

Dixon named Heritage Award winner

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

The only man to ever coach a local team to the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament grand championship has been named the seventh recipient of the prestigious Hockey Heritage Award.

Fifty-one-year-old Ron Dixon, a former Georgetown Raider great who became one of the most successful minor hockey coaches the town has ever known, was notified Wednesday night by Hockey Heritage Council member Roy Ward. Ward was chairman of the council's five-man selection committee.

"I was shocked," the owner of R. Dixon Milk Transport told The Herald. "I didn't know my name had been nominated. An hour before they called

me, my wife and I were talking about who should win it this year."

The previous winners were Jack Harrison, Roy Norton Sr., Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Gerry Inglis, Bud James and Bob Lane.

Dixon moved to Norval with his family in 1948. Eight years later he married his wife, Janice.

Dixon patrolled right wing for 12 years as a Georgetown Raider. Known for his aggressive play and his goal-scoring touch, he was a member of the 1956-57 Intermediate 'A' champs, and the 1957-58 Intermediate 'B' provincial winners.

Dixon became most well-known for his coaching exploits, in four years with the bantams and another eight years with the Sunny Acres Farms midgets.

Coaching the 1967 bantam team to the Georgetown tournament championship was just the beginning of Dixon's long and illustrious coaching career. The same club, still under Dixon's tutelage but competing as midgets, won the GMHA Midget Tourney the next two seasons. They were Tri-County champions both years, advancing to the OMHA finals in the spring of 1968.

Another midget crew coached by Dixon captured the overall championship at the 110-team Drummondville, Quebec, tournament in 1971. Dixon returned to repeat the victory with another group of boys three winters later.

Dixon credits his coaching successes to his ability to get along with his players.

"Some of them still call me Mr.

Dixon, and I was the only coach in town who made them cut their hair," Dixon said. "I enjoyed coaching the boys. Helping them was the most important thing."

"It didn't matter whether it was hockey, or personal. Any problem they had, I had."

Hockey Heritage Council president Dave Kentner was overjoyed at the selection of Dixon as this year's winner.

"I'm extremely excited and proud," Kentner told The Herald. "Every year they seem to come up with a more appropriate winner."

"Ron Dixon is the ideal model of the guy we want. He is exactly the type of person we are always looking for."

The Hockey Heritage dinner will be held Monday, March 5, at the Holy Cross Auditorium.



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Two more wins, Raiders unbeaten in five



PLAYING THE FIELD

GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

Hockey coach is teacher

Steve Curtis has seen a lot in his 25 years of coaching minor hockey. A lot of good, some bad, and some ugly. Sounds like his coaching career would make a good movie, eh?

To be sure, there are good coaches, and there are bad ones. The unfortunate part is that the damage one bad coach can do to one small kid is probably more dramatic and telling than the good a season with a fine mentor such as Curtis can instill.

That doesn't mean Curtis will accept less-than-respectable behavior from his minor hockey lodge brothers, however. The 43-year-old father of two still recalls, bitterly, the day he threatened to pull his team of nine-year-olds off the ice rather than expose them to an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed coach.

"Sometimes you see a guy behind the bench, and you just know he shouldn't be there," Curtis said with a pained look about him. "The way he centers his kids out, or the way he tears a referee apart."

"A coach like that corrupts his kids, to the point where they are hollering at each other, and have no respect for the officials. I feel sorry for kids under a coach like that."



STEVE CURTIS

A veteran of the MTHL and the Catholic Youth Organization hockey programs in Toronto, with a decade of service with the GMHA under his belt, Curtis knows what he's talking about. And because he's really no more than a big kid himself at times, he finds it easy to practice what he preaches.

"Nine-year-olds aren't stupid, by any means," the coach of the local minor atom repals likes to make abundantly clear. "I try to be their friend, somebody they can rely on and confide in."

"If they can confide in an individual, then he can give them the direction they need."

When Curtis refers to "direction," he is defining his role. He is a hockey coach, which applied to nine-year-olds, translates into teaching.

With the really young ones, Curtis says, you're still emphasizing off-sides at Christmas. By season's end, he hopes to have instilled a basic break-out play, and one reliable attacking formation for the offensive zone.

If there is any great moral lesson he tries to impart, it has to do with setting goals and obtaining them. In October he told his young charges, who currently stand third in their 11-team league with 19 wins and three ties in 26 outings, that they would strive to beat each league opponent at least once over the course of the season. Last week they recorded back-to-back decisions over Flamboro and Orangeville, the league's one-two punch, to accomplish that target.

"Everybody has to reach for something," Curtis reasons. "We got satisfaction from reaching those team goals, and our boys really came together as a unit to do it."

That's as far as Curtis likes to go when it comes to the spiritual enlightenment of his players. He doesn't feel he is ignoring an important part of the job when he declines the opportunity to become a role model. He argues, simply, that the boys don't need it.

"I don't think there is a problem kid in hockey," Curtis explains. "If he was a problem, he wouldn't play. He would be out on the street corner, causing trouble."

