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SECTION B, THE HERALD, Wednesday, June 15, 1988 - Page 1

Refs' walkout not supported

By PAUL SVORODA Herald Sports Editor

director of officiating for the NHL, says he did not agree with a decision by referees to sit out game four of the NHL semi-final series between New Jersey and Boston.

The incident occurred on May 8 and was prompted by a confrontation between New Jersey Devils coach Jim Schoenfeld and referee Don Koharski after game three. Schoenfeld allegedly bumped into and verbally abused Koharski and was suspended for game four. When the Devils received a court injunction allowing Schoenfeld behind the bench on May 8 the officials walked out in protest.

"No, I didn't agree with the refs' decision," said McCauley in an interview with The Herald June 1.
"But once they had made up their minds they stuck to their decision."

minds, they stuck to their decision."

McCauley said the situation was, "pressing," and with 20,000 fans waiting for the game to start an alternative plan had to be initiated.

"Before we got to the rink we realized we might have a problem," said McCauley. "But we were aware the minor officials in New Jersey had refereeing experience."



John McCauley

Once the court order was presented by the Devils and the regular NHL referees announced their decision to sit out the game, McCauley was forced to make decisions.

"I had my instructions and I was read the restraining order over the phone," he explained.

The decision was made, after 67 minutes of harried negotiations, to go with the three minor officials from New Jersey - Paul McInnis, Vince Godleski and Jim Sullivan. In the first period the three amateur officials hit the ice wearing yellow sweaters and Devils sweatpants.

"We were trying to secure some official's sweaters but we just had no time," said McCauley. Eventually some equipment was obtained in time for the remaining two periods.

An interesting second option that McCauley said was being considered if the local minor officials were unable to comply would have seen Hockey Night in Canada broadcaster Ron McLean and color commentator Harry Neale take to the ice in stripes.

McLean is a certified OHA referee and Neale, a former WHA and NHL coach, has had experience as a linesman, said McCauley. "My oldest son Wes would have been the other linesman," he added.

When informed of McCauley's second option, McLean apparently told the head NHL official that he would have considered it. "The only problem was that the CBC would've had to put up with Don Cherry in the booth for the whole game," quipped McCauley. McCauley himself never considered donning the blades and returning to the ice in his former capacity as an NHL referee for game four. He said that option would have been studied only if the other two failed. "I feit I was best able to serve in my capacity in the penalty box," said McCauley, who was kept busy during the contest advising the referees and instructing players.

McCauley said he was confident the three officials were capable of handling their chores and would not, "over-react under the circumstances." As for any harm the entire affair may have inflicted upon the NHL, McCauley said, "the damage was already done."

With the NHL referees' contract up for re-negotiation in August, Mc-Cauley said any repercussions that may come as a result of the incident are, "out of my hands." He said any decisions are up to the board of governors.

"Negotiations are always interesting," he mused. "We'll be better able to answer questions once we get our instructions from the board of governors."

As for any disciplinary action that may have been taken against the striking referees, McCauley says the matter, "has been closed."

"It was felt that it was in our best interests to put the matter behind us," he said, "We're not worried about it (referees walking out) setting a precedent."

Meanwhile, McCauley was supportive of the officiating during the NHL playoffs. He is in favor of referees calling deserved penalties in the third period and overtime period of tight games. "The old philosophy was to let the players decide the game," said McCauley. Although he is still behind that school of thought, he said the, "noncall," was becoming just as decisive in a game's outcome.

"Players are now taking advantage of the referees," explains McCauley. He said the art of diving, whereby players will feign a trip or hook by another player, has become a major problem. "There were eight non-calls (diving situations) in game one," said McCauley. "Morel (referee Denis Morel) stuck to his guns."

Although McCauley says the NHL will not consider the use of video replays, as in the NFL, to determine questionable or difficult calls, he does acknowledge that medium's significance in creating problems for on-ice officials.

"Those damn videos are a problem," says McCauley. "You've got a situation where two or three assistant coaches are using game film, then they start pointing their fingers at refs for missed calls." McCauley says the situation causes an element of doubt.

However, he maintains that the current group of NHL officials and the league's refereeing system is second to none in the world of professional sports.

"I would match our fellows' judgment against anybody else in pro sports," said McCauley. "We're in position to make calls."



High five

Buffalo and North Halton (stripes) forwards contend Field. The local side blanked Buffalo 12-0 to even their for possession of lineout ball during last Saturday's record at 1-1. North Halton hosts Grimsby on Saturday. Niagara Rugby Union B division encounter at Nellson's (Herald photo)

Rugby win

Norths shuffle Buffalo

Canada and the United States may be talking free trade but it would appear the North Halton Rugby Club is not interested.

North Halton relied on a try by flanker Ted Ford-King and the accurate kicking boot of Jamie Spiller to send the Buffalo RFC back to the U.S. after handing them a 12-0 beating at Neilson's Field last Saturday.

