

Coach Andrews enjoys training athletes

By DAN RALPH
Herald Staff

Even after 19 years of being a coach of track and field and cross country running, Bruce Andrews says he has more to learn about the sports.

The Acton High School coach said one can never know too much about their sport.

"I think the deeper you go, the more you know you have to learn," he said. "I've always wanted to find out more about the sport."

Andrews had quite an impressive athletic career before set-

ting his sights on coaching. He began running in 1956 and at one time was the Canadian juvenile record holder in the mile.

In 1962 he was offered an athletic scholarship at Seton Hall in New Jersey. Andrews responded by being a top runner in his freshman year.

As well, he was a member of the Seton Hall two mile relay team that for two years (1964 and '65) was the national indoor champions. Upon graduation in 1966, Andrews landed a position at Acton High School, and has been there ever

since.

But Andrews continued competing after he began his teaching career. However, after four years of mixing the two, he did find it to be quite hard.

"I tried to stay in running, but soon I realized my work commitment took time from training, so after four years I decided to get out of running. I have no regrets though. I'm satisfied I made a try at it."

Andrews has been involved as a full time coach for the past four years, and is currently lending his expertise to senior runner Doreen Uranick and midget Marla Brillinger, both Acton High School students. He also coaches George Gidman, who attends York University.

Andrews sees a distinct difference between coaching an athlete in high school and taking over as the fulltime mentor.

"If you can do anything over the long term, the kid gets a better chance. In high school you might work the athlete too hard and he might become disenchanted and go to a different sport."

Andrews said he became involved as a fulltime coach because there was something about it that made him curious.

"I've always wanted to see if a person could make it if the opportunity was there," he said. "Also, it



BRUCE ANDREWS

was somewhat of a challenge.

"The biggest thrill for me is having someone learn more and know I had a hand in it."

How an athlete places in a race though is not always the best indicator for monitoring progress, Andrews said.

"I think you have to be patient and allow the athletes to make their own mistakes because that is the only way they will get the experience."

As for what his future plans are, Andrews said he is happy doing what he is currently doing.

"I enjoy working with young athletes," he said.

Minor hockey president takes an active interest

By DAN RALPH
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An interest in his son's hockey was how Wayne Pries eventually became president of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association (GMHA).

Eight years ago Pries' son Mark was playing rep hockey at the minor atom level in the old support league. Pries heard there would be a league meeting, and decided to attend.

It was at that meeting he became ice convenor for the league, and became involved in minor hockey. The next year Pries became treasurer, and was named president in his third year.



WAYNE PRIES

The support league (originally called the Georgetown Minor Hockey Support Group) was for the 10 rep teams of the time while the house league teams were members of the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association. In Pries' first years as support league president, the two sides decided to merge, and form the present GMHA.

"I think now there is more opportunity for kids like the fringe player," Pries said. "There is more access to good hockey."

When the two united to form one organization Sept. 9, 1982, Pries

was named vice-president in charge of hockey and held that position for two years.

Last year he became president of the association.

Pries said the president's job can be one of two things. "You can be a director and catalyst, or you can take an active interest. I take the active interest," he said.

Raising funds each year is one of the more important duties for Pries, and he said Georgetown is one of the few areas where registration fees are at least reasonable. Places like Oakville charge user fees to those interested in playing hockey.

"Fundraising is the only way we can keep hockey down to a reasonable cost, and is the only way we can keep the registration fees down," he said.

This year has been a busy one for the association in terms of tournaments held and so forth. Pries adds it has also been a successful one.

"We started the atom-peewee tournament for the first time and took over the annual bantam tournament. Of course the Ontario "AA" midget hockey tournament wound everything up nicely."

In that tournament Georgetown's Sunny Acre Farm midgets captured a bronze medal before the hometown fans at the Alcott Arena.

Georgetown has also hosted some out-of-town visitors. This winter a touring Swedish hockey team was in town for an exhibition game, and a Newfoundland team was present for the bantam tournament. Pries said the association will continue to ask out-of-town teams like these two to come here for games.

When there were two hockey organizations in Georgetown, many more people were involved. But Pries said now that there is just the one, the number of people involved is surprisingly low.

"Now as one organization we need more," he said.



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