So what does the coach need? Why does he spend five hours each week at the rink with his skates and whistle, a clipboard and 14 runny noses? Why does he spend four hours each week on the phone, running up the long-distance bill? Why does a grown man, tired from a long day's work, trek off to a gym every Wednesday night after supper to play ball hockey with a bunch of squirts?

"I enjoy sitting in the arena, and having the kids from the past years come up and chew the fat with me," Curtis explained.

Fair pay for a job well-done, he reasons.

The Georgetown Raiders are still perfect for the month of

January, winning two more Ontario Senior 'A' Hockey League games

on the weekend. With their 5-3 and 9-5 decisions over Colling-

wood and Barrie, respectively, the Raiders have won five

straight in 1984. They currently stand third overall in the nine-team

league, trailing Cambridge and Petrolia by three points. The Raiders hold games-in-hand over both of the leaders.

Saturday night, before a small crowd at Gordon Alcott Arena, the Raiders lured back a less-talented but determined bunch of Barrie Broncos. In fact, the Georgetown lead was a shaky 4-3 after 40 minutes, and 6-5 at the 13:50 mark of the final frame.

It was a shorthanded goal by center Tim Ampleford, his third of the night, that sent the Raiders on to victory.

Dave Hill and Doug Fry connected in the game's closing minutes to put the game on ice.

The Raiders never trailed in this one, but they couldn't seem to shake their pesky opponents. Gary McFadyen and Ampleford found the range as Georgetown led 2-1, after one period.

John Saunders made it 3-1, but the visitors fought back to even the count. Team goal-scoring leader Paul Gallagher restored the Raider margin when he tipped

in a Fry shot with 11 seconds left on the second-period clock.

Newcomer Rick Bince scored a third-period goal for Georgetown.

Brad Miller was fairly busy in the Raider goal, handling 41 of 46 shots he faced. The home team fired 63 shots at Barrie netminder Mike Laycock.

It was a Gallagher goal in the opening minutes of the second period that turned out to be the winner as the Raiders dumped the Shipbuilders in Collingwood Friday night.

Rugged winger Ron Twiss counted a pair of first-period goals, both from Bince and Ampleford. Gary Landry also scored for Georgetown in the opening period, from Fry.

Landry and Fry then combined to set up Gallagher with the decisive marker, just 1:15 into the middle frame. Bince added an insurance marker when he scored an unassisted goal with less than three minutes left in the period.

Friday night the Raiders host Dundas-Hamilton, before travelling to Barrie Saturday night.



Georgetown Raider winger Ron Twiss (18) steps out in front of Barrie defender Joe Belesky (20) during Friday night's 9-5 Raider win. Bronco goaltender Mike Laycock concentrates on making the save, one of 54 shots he handled. Twiss had a pair of assists in the Raider romp. (Herald photo)

Gemini top Thornhill, tie Mimico moving in on fourth-place finish

The Georgetown Gemini went undefeated in three Central Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League starts this week, as they continue to gear up for the upcoming playoffs.

With five regular season games left, the Gems are currently battling the Burlington Cougars for fourth place overall in the nine-team standings. Streetsville, Oakville and Barrie will finish one-two-three respectively.

The Gems have won 15 and tied two of 35 starts for 32 points. The Cougars lead Georgetown by a point, but have played one more game. Burlington visits Gordon Alcott Arena Tuesday night in a game that

could decide fourth place, and which team will enjoy home-ice advantage in the opening round of the playoffs. The Gems and the Cougars will almost certainly meet in the quarter-finals.

Saturday night, the Gems rode a Bill Bathgate hattrick to a 6-4 win in Thornhill.

The home-town Thunderbirds struck first, but Bathgate connected on the power play from Dave Doucette to even the count with less than three minutes to play in the period. Doucette then teamed with Bob Davey to set up Terry West in the final minute of the period, as the Gems took the lead.

Riv Kennedy and Bathgate both counted power play goals as the Gems tailored a 4-3 advantage after 40 minutes. Kent Falby bagged the winning goal exactly 12 minutes into the final frame.

Bathgate's third of the evening was a shorthanded affair at the 19:35 mark of the third period.

As always, Wayne Cowley backstopped the victory, turning away 35 of 39 Thornhill shots.

Friday night at Gordon Alcott Arena, the Gems watched a two-goal lead disappear as the Mimico Monarchs scored twice in the final 46 seconds to gain a 6-6 tie.

Chris Peavoy's two power play goals, and a shorthanded marker by Davey, were good enough to send the Gems off the ice tied at 3-3 after the opening session.

Pete Bates and Bob Dean scored second-period goals for Georgetown, and it appeared Gord McArthur had wrapped it up when he connected for an unassisted marker at the 12:21 mark of the third.

Friday night the Gems travel to Milton to face the Steamers, before hosting the powerful Streetsville Derbys Saturday at Gordon Alcott Arena.

Lions give up bantam tourney GMHA executive taking over

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

The 1984 Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament will be the last for the Lions Club.

