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Gems left in deficit but executive digs in

The Georgetown Gemini hockey club suffered a loss of over \$4,000 for their 1987-88 operating season, but no one's standing around crying over spilled milk.

In fact, one of the most spirited discussions of the evening during the club's annual general meeting last Wednesday night dealt with how they could recoup some of their losses in short order.

Total expenses incurred for the club during the past season came to \$83,509.12. And while the team came in under its speculated budget of \$64,480, set last December, there was a shortfall of \$4,195.06, as the income was shown as \$59,313.44, as of March 1.

The picture brightened somewhat when it was learned that about \$2,000, collected for program advertising, had been added to the club coffers since the treasurer's report was drawn up at the first of the month.

Dave Kentner, who was returned as president of the club by acclamation for a third consecutive term, looks ahead to the 1988-89 hockey season as one which holds much promise.

In his report to the membership, Kentner noted the inside changes that have been made to the club's administration which have resulted in smoother operation.

One of the most significant factors in the Gemini's less than fruitful season was the loss of players who went on to join higher level teams, which Kentner sees as a compliment to the 1986-87 team. But some of the veterans who remained had developed attitudes and habits, nurtured by past team personnel.

That situation was improved somewhat with a change in the coaching staff, Kentner says, and he feels the club should have an excellent nucleus of players for next year.

When Kentner began as president of the organization, he came in with a three-year plan, which was to culminate in the team winning the Ontario Jr. B hockey championship.

Things, of course, haven't gone according to plan, and Kentner refer-

red to his 1987-88 report as "Strike Two."

"Next year, things can only get better," he said. "I don't want to be standing here next year and talk about how we struck out."

Along with Kentner, Karen Harrison was re-elected as secretary-treasurer by acclamation.

One of the first orders of business was to address the format for the upcoming awards night, scheduled for March 25.

And the general consensus of the membership was that there was no time like the present to begin looking at ways to make the club money.

Finn Poustrup started the ball rolling when he suggested that as executive members they should look at attending the annual team social, not only as a privilege, but with a commitment in mind.

In the past, members of the Gemini executive have been admitted to the year end dance free of charge, a small reward for the hours of volunteer work they do on behalf of the club.

But Poustrup suggested the members pay their way to the event, and help bolster the team's financial situation.

"We have to squarely face the facts," Poustrup said. "We all have a common understanding that we have to start somewhere."

Cost of staging the awards evening is expected to be approximately \$1,000.

The membership agreed with Poustrup completely, and it was agreed each of them would pay the \$15 per person cost of the ticket, to attend the function.

There will also be a drive to sell as many tickets as possible for the event, thereby bettering their chances of making some sort of profit.

The awards evening will be held Friday, March 25, at the Alcott Arena auditorium. The awards presentations will be made at about 9 p.m., with a dance and buffet lunch to follow.

Tickets are available from members of the Gemini executive.

Aeros surprise locals at tournament

M and M rebounds for win

The M and M Pro Sports Bantams held on to edge the Toronto Aeros 6-5 Monday night in their third game of the International Bantam Hockey Tournament.

But it was the first game that will actually count.

Playing in the B Division, the M and M squad was pooled with Niagara Falls, Markham, and the Aeros, for round robin play.

Saturday, in what was to be their tournament opener, the locals dropped a 3-1 decision to Markham. But when Markham was forced to honor commitments to the OMHA playoffs, they pulled out of the tournament, and their games were wiped out.

Since teams are guaranteed three games, tournament organizers set up an exhibition game for Niagara Falls with the local Bantams, which M and M won handily 6-1, Monday afternoon.

That set the stage for Monday night's encounter with the Aeros, which was essentially the first game of any importance for M and M.

And it turned out to be quite an entertaining contest, partly due to a little overconfidence on Georgetown's behalf, and partly due to the Aeros' fired up performance.

"I give the Aeros full marks," said Georgetown coach Keith Bennett, following the game Monday. "We beat Niagara Falls earlier in the day, and they beat the Aeros. But they played a tough game."

Georgetown rallied from a 3-1 deficit at the start of the third period, to eventually take a 6-3 lead.

A big part of their success in making that comeback was their conditioning according to Ron Lefebvre, the assistant coach. Prior to practices and games, the players run up and down the back stairway at the arena a dozen times, based on an honor system.

"It's been paying off on a regular basis," Lefebvre says. "In the third period, we seem to be able to wear down teams."

Georgetown was slated to play Niagara Falls last night (Tuesday) in their other preliminary game, and despite the win against them Monday, Bennett expected to see a different team.

