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Page 8 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, March 19, 1986

Team dominates Kitchener in final

Markham bantam tourney champs

Markham Winterhawks overwhelmed Kitchener 9-0 Saturday night to claim top honors at the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's International Bantam Hockey Tournament.

Saturday's championship contest culminated the tourney action which began a week ago Saturday at the Alcott Arena.

Markham's win came over a Kitchener team that wasn't psychologically into the game. Kitchener had registered a major upset earlier in the cross-over playoff by defeating North York Civics 5-4 in overtime. That game was Kitchener's biggest win of the tournament and the team wasn't able to come back in time for the championship. Markham qualified for the final with an 11-3 win over Oshawa.

North York won the A-Division (AAA teams) with a 3-2 decision over Guelph where Kitchener edged past Erindale 3-2 in the C-Division (A) competition. In other division finals, Oshawa beat Chinguacousy 5-4 in the D-Division championship (B-BB) while Markham won the B-Division (AA) with a 4-3 win over Ottawa-Valley.

After taking part in the division final the existing four teams played a cross-over with the A-champ taking on the C-champ and the B and D class winners tangling. The two winners then met in the tournament final.

Halton Hills had a total of three teams take part in the tournament. In D-class competition the Acton Firefighter bantams made it to the playoff round before losing 2-0 to Chinguacousy in the semi-finals. Acton played six games in the tournament and won two, lost two and tied two. The reason for the three more games was that Acton replaced Beamsville in the second D-division after Beamsville pulled out. In the second division Acton won two and tied one to make the semi final round. In the D-class first division Acton tied one and lost two.

In their opening 5-3 loss to Chinguacousy Sean Sears, Troy Foster and Mike Simmons had the goals for Acton while Lee Yaroshack had two assists. Next Acton tied Oshawa 3-3 as Sears had two goals and Rob Murray had the other. Carl Yaroshack had two assists. In their final first division game Acton lost 2-0.

Competing in the second division Acton defeated Georgetown 5-0 as Tim Oakley, Dennis Swinamer, Simmons, David Roden and Mike Browner had the goals. Acton then beat Brooklin-Whitby 5-2 as Simmons had two goals and Swinamer, Sears and Oakley had singles. In their final game Acton tied Levaek 4-4 as Sears, Swinamer, Browner and Roden scored the goals.

Georgetown's Johnson and Associates Bantam II team also competed in the D-class but lost its three games to Acton (5-0), Brooklin-Whitby (10-1) and Levaek (8-0). Glenn Mulder scored the lone Georgetown goal.

In the "C" division the M and M Pro Sports squad played six games and qualified for the playoff round before losing 6-3 to Erindale. In that game the winners led 5-0 after two periods before Georgetown came back to cut the score to 5-3. However Erindale scored its sixth goal to put the game out of reach. Alain Thibault had two goals for the locals while Frazer Dougal had the other.

Georgetown lost its first three games to Erindale (6-1), Unionville (3-1) and Kitchener (4-1) before replacing Downsview in the other division. Brent Presswood, Wayne Snow and Dougal scored in Georgetown's first three games respectively. In their first contest there Georgetown lost 4-3 to Hamilton before beating Northwest 2-0 and Humberview 9-8. Snow, Adam Bennett and Presswood scored in the loss to Hamilton while Doug Kent had the goals in the Northwest win. Bennett had four goals in the Humberview win while Presswood had three goals and an assist. Thibault had a goal and two assists while Snow had the other.

Tournament director Wayne Pries said he was pleased with how the event went and had words of praise for the many volunteers who gave of their time and effort.

"That's the only way it could have happened," he said.

But that wasn't to suggest no problems arose. A coach received a major and game misconduct after throwing a water bottle at an offi-

cial. Also, in the Acton-Chinguacousy playoff game a fan got a little too close to some

Chinguacousy players after the players themselves used improper language to the fan while he was in the stands. Nothing major arose from the incident.

"Unfortunately these things happen," Pries said.

Pries also said of the championship game it appeared Kitchener was flat after their upset win over North York.

"They (Kitchener) held their own but couldn't score," he said. "In the win over North York, Kitchener had a game plan and stuck to it."

NOTES: Two Central Scouting representatives were present at the tournament, including the director

of Central Scouting of the Ontario Hockey League....Three 50-50 prizes were left unclaimed. Ticket 944551 on Saturday's draw won \$110 while Tuesday's ticket 945333 won \$51. Also, the Thursday March 13 pick of 143337 left a prize of \$30.

Glen ace hurling for OFL club

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
Intercountry Fastball League batters will get a little break this year when facing Glen Williams Specters.

The defending league champs will be without pitcher Mark Curtis this season. The 25-year-old righthander has been contacted by Burlington of the Ontario Fastball League and is currently working out indoors with the club in preparation for the league opener May 9.

"I was surprised when I got the call," Curtis said. "I had never even thought about baseball until I got it."

The Burlington team finished third last year in the Ontario playdowns, going with a two-man pitching rotation. However, during the course of the season the two hurlers both had injury problems, forcing the club to seriously look at using three pitchers rather than two. At the indoor workouts the two returning players and Curtis comprise the Burlington pitching corps.



Mark Curtis

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "You've got to be using your head a lot. It's good ball."

In addition the Burlington team is helping Curtis find a job there. Curtis said the team is trying to land him a spot with the city. Curtis is currently looking for a job.

