

Hockey Heritage Council honors Red Asseltine

'We can win, if we lose with a smile...'



EAGER BEAVERS-Red Asseltine (right) was manager, and Del Beaumont was the coach when the Georgetown Jr. B Beavers took to the ice in 1963. Del was honored as the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient last year, and Red will be honored at a dinner in March, as the 1988 recipient. (Photo courtesy Red and Jean Asseltine)

By MIKE TURNER
Herald Sports Editor

When the topic of discussion is Georgetown's illustrious hockey heritage, several prominent names rarely mentioned.

Included in this select group is Red Asseltine.

So it comes as little surprise that Walter "Red" Asseltine will be duly honored on March 7, as the 1988 recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award.

Appropriately, Red was informed of the Heritage Council's decision to make him their 1988 award recipient by Del Beaumont. And it's appropriate in more ways than one.

"I've known Del since I started in hockey," Red says. "When we first came to Georgetown, our backyard was opposite his. In one of our conversations, I told him I'd do anything I could to help in the hockey. And that's how I was introduced to Saturday morning hockey."

Del Beaumont was also the 1987 recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award.

Over the years, Red and his wife, Jean, have made many important contributions to the Georgetown hockey community.

Red joined Legion Hockey in 1959 and devoted much of his time to coaching and managing teams at virtually every age level in the subsequent years.

The Tyke hockey program was initiated by Red, when he and others saw the need for ice time to be devoted to youngsters under the age of eight, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to play.

And in 1963, he was one of the organizers for the Georgetown Jr. B Beavers. With Del at the helm as coach, Red managed the team.

Red also helped organize and conduct a series of pre-season hockey schools which helped raise money for the minor hockey system, and at the same time, gave players pre-season conditioning they required.

But perhaps the greatest achievement, and the one he is best known for, is the formation of the Georgetown International Bantam

Hockey Tournament, in 1961.

The concept of the tournament was put forth by Jack Gudgeon, and Red took the reins to serve as its chairman until 1987.

He admits it was quite an undertaking at the start, and then some.

"Brother, there was more to it than I ever thought there would be," he says. "But we wanted it to stand out, and it snowballed over the years."

Through the tournament, Red made many friends, from as far west as Manitoba and as far east as the Maritimes. And he also learned a great deal about Georgetown.

"The main thing with that tournament, right from Day One," he says, "is there wasn't anyone - man, woman, or child - who said no when they were asked to help."

In his many years of coaching and managing teams, Red says managing the Georgetown Juveniles from 1966-70 was perhaps the most challenging, but at the same time, it provided a "good wind-up" for his involvement in hockey.

"I always thought that age needed more help than any other," he says. "The kids became young men, and it was so easy for them to go the wrong way, if there wasn't enough for them to do, and no one to guide them."

During his tenure with the Juveniles the team made trips out west by train, to Manitoba and British Columbia to take part in hockey tournaments.

Since 1970, the only time Red has gone to the arena has been to see his grandson play.

He gave up hockey because of the time burdens it placed on him. He also came to realize there were very few times he could see his own son play hockey, when he was out with other people's kids, teaching them the game.

In the late 1960's, when Red was handling the local Peeewe squad, the team had a motto: "We can win, if we lose with a smile."

That, perhaps more than anything, typifies the philosophy Red Asseltine maintained throughout his years in hockey.

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Hockey Heritage Profile

Walter "Red" Asseltine has been named the 1988 recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award.

Mr. Asseltine was born on Nov. 27, 1919, and married his wife, Jean in September of 1947. They have four children, Susan, Judy, Janice, and Ken.

A veteran, Mr. Asseltine served with the Toronto Irish from June, 1940 until he was discharged in October, 1945.

Among his accomplishments in the hockey community, Mr. Asseltine is known for launching the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament in 1961. It has come to be known as one of the most successful minor hockey tournaments in OMHA history.

He also helped organize the first Tyke hockey league in Georgetown, and was instrumental in getting Georgetown's pre-season hockey schools off the ground.

