

the HERALD Sportsweek

Morrison pinpoints official ingredients

By MIKE TURNER
Herald Sports Editor

A mastery of skating skills, a sense of dedication, and an adequate supply of intestinal fortitude (also commonly known as "nuts") are the main qualities that go into making a good hockey official.

And it never hurts to have a good sense of humor to fall back on either, according to a man who should certainly know.

Scotty Morrison, former referee-in-chief for the NHL and current "Keeper of the keys" for the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, was special guest speaker for Georgetown's annual rep banquet, and spoke on everything from his origins as an official to the future of the Hall of Fame.

His decision to become an official was an easy one according to Morrison.

Some years ago in junior hockey,

Morrison was given the assignment of shadowing none other than Jean Beliveau, former star of the Montreal Canadiens.

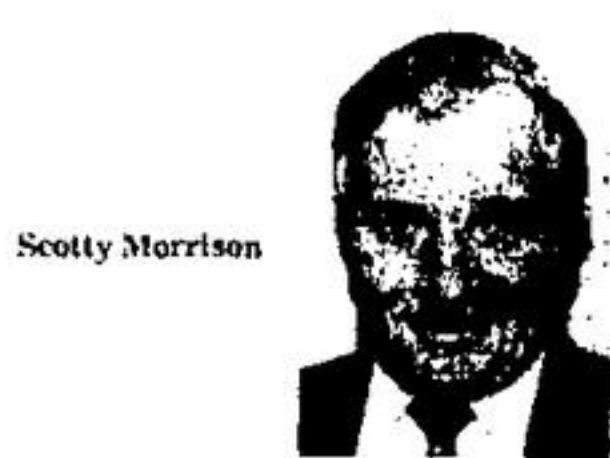
Needless to say, the 5'7" Morrison was less than successful in his attempts to harness the scoring power of the 6'3" Beliveau, and thoughts turned to officiating in short order for Morrison.

For the youngsters with aspirations of going to the NHL, Morrison offered simple but sound advice.

"You only get to be an (Bobby) Orr or a (Wayne) Gretzky if you give all you can," he said. "It's important to listen to your coaches now, and your parents as well."

To Morrison's way of thinking, the game of hockey has become too serious, which he feels is unfortunate. Briefly, Morrison recounted a few stories from his earlier days as an official.

Once, while refereeing a pre-season game in Montreal, Morrison



Scotty Morrison

noted an eruption of laughter from the crowd and looked around to see his two linesmen sitting in the penalty box taking a break, and watching the proceedings. This, of course, would be unheard of today, he said.

Morrison takes credit for the hiring of officials Bryan Lewis and John McAuley, who are well known in local circles. Both hold positions of high importance with the NHL today, something Morrison says neither would have imagined several years ago when they were working their way up through the refereeing ranks.

Many times, Morrison is asked what qualifications go into a good referee. Skating ability and dedication are naturally foremost, but "the guts to make a call that can have a bearing on the outcome of the game" and a sense of humor are also necessary.

Morrison remembered one story about colorful King Clancy, who was refereeing a game one night and found himself the target of a particularly abusive woman.

While leaving the ice, the woman chirped to Clancy, "If you were my husband, I'd feel your ass."

To this, Clancy calmly replied, "Honey if I was your husband, I'd take it."

In the early going of this year's Stanley Cup playoffs, the controversy of whether or not video-taped replays should be used to back up officials' calls, is once again at the forefront.

Winnipeg took a 3-2 decision over the Calgary Flames in the second game of their series on a goal that shouldn't have counted, while at St. Louis video tape showed a goal should have counted but didn't, in the series between the Blues and Toronto Maple Leafs.

Morrison stopped just short of endorsing the use of video-taped replays by officials, but suggested this may be the way of the future in the NHL.

And while on the subject of the future, Morrison painted a picture of what a new 50,000 sq. ft. Hockey Hall of Fame will hold in the next several years.

Morrison said three centres, Montreal, Toronto and Peterborough are currently seeking the go-ahead to become the home of the new shrine, but admits the larger two cities have the upper hand.

