

Hardball in Philadelphia

Teens' tourney squashed

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff
Two Georgetown squash players have mixed feelings about the cancellation of their first international hardball tournament.

Karen Smith, 16, and Melanie Jans, 13, were supposed to play in the Marriott Junior Team Tourney this weekend in Philadelphia. The tickets were purchased and the girls were as ready as they could be. Unfortunately, days before the competition the tournament was cancelled. No explanations were supplied by tournament organizers, said Christine Kogon, the coach.

In some respects, the news was a tragedy. The girls had been practising two hours most evenings for the past two months in preparation. They were learning a new game.

Melanie and Karen usually play softball. Hardball is the American game. The hardball has more bounce and the game is faster, Karen said. The good news is because of their experience in the new game, they will be playing in the Canadian hardball championships.

"I wasn't too upset. Even though I did the training I couldn't see myself there," Karen said of the cancelled trip to Philadelphia. Two months is not enough time to learn to play hardball, and Karen didn't feel com-

pletely prepared, she said. "It was a difficult switch from softball to hardball, and I was disappointed. I wanted to go," Melanie said.

The girls from the Georgetown Racquet Club will be able to compete in the Canadian Junior Hardball championships in Kitchener Feb. 20-23. They gained more from their practice of hardball than that consolation though.

For Karen, she discovered she likes hardball more than softball and would like to continue to play it. "I got a lot of good from playing hardball," Melanie said. The speed of hardball has helped her reflexes and improved her softball game.

And softball is Melanie's game. At the Canadian championships in Sarina last year Melanie finished fourth in the 14 years old and under category. She is looking forward to taking first place at the Canadian softball championships this spring.

Softball is the chosen game of her future, she said. Becoming the Canadian champion in the under 16-year-old and under 19-year-old categories is her aim. Although it is her favorite sport squash is not the only game Melanie enjoys.

At her school, Stewartown Public School, Melanie is the captain of the girls volleyball and basketball teams. She is also one of Stewart-

town's best cross country runners. Jazz dancing once per week and ballet twice a week are two other ways she fills up the hours of her days.

Like Melanie, Karen pursues excellence. The honor student at Georgetown District High School is a member of the student council and is on the executive of the marketing club. She also works at the library.

"I want to be at the top of my field," she said. Her field is business, and she will be seeking a degree in business from the University of Western Ontario when she graduates from high school.

Karen identifies with Alex Keaton (the character played by Michael Fox on Family Ties). "I like money," she said.

Although the girls have different interests, they both love squash. Each has been playing squash for three years, and for the last two years Karen and Melanie have been coached by Christine Kogon and Murray Jans.

The girls who are separated by one inch in height, Karen is smaller at 5 feet 2 inches, are also about equal in skill. You never know who will win when they play, Karen said. "We're both mentally and physically enthusiastic. It's the only way to become good," she said.



READY SET-Preparing for this smash is Karen Smith while teammate Melanie Jans watches. The girls from the Georgetown Racquet Club are practising for the Canadian Junior Hardball Championships in February. (Herald photo)

Atom A's stomp Erin 3-1

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The Georgetown Major Atom "A" Hockey Moms continued their strong play against Erin last Friday night taking the game 3-1. Matt Deruchie stood out with two goals and one assist. Jason Walker scored the other goal with Charlie Snook picking up an assist. Erin led 1-0 until Deruchie tied the game up with 30 seconds to go in the first period.

The final two Georgetown goals were scored with about five minutes to play. The entire team played outstanding hockey.

The team opened their best of three regional Ontario playoff against Milton Sunday afternoon with a 5-2 loss. The team played excellent hockey but Lady Luck was not with them. Georgetown worked hard for their two goals. Jason Walker scored the first goal of the game with Andrew Marshall and Ryan Brain assisting at the 9:46 mark of the second period. Matt Deruchie scored at the 6:59 mark of the second period to give Georgetown a 2-0 lead.

Contest sheer stamina with only 9 players

The M and M Pro Sports Major Bantams came up on the short end in their first two games of the season. The game against Chinguacousy could have gone either way as Georgetown was playing well. However, numerous penalties, particularly six in the third period, probably contributed to Chinguacousy's 4-2 win. Both Georgetown goals were scored by Brent Presswood with assists going to Doug Kent (2), Bill Tutt and Chris McCarthy. Curtis Green saw duty in goal.

The final game at home to Orangeville boiled down to sheer stamina. Both sides used only nine players. Georgetown started out

strong by taking a 3-1 lead but were unable to keep the pressure on. Orangeville chipped away at that lead, finally beating the home team 5-3. Goalie Sean Cotton kept Georgetown in the game in the second period, but his teammates were uninspired to rally. Two of Georgetown's goals came from Steve Sutherland and one from Doug Kent. Assists went to Adam Bennett who had three, Brent Presswood, Sean Cotton and Greg Onoprijenko.

UMHA playoffs start this week in a best two out of three series against Chinguacousy. Georgetown finished the season in fifth spot.

This weekend the major bantams travel to Ridgeway for the Groundhog Hockey Tournament. Their parents wish them good hockey, good sportsmanship and lots of scoring!

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