Throughout his years in hockey, Mr. Asseltine coached or managed at every age level, including a stint with the Georgetown Jr. B Beavers, a team formed in 1963.

He left hockey in 1970, after managing the Georgetown Juveniles.

Mr. and Mrs. Asseltine are also well known for their service to the community as ambulance and fire department dispatchers, which they recently retired from.

Walter "Red" Asseltine will be honored at the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Dinner on Monday, March 7, at Holy Cross Auditorium.

Special guest speaker for the evening will be well known player agent Bill Watters, and the master of ceremonies will be Ron MacLean, of Hockey Night in Canada.



Walter 'Red' Asseltine

Gemini get 87s' number

After what could certainly be considered a less than auspicious season for the Georgetown Gemini, things finally seem to be falling more into place for the hockey club.

The Gems suffered a 9-6 setback Thursday in Etobicoke against the Capitals, but rebounded for a 9-5 victory over Newmarket 87's on home ice Friday.

That gave the team three wins in their last four outings.

However, this modest success story could be challenged by the Vaughan Raiders, after the Gems jumped the gun in using Todd King in a 6-4 victory on Jan. 15, before the goaltender was properly carded. Should Vaughan find they need the points at the end of the regular schedule, they will most likely protest King's use, but the results will have no bearing on Georgetown's status in the standings.

Gemini coach Peter Sturgeon is taking the team's recent flirtation with success in stride.

"Everybody's feeling pretty good," he says. "We're not jumping up and down about it. We have to keep working at it. If we keep the concentration level up, we should be okay."

Against the Capitals, the Gems stayed within striking distance for two periods, but faltered in the third.

The teams were tied 2-2 after the opening frame, and 6-6 after the second, but three unanswered goals by the Caps in the third proved to be the difference.

Greg Brazeau had a solid game for the Gems, scoring twice and assisting on two other markers. Travis Cole also had a pair of markers, while singles went to Chuck Loreto and Shannon Storr.

Kevin Bonello tallied three times for the Caps, while George Djurasevic had a pair, and Jim Taylor, Bojan Suric, Nick Nicak, and Brant Wilson had one each.

Georgetown outshot the Capitals 45-35 in the contest.

Friday against Newmarket, Georgetown produced a balanced scoring attack, and led 2-1 after the first on goals by Joe Washkurak and Loreto. Quong Ly replied for the 87's.

Mid way through the second, Newmarket took the lead with a pair of quick goals, the first a powerplay marker by Todd Williamson at 7:58, and the other by Peter Dunne, just after the 87's had killed off a penalty, to make it 3-2.

Brazeau scored to tie the game at three, after taking a pass from Loreto and blasting a shot from the left wing at 10:07.

Dan Edwards scored to put Newmarket ahead 4-3, but then Storr found the mark for Georgetown after some hard work in the Newmarket end. Terry Dixon, Storr, and Cole moved the puck in and Dixon had a good scoring opportunity from in front of the net. He was unable to connect, but Storr was there to jam it in and tie the game at four.

The 87's went ahead again with just over two minutes left in the period, as Williamson scored his second of the night, but Loreto replied for the Gems with 40 seconds remaining to tie the game at five after two.

The Gems got what proved to be the winning goal at 8:02 of the final period, when Dixon made a nice pass to Cole, who converted it for a 6-5 Georgetown lead.

Jim McCabe and Brazeau added goals to make it 8-5, and Brian Gendron added a third insurance marker after he beat Newmarket goalie Glen Cole to a loose puck, and slipped it in from a sharp angle.

The Gemini were in Streetsville Tuesday night to take on the Derbys.

Friday they travel to Burlington to take on the Cougars, and Saturday they host the Oakville Blades for a 7:30 p.m. game at the Alcott Arena.