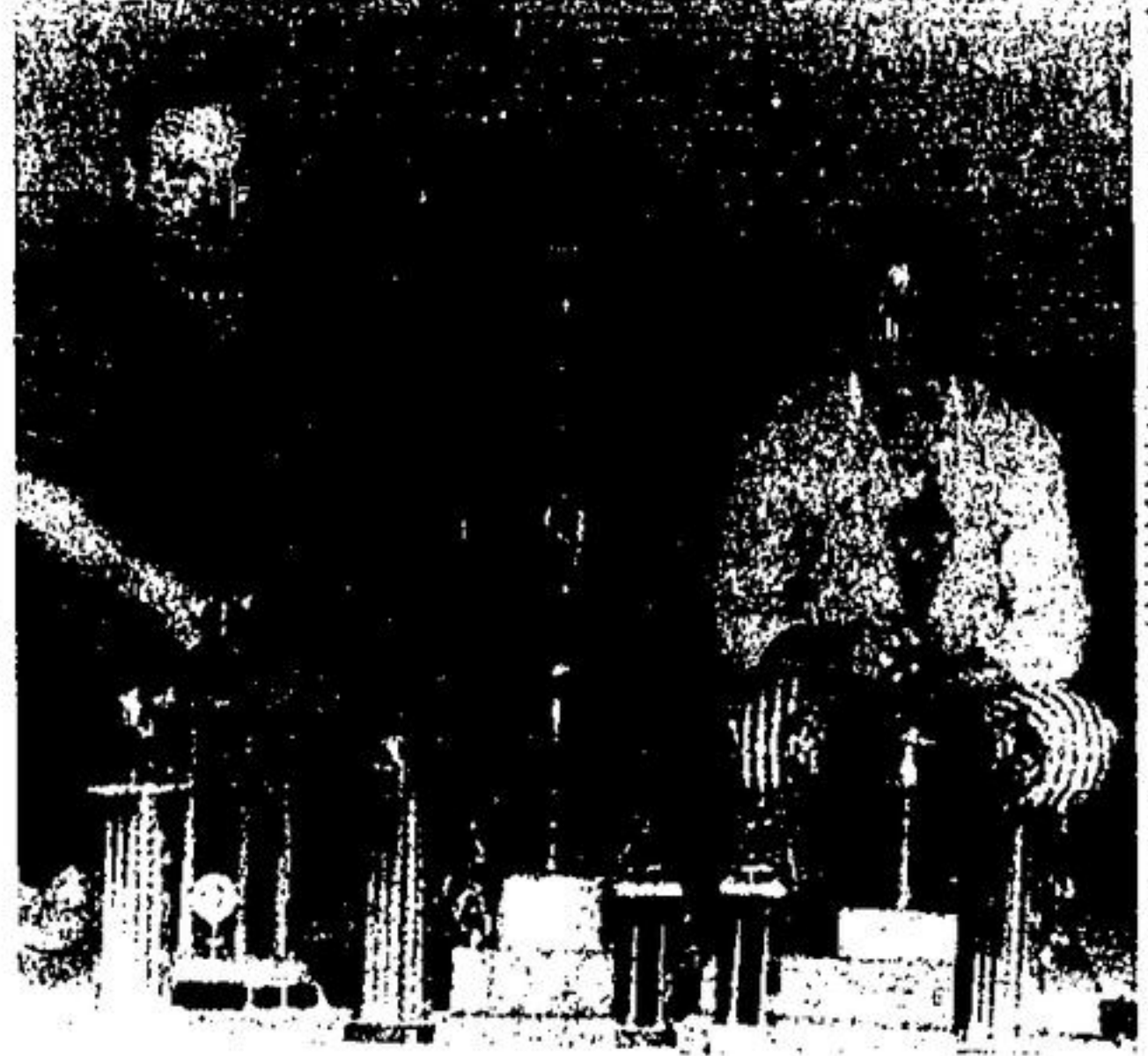
Morrison says the improved facilities of the Hockey Hall of Fame, where ever they are, will be an entertainment centre with the whole family in mind.

Through the magic of modern technology, young goaltenders will be able to step into a room and feel the excitement of being at the Edmonton Northlands Coliseum. By means of video technology and inset lights, the youngsters will be able to test his skills in a one-on-one situation with the Great Gretzky providing the opposition.

"And for the coaches who think they can do a better job than the Lewis's and McAuley's," he says, "they'll be able to step into the referee's position and take on the officiating duties of a game."

Another highlight of the new project will be a travelling caravan, which will bring the Hockey Hall of Fame to those who are unable to visit the centre where it is located.

Listening to Morrison, one has to wonder if those visiting the new Hall of Fame facilities will derive as much enjoyment as he will, seeing it all come about.