Playing in the OFL will be homecoming of sorts for Curtis. Four years ago he played for Kilbride (just north of Burlington) of the Inter-City Fastball League before heading west to play in Regina, Saskatchewan. Since Curtis left Kilbride and the IFL, it has merged with the OFL. Curtis has been with Glen Williams the past two years since playing industrial ball in Hornby after returning from Regina.

"My major goal will be just to survive," Curtis said jokingly. "And not get hammered all around the park."

"I've been working on an off-speed drop the last year and I'd like to get that mastered this year," Curtis added.

After finishing third in Ontario last year Curtis said the Burlington team is setting its goals high this season.

"They think they have a good shot at the Ontarios," he said. "Their goal is the Canadians."



WHOOPING IT UP - Members of the Markham bantam hockey team celebrate after winning the grand championship at the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's International Bantam Hockey Tournament. Markham defeated Kitchener 9-0 in the final Saturday night at the Alcott Arena. See photos on A9.

Rebels runner heading South on scholarship

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
Seven years of pounding the pavement has paid off in the way of an athletic scholarship for Erik Hopkins.

The Grade 13 Georgetown District High School student will attend East Tennessee State University this fall on a cross-country and track scholarship. Hopkins will formally sign all the papers in May when he visits the campus again.

As a result of getting the scholarship Hopkins will receive his running equipment free from Adidas. Also, the scholarship will be renewed on an annual basis.

Hopkins, 19, said getting a scholarship wasn't on his mind when he first began running in Grade six at Centennial Middle School. In fact he didn't take running seriously until after finishing second in his first Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) race as a midget in 1981.

"It will be a whole different atmosphere," Hopkins said. "I'll be leaving my friends behind and it will be like a whole new start on life. But it will be a challenge."

Hopkins has run both track and cross country at Georgetown since Grade nine. At East Tennessee Hopkins will run varying cross country distances while tackling the mile and two mile events in track. Hopkins has qualified for OFSAA in cross-country each of the past five years and has finished in the top 10 twice. However Hopkins hasn't run in an OFSAA track meet as of yet.

Hopkins also runs for the Scarborough Optimists under the watchful eye of national coach Brian Barnes. It was partly through Barnes' connections at East Tennessee that coaches there became aware of Hopkins. Barnes knows coaches there and has sent many Canadian runners to the school in recent years.



Erik Hopkins

Rebels cross country co-coach Donna Metcalfe said Hopkins has the potential to do well at the American school.

"I think Erik has more potential in track than he has shown," she said. "In cross country he should do well. Erik is a great person and is very coachable."

As for his academic selection Hopkins is hoping to combine pre-med and physical education and would like to study kinesiology or sports medicine.

As for future goals, Hopkins' ultimate dream is to represent Canada in the Olympic Games. He said if such a dream becomes a reality it won't be for a little while yet.

"That is my dream, my ultimate goal but if it does happen it won't be until 1992 or 1996. Runners tend not to hit their peak until later years," he said.

Coaching clinic

On April 4, 5 and 6 there will be a Technical Level III Coaching Clinic in Acton. This program includes 20 hours of lecture, movies and discussion and 4 hours of work on the ice.

Top skier guest speaker

Canada's top female downhill skier will be stopping into Georgetown next month to speak at the Town of Halton Hills Honor and Recognition evening.

Ingleswood Ont. native Laurie Graham will be the guest speaker at the Town function. Graham is currently enjoying her best season on the ladies world downhill ski circuit.

The Honors and Recognition evening is slated for April 2.



Laurie Graham



Playing The Field

By Dan Ralph
Herald Sports Editor

Ball plans have come a long way

Gone are the days (if there ever were any) where Canada's youth baseball team can get together for a couple of weeks during the summer, play a little ball then pack up for the World championship tournament and expect to contend with other nations. When you're dealing with players from all across Canada, more time is needed to make the unit a cohesive one capable of contending for a global title.

Later this month national youth team manager Jim Ridley will know if steps towards providing a more concrete and longer preparation time for this year's team will be taken. Sport Canada will decide if it can allocate more funds into Baseball Canada which would mean the youth team spending about five weeks at training camp in preparation for this year's tournament.

Ridley's plan would call for a developmental camp slated for early July where about 50 recruits would spend eight or nine days working on conditioning and teaching. After the list of players trying out would be cut to about 25-30 and those individuals would attend the main camp where practice and playing exhibition games would be the major activities. Upon selecting the final roster the team would head off to Windsor where this year's tournament is being played.

"This will be our fourth season and it's taken a lot of lobbying, in-fighting and discussion to get this far," Ridley said. "If I got four (or five) weeks I could guarantee we would have a better product. I honestly believe we'll be together for five weeks."



Jim Ridley

But the Stewarttown Public School teacher understands all of his plans are teetering on whether or not Sport Canada decides in favour of extending the funding to Baseball Canada. When it comes to funding Sport Canada tends to give money to those sports recognized as Olympic events. To date baseball hasn't achieved such status, but that could change as early as this summer. Baseball was introduced as demonstrator sports in the '84 Games held in Los Angeles and was in the top three in terms of spectator turnout. There's been talk that baseball will become a recognized Olympic event before the '88 Games slated for Seoul, Korea.

"This year could find baseball as an Olympic sport," Ridley said. "If so the avenues for appropriate funding are multi."

"The plans are contingent on funding, but I've made plans for a developmental camp and training camp," Ridley added. "We'll know somewhere around March 25 or 26 but I think we've come a long way from nine days in 1983 to what we've been planning now."

Ridley is also involved in recruiting prospects for the Blue Jays' University program. The program will offer baseball scholarships at British Columbia universities through sponsorship by the Blue Jays, Labatt's,

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