The Gems close out the regular schedule next week, when they play



CORRALLED-Georgetown Gemini goalie Todd King blocks a shot during action Saturday night at the Alcott Arena, where the Gems downed the Newmarket 87's. (Herald photo)

CENTRAL ONTARIO JR. B HOCKEY LEAGUE
Standings (as of Jan. 25)

Team	West Division					East Division				
	G	W	L	T	PPL	G	W	L	T	PPL
Burlington	40	28	10	2	34	40	24	13	4	32
Streetsville	40	24	12	4	32	40	21	15	4	28
Oakville	36	17	17	5	28	36	17	17	5	28
Etobicoke	32	18	14	3	28	32	18	14	3	28
Milton	28	10	16	3	23	28	10	16	3	23
GEORGETOWN	28	9	18	3	21	28	9	18	3	21
Mimico	28	6	20	3	17	28	6	20	3	17
Barrie	40	24	13	3	32	40	24	13	3	32
Vaughan	36	20	14	4	28	36	20	14	4	28
Aurora	40	23	15	2	31	40	23	15	2	31
Rich Hill	36	13	17	5	23	36	13	17	5	23
Orillia	36	8	24	7	22	36	8	24	7	22
Newmarket	36	5	28	1	17	36	5	28	1	17
Markham	36	5	28	2	18	36	5	28	2	18

Sabres looking to sew up second

The Acton Sabres continue to hold down second place in the Mid-Ontario Jr. C Hockey League, after sweeping a pair of games last week.

The Sabres were in Grand Valley Thursday night, where they handed the Harvesters a 5-3 loss. Then on Friday, back on home ice, Acton defeated visiting Schomberg 6-2.

The race for second remains tight in the league, between the Sabres, the Caledon Flyers, and the Bradford Bulls. But with a victory in one of their two remaining regular schedule games, Acton should be able to sew it up.

None the less, Sabres' general manager Jules Rusconi isn't altogether pleased with what he sees on the ice.

"We're scrambling," he says. "We're getting our goals on talent, but we're not doing the things we should be doing to put the puck in the net. The team's not looking sharp at all."

Thursday in Grand Valley, the Sabres went ahead 2-0 after the opening frame, but watched as the Harvesters came back to tie it in the second.

Tom Fisher and Chris Turner scored in the first period for the Sabres.

In the third, a pair of goals less than a minute apart proved to be the difference. Todd Cull scored from Fisher on a powerplay at 5:03, and Rod McClure fired a shorthanded goal, also from Fisher, at 5:33.

Cull added another powerplay goal to open up a 5-2 Acton lead, before Grand Valley replied with one goal.

Fisher finished the game with a goal and three assists, as Dan Halliburton earned the win in net for the Sabres.

Friday, the Sabres led 3-0 after the first period, and 5-3 after the second. Turner had a pair for Acton, and Cull, McClure, Jeff Edgar, and Peter Cargill added singles.

Tom Hill picked up the win in net for Acton.

The Sabres have picked up a couple of players they hope will help them in the playoff drive.

Scott Hilson, a winger from Milton, and Neil Ketchen, a winger now playing with the Sheridan College Bruins, were both signed to cards last week, and could see action Wednesday when the Sabres host the Bulls for an 8 p.m. contest.

Acton rounds out the regular schedule Friday when they travel to Orangeville, to take on the front-running Crushers.

The first round of the playoffs will have the Crushers playing Alliston, second place playing fifth-place Schomberg, and third playing fourth, in best-of-seven series.

The three surviving teams will advance to a double round robin series, with the two top teams from there going on to the best-of-seven league final.

Knights host hoop shoot

Young basketball sharpshooters will once again have the opportunity to step to the line and test their accuracy, in the 1988 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championships.

The Knights' St. Joseph's Council No. 8050 of Acton are sponsoring the local competition, for youngsters between the ages of 11 and 14. The competition is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6, at 1 p.m., and will take place at St. Joseph's School, 147 Millwest Road, in Acton.

Winners at the local level will advance to district, regional, and provincial competitions. National champions will be selected from among the provincial winners.

All contestants on the local level will be recognized for their participation and achievement, and winners receive awards at all levels of competition.

Any young people aged 11 to 14-years-old are eligible to compete.

Contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms, or additional information, contact Kevin Hynes at (853-4341) or Dom Vetro at (416) 840-0177.

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