Several individual awards were presented at the minor hockey rep team banquet Saturday. From left, Rick Hume, Coach of the Year; Joe Balson, top goalie; and Terry Dixon, most Valuable Player for the Midgets. (Herald photo)

Rep team players rewarded for efforts

A number of individual and team awards were handed out Saturday as the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association held its annual Rep Team banquet at the high school.

Players, coaches, and parents were treated to a feast of pizza and soft drinks, and heard special guest speaker Scotty Morrison, former referee-in-chief for the NHL, recount some of the highlights of his career.

For individual awards, Joe Balson of the Sunny Acres Farms Midgets was presented with the David Hulme Trophy for being the goaltender with the best goals against average during the season.

The Paul Fendley Memorial Trophy which goes to the most valuable midget player as selected by the other players, was presented to winger Terry Dixon of the Sunny Acres squad.

The award for Coach of the Year in the rep hockey program was

awarded to Rick Hume, also of Sunny Acres.

For team awards, the conveners selected the Shermin Nurseries BB PeeWees as Georgetown's most improved team, and presented the squad with the Yeo-Christie Memorial Trophy.

The Gilmer Trophy, which is presented annually to the atom or minor atom team which has the most successful season went to the Mal Dodge ReMax AA Minor Atom.

Individual trophies were also presented to the members of each of the Georgetown rep teams which qualified for OMHA playoffs, or won their Tri-County championships.

Teams winning Tri-County championship titles included Casselman PeeWees AA Minor Novices; Shermin Nurseries BB PeeWees; and the Junior Gemini AA Juvenile squad.

Teams that qualified for OMHA play included DRG Stationery AA PeeWees, and Sunny Acres Farms AA Midgets.

Wheelchair sports open many new doors for the disabled

In recent years, great strides have been made to put down the concept that handicapped people are merely "a burden on society."

On May 13, and in subsequent months to come, that concept will be further riddled with holes, particularly in the Halton regions, as an exhibition wheelchair basketball game launches what will be a major step in opening doors for the disabled.

The games is being held at E.C. Drury High School in Milton and features the Toronto-based Spitfires wheelchair basketball team taking on a group of E.C. Drury students.

The contest is being made possible by a number of people, including Pat and Kit Woode of the Halton North Physically Handicapped Citizens Association, centered in Georgetown.

The Spitfires Wheelchair Sports Association takes in 14 basketball teams and three hockey teams, and has teams that play competitively throughout the world.

Pat Woode says the upcoming basketball game is meant to be a fund raiser, but it will also serve another major purpose.

"One of our aims is to create awareness," she says. "We do a lot of work creating activities for the disabled, and we're hoping that we can form a league to serve this area for wheelchair sports."

The new league which has been proposed will integrate both able and disabled people, just as the Spitfires association does.

Kit Woode says the basketball game will be a good start for promoting the league. "We'll start out with the basketball, and then expand to include other things as well," he says, "as long as the interest is there." As far as the interest goes, it appears there will be a little question of the need for such a league.

Already, with minimal promotion, six players have indicated they want to join the league.

The Woode's hope the basketball game will produce more people, both able and disabled, who want to take part in the activities on a regular basis.

The sports wheelchairs that will

be used have to be custom made and cost about \$1,600 each. Six chairs have been made available for the exhibition basketball game through Sunny Darnato of Tyson Medical Care in Milton.

Each chair is adjustable to any height or angle, is light weight, has special wheels, and is equipped with anti-tipping devices, front and rear.

The chairs for the game are on loan from Everest and Jennings Ltd. and will be returned to the manufacturer following the match.

But Darnato says they hope to fund groups or individuals who will cover the costs of the chairs to help get the local league off the ground.

With the response Darnato has received from parents, he says he has become very excited about the prospect of starting up the new league.

"Handicapped people have been considered a burden to society," Darnato says. "We want to show that just because a person is in a wheelchair doesn't mean they aren't capable of doing their thing, too."

Darnato sees the proposed league mushrooming into a forum for a wide variety of sports, including hockey, table tennis, and court tennis. But outdoor events will also be possible, and special guest speakers could be made available for the group, opening up entirely new avenues to the participants.

One of the people who has helped a great deal in getting things off the ground, according to Darnato, has been Mike Leworthy of Milton. His 11-year-old son Ryan has spinal bifida and will be one of the players.

Others, besides Ryan who have indicated their interest in the new league include three young people from Georgetown and two from Oakville.

The players will be outfitted in uniforms provided by ESN Sports and Novelties of Milton.

The game is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. in the E.C. Drury gym.

Tickets are available locally at North Halton Sports in Georgetown.

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