"I think Niagara Falls will be up and they'll want to beat the hometown team," Bennett said. "They've seen us once, so they'll probably change their style, and use their other goalie."

The Aeros scored the only goal of the opening period Monday night, as Mark Wheidrake beat Georgetown goalie Chris Cambouris on the stick side, after M and M had just killed off a penalty.

Georgetown evened it up in the second when Rich Bond came out from behind the Toronto net and stuffed the puck in on goalie Steve Tompkins' glove side, on a powerplay opportunity.

The Aeros regained the lead with a pair of goals in the final five minutes of the period as Wheidrake and Peter Graham tallied.

In the opening few minutes of the third period, it was all Georgetown.

Eric Long made it 3-2 at the 1:05 mark when he flipped the puck between the Aeros goalie's legs on a rebound, while M and M enjoyed a two-man advantage.

Less than a minute later, Dale McNiven fired a shot at the Toronto net, that Tompkins got a piece of but couldn't hold on to.

Dave Watts put Georgetown ahead 4-3 with a goal at 3:23, and then Jim English cashed in after Chad Bailey worked the puck around in the Toronto end to set up the goal.

Bailey scored what proved to be the winner with just over six minutes remaining. Bailey had positioned himself in front of the net when a shot by Craig Cooper was knocked down in front. Bailey looked to be tied up by a defender, but he managed to get free and slip the puck by Tompkins.

Wheidrake and Mike Slaughter scored to close the margin to 6-5 but that was as close as the Aeros would come.



FLYING HIGH-The M and M Pro Sports Bantams were grounded for the first two periods of their tournament game against the Toronto Aeros Monday night. Fortunately

though, the team came alive in the third period to take a 6-5 decision. Here, a Georgetown player goes airborne as he checks a Toronto player. (Herald photo)

With the departure of Markham, the Aeros have been knocked out of further competition, and the game Tuesday between Georgetown and Niagara Falls was for first place in their pool.

The semifinals will have the first place team from each of the pools playing the second place team from the opposite pool.

The other B Division pool has



NEW EXECUTIVE-The new executive of the Georgetown Gemini for the upcoming season consists of: Front row, from left, Joan Anderson (vice-pres. of in-arena operations); Dave Kentner (president); and Karen Harrison (secretary-treasurer). Back row, Finn Poustrup (VP administration); Barry Whitworth (VP finances); Wayne Pries (VP fund raising); and Jack Handy (VP hockey operations). (Herald photo)

Hooper back as Gem GM

The Georgetown Jr. B Gemini hockey club didn't waste any time in renaming Bob Hooper as their returning general manager for the 1988-89 season.

At the club's annual general meeting last Wednesday, Jack Handy, vice-president of hockey operations put forward Hooper's name for the position, and the membership unanimously agreed upon his choice.

This will be Hooper's third season as general manager of the Gemini.

28th annual tournament gets under way

The 28th Annual Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament got rolling Saturday, and despite a few snags, things seem to be running relatively smoothly.

This year's version of the tournament has been scaled down to 28 teams, instead of the usual 32, due to many teams being unavailable.

The number dropped to 27 on the weekend when Markham was forced to pull out to honor commitments to their OMHA playoff schedule.

A total of eight teams are competing in each of the A and C Divisions, while in the B Division there are seven teams, following the departure of Markham. The D Division has a total of four teams.

The D Division final has been slated for Friday morning at 9:30 a.m., and divisional semifinals will

be held throughout the remainder of the day for the other categories.

The remaining divisional finals are Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m., with the B Division, 10:15 a.m. (for the C Division, and noon for the A Division).

The B and D Division winners will square off at 2 p.m. Saturday, and the A and C Division winners play at 4 p.m. to determine the tournament's grand championship opponents.

The final game, for the over all tournament title, will be played at 8 p.m.

TOURNAMENT SCORES
(as of Monday night)

A DIVISION	
Chinguacousy 3	Mississauga 2
Hamilton West 5	Barrie 1
Mississauga 6	Barrie 5

B DIVISION	
Guelph 4	Newmarket 1
Markham 7	Toronto Aeros 2
Waterloo 3	Scarborough 1
Niagara Falls 7	Toronto Aeros 2
Waterloo 5	Guelph 3
Newmarket 1	Scarborough 1
Georgetown 6	Toronto Aeros 5

C DIVISION	
Preston 10	Toronto Olympics 0
Flamboro 5	Lorne Park 2
Flamboro 5	Toronto Olympics 3
Lorne Park 5	Preston 2
Lorne Park 12	Toronto Olympics 0
Flamboro 6	Preston 0

D DIVISION	
Hamilton West 4	Chinguacousy 1
Mississauga 4	Hamilton West 3

(Games began Tuesday)

Gemini Juveniles take series lead against Kingston

Coach Hanman hopes for split this weekend

It wasn't by any means "picture-perfect" but a win is a win, and the Georgetown Gemini Juveniles are happy to be on top in their best-of-five Ontario Minor Hockey Association semifinal playoff.

