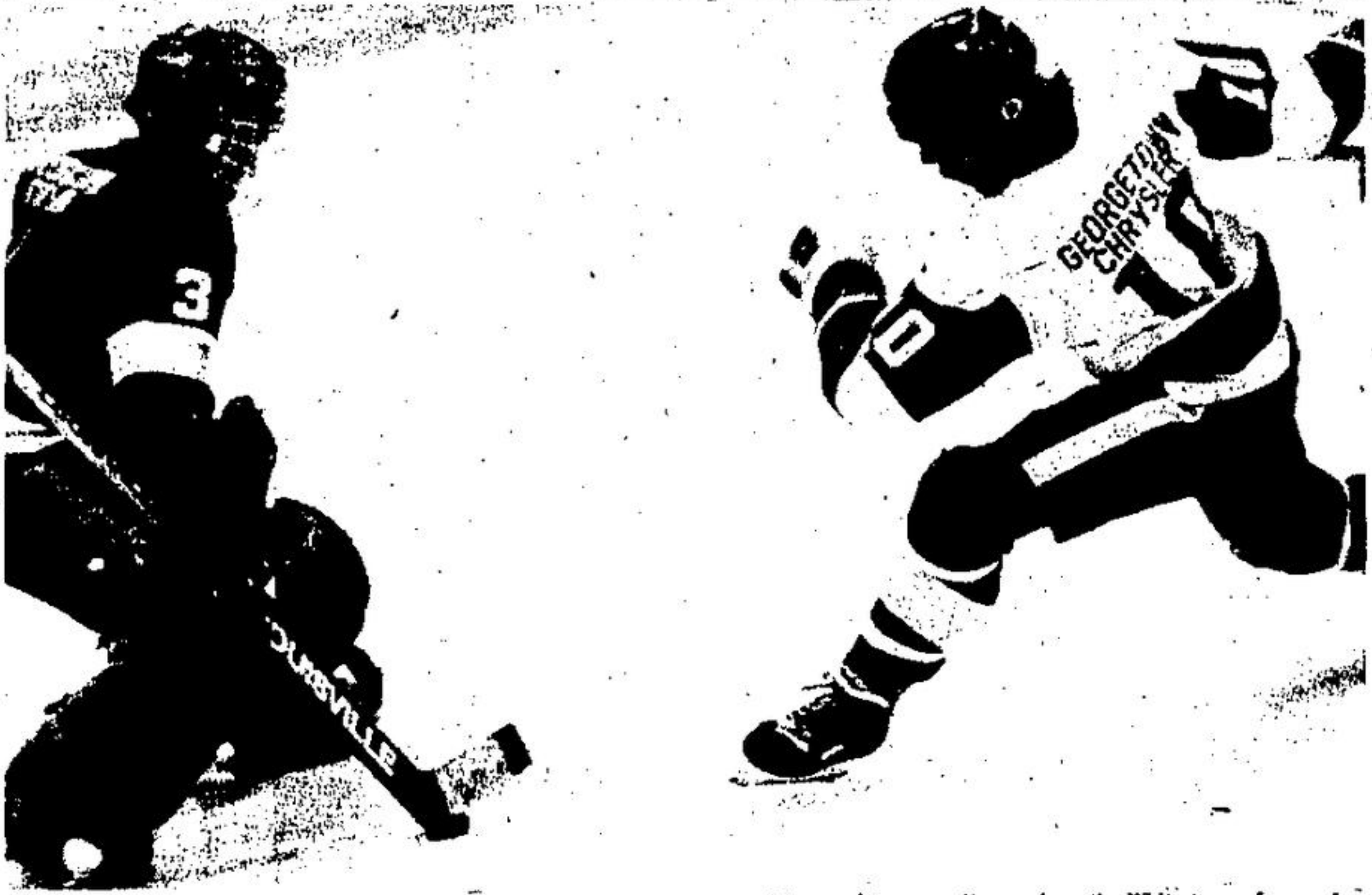
There are no guarantees in life, it's true. And I agree that, in order to succeed at the highest levels, you have to take chances. But is this the decision a 14-year-old can make?

Fourteen-year-olds make decisions, all right. About using drugs and alcohol. About skipping classes, and their choice of friends. About dating and sex. Hopefully, each of these decisions is influenced and monitored by a supportive and understanding family unit.

