

## Just another case of trampled tootsies



### Turnstile

By Mike Turner  
Herald Sports Editor

Listen closely...  
Hear it?

That sound, just barely audible, is a collective sigh of relief that rises up above the nation's capital, and subsides over along the shores of Lake Huron.

And there's good reason for relief in certain circles. Yoh see, the Hanover Barons have been knocked out of contention in the race for the Clarence "Tubby" Schmalz Cup, emblematic of Junior C hockey supremacy in Ontario.

For most, that's small potatoes but in the office of the federal minister of fitness and amateur sport, and in the Town of Maples, otherwise known as Port Elgin, there is cause for celebration.

So ends (apparently) the latest case of politicians and hockey officials stepping all over each other to attain that elusive dream of "non-violent hockey."

The saga began back in March, when the Port Elgin Bears of the Grey-Bruce Junior C hockey loop opted for pulling out of a series with the Hanover Barons after two games of a best-of-seven league championship.

Port Elgin coach Doug Mitchell cited the potential for violence to take over in subsequent games, should the series continue, as the reason.

Mitchell and the rest of the Bears' organization played it to the hilt. On the night the third game was to be played, the team staged a "protest" making certain that as many media people as possible were there.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that the Bears had allowed 14 goals in the opening two games of the series while scoring none.

Hanover was trying for its third consecutive league title, and quite frankly, Port Elgin had little or no chance of stopping the Barons from doing so.

Port Elgin got what they were apparently after - widespread media attention. The story went national!

Now as a rule, when any team fails to meet its obligations in the OHA, someone has to answer for it. In most cases, there are stiff fines

and heavy suspensions levied against those involved.

The wheels were quickly set in motion to take what is considered appropriate action, when suddenly somebody in Otto Jelinek's office threw a wrench into the proceedings.

Someone came up with the bright idea of bestowing an award upon Mitchell for his... Well, that's a difficult one to call. Suffice it to say, this bestowment has come to be known as the Fair Play Award.

We learned that this new award program is part of minister Jelinek's "campaign against violence in hockey."

Remember now, this is the same Otto Jelinek who stood with open arms welcoming the Canadian national junior hockey team home after their fiasco with the Russians a few months ago in Czechoslovakia.

At the cost of the taxpayers, Mitchell was flown to Vancouver for a special dinner where he received his Fair Play Award.

Meanwhile, back in Cambridge, the head office of the OHA was in somewhat of a dither. What started out as a simple matter, turned into a full blown investigation that has yet to be completed.

OHA president Brent Ladds attempted to get some feedback from Jelinek's office on how they

had arrived at their decision to honor Mitchell, and was told they had apparently only checked into the character of the man.

The incident involving him pulling his team out of the series with Hanover, of course had a bearing. Without all the hoopla no one would have even heard of Doug Mitchell.

But investigating the incident, or waiting until the OHA drew its conclusions was seemingly irrelevant.

Had the Fair Play Commission investigated the incident, they may have found a few surprises. But the bottom line is, they didn't check first.

The dinner arrangements had apparently already been made, and I guess it was too late to cancel!

At any rate, Mitchell received his award, Jelinek feels he's taken a big step in quelling violence in hockey, the Hanover Barons played the rest of their season under a microscope, and the OHA is still trying to sort everything out.

The repercussions from the incident were quite widespread.

The Barons went on to eliminate the Essex 73's in the Ontario quarter-finals, and advanced to play against the Norwich Merchants in the semi-finals.

The local paper in Norwich printed an interview with Mitchell

which made the Barons out to be nothing but a goon squad, specializing more in decapitation than any skill vaguely associated with hockey.

Norwich was primed for a lynching before the Hanover bus even reached the town limits.

Hanover's minor teams also suffered through Port Elgin's actions, picking up the tag of goons, just as their "older brothers" had.

I'm not talking about just tantrums or midgets, but as far down as atoms, they had to put up with verbal abuse from opposing fans.

Awards have their proper place of course, but let's not forget that when they're given without adequate forethought, they become a lot like hemorrhoids.

With all the talk about curbing violence in sport, you'd think more people would be working together.

It doesn't help when one group is trying to fulfill its mandate and another is stepping all over its toes to grab a piece of the limelight.

The ousting of Hanover from playoff contention probably helped quiet matters considerably for Jelinek's office and the Town of Maples.

And it wouldn't come as much of a surprise to hear the Norwich Merchants were recipients of several thank-you notes postmarked Ottawa and Port Elgin.

### Fuelers end fine season

By RON KERSLAKE  
Herald Special

The Casselman Fuelers AA Minor Novices finished off their season in Port Credit on the weekend.

After such a super season it would have been nice to be reporting a win but the Fuelers met their match and were eliminated going into the semi-final round of the Mississauga Reps tournament.

The team had a 2-1-1 record which was a result of all around team efforts.

Over the year the team compiled a very impressive record and won

the Tricounty Championship. The team that eliminated them from OMHA play won the Ontario Championship.

The coaches behind a winning team deserve more credit than they usually receive and the retiring crew of Gary Evans, Bob Craig and Don Mashinter get the ink for giving the team top quality attention and always being well organized.

Their best achievement is to have developed a positive attitude in all the boys who are now looking forward to next year.

## Juveniles prepare for action

By TREVOR BANKS  
Herald Special

Back in mid-February, when most people still had skiing on their minds, the Georgetown Juvenile Eagles had already begun preparing for their upcoming baseball season.

With the opening game on May 10 approaching, the Eagles are showing the signs that all the hard work is paying off.

This is the first time in many years that Georgetown will be fielding a juvenile team. This means every player making the team will be a first year juvenile. This is of no great concern to the team members though, who feel they can challenge for the Ontario Championships.

The team will be coached by Boyd Hoddinot while Blaine Milton handles the managerial duties. Helping out as an assistant coach will be Kevin Hughes.

The Eagles will probably have a few new faces in the line-up come opening game, the nucleus remains the same as last year's midgets. This should no doubt help the team blend together as well as they did

last year.

Last season, pitching unfortunately let the team down in the playoffs. Thus, coach Hoddinot has begun early getting the pitchers ready for the long season ahead. Until the bats can come around the pitchers, along with a solid defence, will have to carry the full brunt of the force for the Eagles.

The Eagles will be playing in a nine-team league stretching from Hamilton to Guelph in the west; to west Toronto in the east. The juveniles also plan to enter a

number of tournaments along the way.

Something new that will be seen at all home games this season, that the town hasn't seen in a while, will be the issuing of programs. The programs will consist of player profiles and advertisements from local companies in and around town. The team doesn't plan to charge for these programs, as they will just be handed out freely.

All in all, the squad is looking forward to a successful and winning season.

## Leisure opportunities

Are you looking for something do with your evenings one or two nights a week or occasionally on weekends?

Do you enjoy being around adults and children, especially while they play or engage in friendly competition?

Do you like the out-of-doors and want to spend time at our parks? Why not consider working with the recreation and parks department as a Park Attendant.

The department is seeking a mature, responsible adult to occasionally work evenings and weekends at the Georgetown Fairgrounds or at Prospect Park in Acton May to September.

Responsibilities include keeping the parks clean, helping keep records on sports field use and acting as a good will liaison between the field users and the department.

This is an extremely important service that we offer our community groups and anyone interested in becoming involved is encouraged to contact the office at 25 James Street, Georgetown between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday or call 877-5185, ext. 260.

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