After organizing the bantam tourney for the past six years, the Lions are handing the job over to the experts - the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association.

GMHA vice-president Wayne Pries has been named tournament co-chairman. He told The Herald this week that the 24th annual Bantam Tournament would go ahead as scheduled, the week of the March school break (March 10-17).

John Finn of the Georgetown Lions will join Pries as a tourney co-chairman. He told The Herald this week that the Lions will support the GMHA in the running of this year's tourney, in a supportive role. Lions will look after ticket sales, promotions, the hospitality room, and program sales.

Both Finn and Pries confirmed the GMHA takeover was due to sagging interest in the tournament. With less than seven weeks left to the March break, just 12 tourney applications have

been confirmed. Historically, Georgetown has hosted between 40 and 50 teams for the event.

Pries immediately announced some format changes for the 1984 tourney. The final line-up will consist of four, eight-team divisions (AAA, AA, A, B). Also, meals will no longer be served at the arena for the players, ending a long-standing tradition.

"We saw this coming last year," Pries said. "The interest is dropping, and the service clubs just don't have the hockey background we do."

"We have to go out and get some teams now. We're going to go out and ask for help from all the hockey centers. We're going to mail out about 200 applications."

After this year, the bantam tournament will be a GMHA fundraiser. The GMHA midget hockey tourney raised approximately \$4,000 earlier this month.

The bantam tourney was founded in 1961 by Red Asseltine. The Kinsmen began organizing the event in 1967, and continued to do so for the next 11 years. Al Martin and the Lions stepped in originally in 1978, and have been running the tourney as a solo project since 1980.

Heritage feature team named

The 1967 Georgetown Pontiac bantams, the only team to ever win the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament Grand Championship, have been named the 1984 Hockey Heritage Feature Team.

The Pontiac bantams were coached by this year's Hockey Heritage Award winner, Ron Dixon, and managed by former Georgetown Raider president Bob Hooper.

The records show that the Georgetown bantams swept to the 'C' Division crown in the 46-team competition, then defeated Hamilton and Levaak to win the overall title.

The locals cruised through Markham, Hespeler and Milton to face Leamington in their divisional final. They won that, 3-2, on the strength of an overtime goal by present-day Georgetown Raider center Juri Kudrasovs.

Goaltender John Blair didn't allow another goal, as Georgetown defeated Hamilton 6-0, and Levaak, 3-0.

Kudrasovs counted a hattrick in the final game, while Clive Lewellyn, Paul Fendley and Jamie Moody notched single markers.

Georgetown team captain Ray Inglis was honored as the tournament's most-valuable-player, while teammate Benny Heppes was selected the most-gentlemanly-player.

Team members included Kudrasovs, Llewellyn, Moody, Fendley, Blair, Inglis, Heppes, Dave Ward, Ron Fogal, Gerry Neil, Gord Foeter, Brian Beaumont, Dave Gareau, Ray Inglis, and Neil Korzack.

The same club was defeated in the OMHA playdowns by Bowmanville.

Sports in brief

Volleyball winner

Sophomore Jenny Smith of 35 Chelvin Dr., Georgetown, was a member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology women's volleyball team which recently finished fourth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Championships in La Verne, CA.

Smith, 20, a 5'5" setter, helped MIT post a 41-2 record this season which was the squad's best mark in nine years of competition. A two-year varsity letterwinner, Smith is an aeronautics and astronautics major at MIT.

Squash men win

The Georgetown Racquet Club men's 'D' League team hosted and easily defeated the Toronto Squash Club last Tuesday.

Murray Jans, Ken Thorn and John McNally all won by perfect 3-0 scores for the home side, while Brian Day was a 3-1 winner.

Kevin Sandifer fell, 0-3, in his match. The Georgetown ladies travelled to Richmond Hill in Day League play, where they defeated their hosts, 3-1.

Wendy Cotton, Pat Harris and Jan Cook were all 3-0 winners for the locals. Gloria Sinclair fell 2-3 in her match.

Rebs take two of three

The Rebel basketball teams went to White Oaks in Oakville on Thursday. Georgetown defeated Oakville in the midget and junior games.

The GDHS midgets won 43-40. Jeff Jansen played well as a substitute in this particular game. Pat Braund scored 28 points for the Rebels. Dean Marks and Lou DePaoli scored 10 points each. Glen McCaughy had six points.

The junior Rebels also defeated White Oaks, 43-40. The seniors, however, were defeated 63-52.

Atoms finish first

By GARY LANE
Herald correspondent

In a dramatic game this week the Georgetown McNally Construction Firefighter atoms edged out Burlington for first place in the final contest of the regular season.

Going into Sunday's final game Georgetown trailed league-leading Burlington by a pair of points but a win would give Georgetown the title on a better goals-for-and-against basis.

In the opening period Jason Smith tucked in a Dave Lawrence rebound after some fine work by Robbie Lang to keep the puck in the Burlington zone to put Georgetown in front 1-0.

McNally crew a 4-1 win.