I'm afraid that minor hockey in this country has become a monster that is devouring our morality, and our perverting ability to assess reality.

I agree with the OMHA. As long as I have a say, or this column at least, I'll argue against moving a boy from his home, ostensibly in pursuit of a pro hockey career. Except for the chosen few, the Bobby Orrs and Wayne Gretzky's that come along once a decade, it just isn't worth it, in my opinion.

Pro hockey should be a choice. Not the result of an all-or-nothing gamble.



Georgetown Raider playing assistant-coach Peter Sturgeon showed he was in top form and ready to go, breaking in alone on Red goalie Mike Steer on this play during Friday night's Intra-Squad exhibition game at Gordon Alcott Arena. Sturgeon's goal and two assists weren't enough, as the White team dropped a 13-11 decision to the Reds. (Herald photo by Gerry Timbers)

Goals, goals and more goals highlight first Raider game

If high-scoring hockey pleases hockey fans, then the Georgetown Raiders shouldn't have any problems selling tickets in their inaugural Senior 'A' season. The club produced 24 goals in 60 minutes of hockey Friday night at Gordon Alcott Arena, as the Reds edged the Whites, 13-11, in the annual intra-squad exhibition game.

Coach Gerry Inglis watched the proceed-

ings from rinkside, while manager Don Fendley and trainer Terry Harlow handled the behind-the-bench coaching duties. Although the coach didn't put too much stock into what he saw, he was making some mental notes.

"Going on past performances, we've got some pretty good hockey players out there," Inglis commented, adding with a slight

grin that "we definitely need to look at some goaltenders and defencemen."

"It's hard to tell much at this point, because some of the guys have only been on the ice for a week. I just look at how different guys handle themselves, where they go when they don't have the puck. You can see what he knows about the game."

There doesn't seem to be any shortage of fire-

power on the club. Peter Mavroudis, who played for Dundas-Hamilton two years ago, scored a pair and assisted on three others for the victorious Red side. Tim Turner, a member of last year's Raider squad, duplicated those statistics for the White side.

Ron Kerr and Bob McDougall both fired hattricks for the Red side, and veteran Guy Cormier counted twice.

John Saunders, Gemini forward Lance Doucette and Tim Ampleford all counted single markers.

Terry Hopkins and Sean Simpson, who tolled last year with the Springfield Indians of the American Hockey League, both had two-goal nights for the Whites. Peter Sturgeon, Doug Spence, Dave Hill, Paul Gallagher, and Gary Landry all lit the lamp once.

Jr. Falcons stay 2nd

Georgetown Junior B Falcons 7 Hillsburgh 0

The Georgetown Junior B soccer Falcons held on to second place in the Peel Halton League with an easy victory over Hillsburgh Monday night.

Eric Clark opened the scoring for Georgetown with some neat footwork and a clever chip over the Hillsburgh goalkeeper's head, 15 minutes into the game. Ten minutes later, Dan Duneavy and Howie Oram combined to completely

subdue the visitors as Duneavy grabbed two quick goals, both from Oram's superb cross balls. The first one was a powerful left foot drive after a timely run and then a fine header at the far post.

Ten minutes into the second half, Georgetown went four goals up when Gerry Hulbert took a neat backpass from Doug Gillispie and crossed the ball for Ron Vanitem to run onto and score an easy goal against a beleaguered Hillsburgh defence. Rob

Fattore followed up with a well earned goal to make it 5-0 for the Junior Falcons and the romp was on.

Duneavy was tormenting the Hillsburgh defence constantly and he should have had his hattrick of goals when he missed two open goal chances. Clark snapped up his second goal of the game and Georgetown's sixth when he latched on to yet another fine cross from Oram.

Rob Allen should have made it seven when he

pounced onto a well centred ball from the ever dangerous Duneavy, but it was left to Joe Clare to put the lid on it with a solid shot to make it 7-0 for Georgetown with five minutes left in the game.

The Junior Falcons wind up what has been a good season when they visit Malton next Monday.

Burlington 2 Georgetown Junior B 2 In action last week, a last minute goal by Burlington may well

have cost the Georgetown Junior soccer Falcons their last chance to catch the leaders in the Peel Halton Junior B league.

This afternoon clash of two second-place teams was more like a brawl than a soccer game as five players were ejected by the referee.

