

Georgetown refs are tough says president



Forward line.....

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

With a threat to cut funding, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation probably made many hockey fans in Halton Hills uncomfortable two weeks ago.

Those threats came under a blanket of changes called improvements in safety and fitness, and affected more than just hockey. But for hockey fans there was little doubt the changes were aimed at Canada's first sport, especially after the Junior hockey war on ice between Canada and the Soviet Union. Amateur leagues not attempting to reduce hockey violence could lose

their funding, according to a proposed amendment to the Tourism and Recreation Act. The ministry gives \$25 million for upgrading and building arenas each year and supplies \$12 million for coaching programs.

"Georgetown will have no problem attaining funding," according to Ray Pasma, president of the Georgetown Referee Association. "The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association is one of the better run organizations in southern Ontario," he said.

And the Georgetown officials, "they are tough", Pasma said. The players in Georgetown should also take some of the credit for a league without excessive violence, Pasma said.

Tourism minister, John Eakins, said he plans to introduce stiffer penalties for fighting and dangerous stick play. Pasma believes there are too many rules already and that

"rules don't necessarily fix things."

The rule on dangerous stick play is a strong one. It's just a matter of enforcing it. If the minor hockey rule was enforced, teams would have someone in the penalty box all the time, Pasma said. The rule is, no player should have a stick too high within a stick length of another player.

The rule regarding fighting is also strong and a sufficient deterrent, Pasma said. Any player starting a fight gets two minutes as the instigator, another five minutes for fighting and if the player persists, another two minutes for being the aggressor. Anyone fighting gets an automatic game misconduct.

The rules on fighting in minor hockey are designed to prevent the second player (the one who is not the instigator) from fighting. If the second player refuses to fight, not only will he remain in the game, but his team will have a one man advantage

for a minimum of seven minutes.

As Pasma sees it unsafe play is not so simple it can be solved by making more rules or denying funding. "It's a social problem," he said. And as a social problem everyone who has a part in the game is somewhat responsible.



Ray Pasma

There is little doubt that the officials' job is a difficult one. It is getting more difficult every year, Pasma said.

Many refereeing careers are be-

ing cut short because of the treatment referees receive, Pasma said. "There are too many refs in the stands."

Players are getting too involved in calling the game, to a point of not concentrating on their own task. Many refs are retiring early because of the extra burdens from players and fans. Joe Pasma has been an official for 17 years. "Everybody is on the officials more than in years gone by. Hockey is the only game people get on referees to that extent," Pasma said.

Hockey is also the only game in Canada where violence is a constant problem. Perhaps it is a problem related to the dwindling respect referees get. Which would make it more of a social problem, as Pasma suggested. Perhaps the minister of tourism is missing the mark with threats of cutting funding. The problem goes far beyond a slap on the pocketbook.

Triple A tourney.

Novices can't 'post' a win

In Kingston over the weekend, the North Halton Sports Major Novice impressed tournament organizers who had hesitated to allow a double A club into the triple A sanctioned tournament.

Unaware of the Kingston organizers' feelings, the novices set out to play their best on Saturday morning in a game with North Bay. Never outmatched (many had expected North Bay to go well into the double figures against Georgetown) the team went into the third period down but not out. The entire third period was Georgetown's as they outplayed North Bay. The final was 5-2.

Feeling very proud, the Georgetown squad were up against Markham for the consolation round. The team stayed cool and under the

eyes of their coaches-maintained a well disciplined afternoon until their 5 p.m. start.

They came out to win. The first period the club was intense as each team tested one another's abilities. Georgetown was constantly forcing plays, but late in the first Markham got the first goal. Then in the second, Markham again scored.

Soon after this, Timmy Diardichuk was set up by Josh Richardson and David Boere to put Georgetown on the scoreboard. From that moment the game was theirs, outskating, hustling and muscling their way through a very powerful Markham club. Scoring twice more Georgetown saw David Boere again set up Scott Lahey with the third goal by David Kalkarski with assist to Fraser Thom, Scott

Truman.

The third period Georgetown tried to plant that insurance marker but to no avail, and unfortunately Markham went and tied with two minutes left in regulation time. Into overtime Georgetown carried the play, but due to tournament rules Markham knew all they had to do was hold us off at a tie and they would win due to the fact they had scored first. North Halton Majors constantly burst up ice. They hit the post several times. The puck even lay on the goal line. Still Markham would just dump it out and wait. Thus Georgetown's most impressive bid for a major tournament crown ended in a very frustrating manner. The final score was 3-3, but many felt the wrong team had advanced.

Three days on skates for Peewees

Finishing off the regular season saw our boys struggling for a win and two losses. Unfortunately to make up the rescheduled matchups, our Minor Peewees played three consecutive days, starting with the win against Flamboro Tuesday night.

Our boys enjoyed the larger ice surface at Alcott and it was obvious our team are superior skaters as the game progressed. Marc St. Pierre and Tommy Diardichuk shared net minding and showed how good both our goalies are protecting the net. The final score was 5-3 for Georgetown with markers going to Shaun Curry, Jake Mashinter from the point, Greg Dobbin, Jeff Wright and Steve Wright. Assists were awarded to Jake Mashinter, Jeff Wright (2), Steve Wright (2), Shawn Pearson, Tim Presswood and Chris Barrow.

Wednesday night proved a hard fought loss for our boys. By the third period the back to-back games started to show, plus the team was short-handed resulting in Ching taking the victory 4-2. A hard fought game was played by all.

Georgetown Optimist Minor "AA" Peewees ended their regular league play Thursday night in a penalty filled, fast moving game with Orangeville.

Minor Atom AA earn twenty wins

The Mal Dodge ReMax Minor Atom "AA" hockey team completed a very fine regular season with wins over Chinguacousy and Orangeville by scores of 4-1 and 10-3 respectively.

Their twenty win, five loss and one tie record earned the team a second place finish in the Tri-County standings.

A lacklustre effort in Chinguacousy on Wednesday night produced the 4-1 victory. Doug Sheppard led the offence with two goals and one assist. Single markers were scored by Duane Erler and Dave Houskill. Gavin Glaser, Cory Evans and Mark Aldridge each earned one assist.

In the season finale the Mal Dodge ReMax squad served notice

that they were ready to begin the playoffs. Sheppard again spearheaded the attack with three goals and three assists. Mark Aldridge and Houskill chipped in with two goals each while singles were added by Erler, Evans and Jamie Stephenson.

Stephen Onoprijenko earned three assists, with one each credited to Mike Koles, Erler, Brent Wilkinson, Evans, Stephenson, Robbie Wands and Matt Brain.

Solid goaltending was provided by the tandem of Sean Mills and Chad Hughes.

The Minor Atoms open playoff action against Burlington on Wednesday in what is a best of three series. Good luck, Mal Dodge ReMax Minor Atoms.



Splash-down

Volunteers are needed to help with swim classes for the trainable mentally handicapped. The Joseph Gibbons Public School students swim at the Georgetown District High School pool every Friday between 9:15 and

10 a.m. Interested volunteers should contact Susan LeFevre at 877-7721 in the day or at 838-3393 in the evening. Swimming experience is not necessary. (Herald photo)

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