Thursday at the Alcott Arena, the Juveniles doubled Kingston 4-2 in the series opener, despite a less than formidable showing.

The series resumes this weekend in Kingston, where games are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Georgetown won the coin toss for home advantage and will have two games back home the following weekend, should they be necessary.

The two teams began tentatively in the match Thursday, as though they were feeling each other out. Understandable, since they knew little about each other's capabilities.

"In the pre-game meeting, we decided we wanted to take it right to them," said Georgetown coach Charlie Hanman following the match. "They'd had a four hour bus ride. But it just never happened."

Hanman was pleased with the performances of Terry Dixon and Pat McCarthy, who was used both at centre and on defence.

But the defence, in general, was not of the calibre the team is capable of producing. Fortunately, goalie

Joe Balsion was in fine form.

"Joey played an excellent game for us," Hanman said. "Our defence did not play well. They overhanded the puck, and didn't move it crisply. (Dennis) Doucette and (Steve) Turner are stay-at-home kind of defencemen. But they were struggling."

Hanman would be happy to take a split in the games in Kingston this weekend, but admits home ice is not a big factor in the team's fortunes, since they've played to near empty arenas virtually all season.

Georgetown kept the play in the Kingston end for the first few minutes of the game Thursday, but came up with few quality scoring opportunities.

Kingston's Don Hutton had the best scoring chance in the early going, when he tangled up Turner at centre ice, and went in alone on Balsion. But the Georgetown netminder stood his ground and made the save.

With just over three minutes remaining Brian Doherty finally put the locals on the scoreboard. Doherty made a good effort to keep the puck in at the blue line, and blasted a shot that banked off the right goalpost and into the net.

It didn't take Kingston long to res-

pond, though. Jim Kish carried the puck in on the right side and put a shot past Balsion on the short side, to tie it at one.

Georgetown again took the lead in the first minute of the second period on a nice play by Dixon. He carried the puck all the way down on the left side, and fed a pass across to Rory Kennedy who slipped it past netminder Steve McMillan.

But again Kingston came back. With both teams a man short, Kingston pressed. It looked as though Turner had Kingston's Paul Patry tied up in front of the net, but he managed to get free, and backhanded a shot past Balsion to tie it at two.

To that point in the game, things had been quite tame. But mid way through the period, Turner caught a Kingston player looking the wrong way and laid a solid check on him at centre ice. From then on, things picked up considerably in the hitting department.

Georgetown had a good chance to take the lead again with less than a minute to go when Bill Herman floated a shot in from the point. The puck was knocked down, but Dixon gathered it in and tried a wrap-around play from behind the net. Somehow, McMillan got across to

stop the shot.

Less than two minutes into the third, Georgetown scored what proved to be the winner, when Dean Morgan drifted a screened shot from the blue line that went over McMillan's shoulder to make it 3-2.

Then Rob Cooper scored an insurance marker, assisted by Morgan, to make the final 4-2. Cooper finished the game with the one goal, and two assists.

Georgetown outshot Kingston 43-29, and took 10 of the 18 minutes in minor penalties that were called.

Hanman isn't looking at the overnight trip to Kingston as any kind of holiday, and he's sure his players won't be either.

They've proven they can take care of business on the road, after claiming the North American Silver Stick Championship in Mooretown, earlier in the season.

And with an OMHA title well within their grasp, it's sure to be business as usual.

The winner of the Georgetown-Kingston match-up will advance to the OMHA finals, against a winner from the west. That team is expected to be Grimsby, who the Gemini Juveniles defeated at the Silver Stick Tournament, by a 5-2 margin.



FANCY FOOTWORK-The Georgetown Gemini Juveniles took a 1-0 lead in their best-of-five OMHA semifinal playoff series Thursday night at the Alcott Arena, with a 4-2

decision over visiting Kingston. Here, the Kingston goalie lunges for the puck at the feet of a Georgetown attacker. (Herald photo)

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