Georgetown took too long to settle down on a wet greasy field and found themselves a goal down in less than five minutes.

Squash team nears title

A team from the Georgetown Racquet Club is within one game of clinching the Toronto and District 'C' League squash championship.

The six-man contingent from Georgetown will meet a team from the Mayfair West Club in Toronto today to decide the championship of the nine-team league. The match will be held at the Mayfair Parkway Club on Woodbine Avenue.

The local entry, including team captain Irwin Schandelmeyer, Boyd Hoddinott, Al Kogon, Rod Eastwood, John Collier and Lloyd Newman, finished the summer schedule in first place.

They knocked off Toronto's Greenwin Club, 5-0, in the quarter-finals, then advanced to the championship by edging Brampton's Terry Miller Recreation Complex, 3-2.

Power skating

The Halton Hills Recreation Department is once again offering their very popular Power Skating instruction program for interested young hockey players.

Qualified instruction provided by Chris Milne, Neil Cotton and Dale Law will ensure a profitable and enjoyable learning experience. Don't miss this opportunity to acquire skating skills to improve your hockey game.

The program is filling fast so register now for either the Monday 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. class or Thursday after school classes (4:15 to 5:00 p.m. or 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.).

In Acton, Power Skating is running on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. with Chris Milne. All programs are \$28 for 10 weeks. Register in person at either Recreation Office (25 James Street, Georgetown or 40 Mill Street, E., Acton) or register by mail using the form in the Recreation Department's Fall and Winter Brochure. For more information call 877-5185, ext. 19, 60.

Fit in the Fall

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department will be offering a full slate of fitness programs beginning in October. The following descriptions should help you choose the program that's just right for you.

Brian Pemberton's Adult Fitness Program on Wednesday evening in Acton begins with a moderate workout to warm up, followed by recreational activities that keep the class fun.

Fitness, swim and sauna is Nina De Vaal's popular Tuesday-evening class in Acton. Nina keeps you hopping with an hour of lively exercises then you head for the Acton Pool for a leisurely dip and a relaxing rest in the sauna.

Sixty-Minute Workout in Limehouse on Thursdays is a variation of fitness and dance class. Sandra Cousins will be using music to keep everyone in the class active for an hour while exercising your way toward better health, fitness, and appearance.

A Georgetown Sixty-Minute Workout is also being held. Mary McNally will be using music as a background for her moderate workout that will be promoting flexibility and improving overall fitness. Mary's Wednesday-evening class begins September 28.

New this year, at the Acton Pool, is Rose Thompson's Aqua Fitness class. Rose will lead you in an hour of shallow water exercises on Monday and Wednesday evenings. After the work out, relax for a while in the sauna, or swim a few lengths. (Registration for this program is held at the pool.)

Choose the class that's designed for you and start getting back in shape now.

Call the Recreation office for registration information at 877-5185, ext. 50 or 60.

Soccer leagues wrap up with Cup Day

Boys' champions decided in one-game format

Twelve divisional champions were crowned Saturday on the Georgetown Youth Soccer Club's Cup Day.

In boys' play, six exciting final games decided the house league Cup winners for the year, while round-robin play in each of the six girls' house league divisions wrapped up also.

Perhaps the most exciting match of the day was the bantam boys final, in which the underdog IGA squad upset the league champion Enforcers, 4-2, in a shoot out.

The same two clubs had met in a preliminary match Thursday night, battling to a 2-2 saw-off. In Saturday's deciding encounter, IGA's Stu Morgan counted the lone score of the first half in a match that would eventually require penalty kicks to reach a decision. An IGA teammate missed a golden opportunity in the first half when he missed a penalty kick.

Livio Fattore of the Enforcers tied it up at 1-1 with just 10 minutes left in regulation time, setting up a scoreless overtime period.

The match was decided when Dan Gallagher, Jeff Buykes and Morgen all scored for IGA in the shoot out. Stuart Barnes was the lone Enforcer marksmen to beat outstanding IGA goalkeeper Boris Babic.

In the boys minor atom final, Kevin Shaw converted a pass from Robert Harrison with less than four minutes to play to give the Panthers a 1-0 victory over the Thunderbirds.

The major atom final saw the

Black Stallions edge the Red Devils, 3-2. The hero of the day for the Stallions was Robert Walker, who scored his third goal of the contest on a breakaway during overtime.

After Walker had supplied the Stallions with an early 2-0 advantage, the Devils began fighting back, and Kevin Tanas halved the margin before the end of the first half on a pass from Stephen Lang.

The brilliant defensive work of Stallion Sam Huizenga frustrated the surging Devils through much of the second half, but Peter Blencowe finally took a pass from Stephen Burns and blasted it over the shoulder of Stallion goalie John Manning for the equalizer.

The minor squirt final saw the Blue Bombers shut out the Black Stallions for top honors, Dougie Sheppard and Brad Spears scored for the winning side.

Sheppard, with two goals, and Spears, managed all the scoring as the Blue Bombers blanked the Red Hawks to get to the final.

The Black Stallions blitzed the Black Hawks, 3-0, to advance to the final. Gavin Glaser popped a pair of goals for the winners, and David Bolskill added a single marker.

In the major squirt final, it was the Blizzards over the Falcons, 2-1. Colin Campbell and Steve Melkyuty found the range for the champs, who had gained a berth in the final by dumping the Yedis, 3-1.

Michael Jonassen scored the lone Falcon goal. The Falcons had reached the final by virtue of their 1-0 win over the Golden Eagles.

The Panthers clawed the Senior



Minor soccer action was fast and furious all around Georgetown on Saturday, as Cup champions were crowned in 12 house league divisions. Pictured above, Markuder attacker Tara Burroughs (left) tries to power her way around Pele defender Colleen Cannon in a peewee game, won by the Marsuders, 1-0. (Herald photo)

Gals crown winners after round-robin play

Raiders, 5-2, to take the peewee title. Terry Smith and Robert Caldwell both tallied twice for the winners, while Michael Baker added a single marker. Alain Thibault was steady in the Panther goal.

For the Panthers, winning the Cup capped off a season in which they also captured league honors. The Senior Raiders were a surprise team in the Cup final, however, after finishing last in the five-team league during seasonal play.

The final boys contest saw the Titans, a surprise team that rose from the middle of the league standings, upset the heavily-favored Raiders 3-0 to take the mosquito honors.

Simon Burns, Matthew Moore and Eddie Powers scored for the Titans.

The girls decided their divisional champions on the basis of round-robin tournament play.

In the mini squirt division, the Red Flames garnered 15 points to emerge as overall winners. Saturday, the Flames tripled the Leprechauns 3-1, getting a pair of goals from Tracy Metler, and a single marker from Emily Hamilton. Jennifer Appar was the lone Leprechaun attacker to beat Flame goalie Shannon Brown all day.

Earlier the Flames had white-washed the Blue Bombers, 3-0, on goals by Heather Donker, Lisa Reid and Deanne Fowler. The Flames also battled to a scoreless draw against the Firebirds.

The Gators edged out the Frosties by a single point to win the Cup in the mosquito girls division.

With all the marbles on the line, the Gators triumphed over the Frosties, 1-0, Saturday. Sherri Nairn cashed in on a well-placed Julie Ross pass for the winning goal.

Earlier Saturday, the Frosties had gained a berth in the final match by dumping the Silver Dollars, 3-1 while the Gators tied the Bruisers, 0-0.

The Cosmos were easy winners in the girls atom league, with 19 points. The second-place Golden Gals accumulated 14 points in Cup play.

Saturday, the Cup-champion Cosmos doubled the Blue Bandits, 2-1. Mylene Denito and Kimberly Mizener scored for the Cosmos, while Laurie Doyle replied for the Bandits.

The Blue Bandits were league runners-up to the champion Cosmos after regular-season play concluded in August.

The Red Power needed to go to a shoot out to defeat Hillsburgh, 2-1, and win the peewee girls honors. Sandy Rahn and Kim Daquano scored for the champs.

The Mustangs repeated their league championship by winning the Cup in bantam play. The Mustangs accumulated 11 points, two points better than second-place Brampton Lions.

Early Saturday, the 'Stangs nipped the Blue Angels, 1-0, to set up a show down game with Brampton. Suzanne Parker scored the winning goal, while Kelly Roe and Chris Wilcox backstopped the shutout in the Mustang goal.

That afternoon, the champs battled the Lions to a scoreless draw to take the Cup.