Spiller converted Ford-King's try and added a pair of three-point penalty kicks to round out the North Halton acoring. Team spokesman Duane Wilson said good tackling by the locals kept Buffalo off the board. "We were pretty happy with the win," said Wilson. "The backs played well and the pack won us some good

According to North Halton coach Sandy Mackenzie the 12-0 score could easily have been much higher. "We should have scored more tries," he said. "It was a

Mackenzle will take the win, however, as it evens the First Team's record at 1-1 after suffering a season-opening loss to Castlemore two weeks ago.

Castlemore two weeks ago.

Backfielders Ian MacIver and Casey Vandersluis were cited by Mackenzie for turning in fine efforts along with Spiller. Captain Terry Pottruff, Mark Armstrong and Ford-King were praised for their manful work in the North Halton scrum.

North Halton II 9 Brantford 4

Meanwhile, Jamle Spiller again figured heavily in North Halton rugby success as he scored all the points in leading North Halton II to a 9-4 win over Brantford last Thursday at Nellson's Field.

Spiller touched down a try, added the convert and nailed a penalty kick to supply the North Halton arsenal with enough points for the win. John Watt, Kyle Goodlet and Alfie McAllis were each cited for playing a strong game.

North Halton will resume home field action on Saturday at 2 p.m. as they host the Grimsby Gentlemen at Neilson's Field.

They're off

Runners begin the first leg of the annual Mayor's Race minutes, 24-seconds, while Amy Powers was the first last Sunday at the Aicott Arens as a combined total of female to cross the finish line, ending up with a time of 115 runners finished the five and 10 kilometre courses. 18:34, (Herald photo)

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Sean Cleary was the overall winner with a time of 16-

SPORTS

Habs won't panic B2
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Falcons wing it B3

Midget woes continue

It has been a disappointing season so far for Georgetown Eagles Manager Brian Hannah and his troops as they have yet to win a game in the regular campaign in

When asked about his team's performance, the frustrated manager replied, "It can't get any worse."

The week started off with Georgetown hosting Burlington, marking the return of former catcher Andy Pearce. The Eagles sent pitcher Scott Van de Valk to the mound fresh off his two-hitter in the Midget tournament. Van de Valk got off to a shaky start in the first inning allowing four carned runs including a triple to Pearce. But he pitched extremely well after this mess, not allowing an earned run through the final eight innings in going the

distance. But eight errors cost Georgetown the game as five unearned runs crossed the plate.

The Eagles scored two runs in the second and tied it in the fifth as hot hitting Dave Ridley led off with a single, Jeff Hannah reached on a lielder's choice, Abad Mora drew a walk then Curtis Green stroked a lony single scoring Hannah and Mora and then scored himself as Van de Valk grounded out but reached first safely on an error. He later scored on a Travis Gardiner double. That was it though, as Georgetown lost 9-6.

Against Erin Mills Georgetown committed seven errors to lose 25-19. Hannah started, followed by Mora and Burke but could not hold off Erin Mills as there was mistake after mistake in the field.

Peewee tournament

Twelve teams will vie for the championship of the annual GBA Pee Wee baseball tournament on June 17-18 at Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Action gets under way on June 17 with the hometown Georgetown Peewees taking on Tillsonburg on diamone A at 8:30 p.m. Georgetown continues play on-

June 18 meeting Unionville at 8 a.m. and hosting Cawthra at 1 p.m., both games on diamond A.

The tournament features two divisions of six teams each with Georgetown in division I along with Tillsonburg, Unionville, Cawthra, West Hill and Clarkson. Division II consists of Birchmount, North Toronto, Oakville, East York, Martingrove and Brampton.

Rams shake jinx as Niagara falls

The Acton Rams finally shook their Nisgara jinx as they defeated the Nisgara Warriors for the first time this season in Golden Horseshoe Lacrosse League action last week.

Steve Wilson and Scott Early both scored four times as the Rams downed Niagara 13-8 in Acton last Thursday night. Prior to that meeting the Rams had lost their only other pair of encounters this season with the Warriors.

The 13-8 win also upped a modest Acton winning streak to three consecutive games as the Rams stormed the Burlington Cougars by a 15-4 count on June 7.

Kevin Marcoux and Paul Wilson had a pair of goals each for Acton in the win over Niagara while a single tally was registered by Rick Newman. Wayne Young counted four assists in the match with George Artem and Paul Wilson contributing a trio each. Goalie Steve Young, Steve Wilson and Rick Newman had two helpers apiece and Kevin Marcoux and Scott Early had one assist each.

Twenty-four minutes in penalties were dished out with Acton picking up 16 and Niagara serving eight.

Acton led 5-3 after the first period, 10-6 after 40 minutes and outscored Niagara 3-2 in the third to clinch their first win of 1988 over the Warriors.

Rams 15 Burlington 4

On June 7 in Burlington the Rams showed their hosts no mercy as George Artem led the attack with six goals to lead the way in Acton's 15-4 pounding of the Cougars.

Steve Wilson and Scott Early each had hattricks with single tallies going to Wayne Young, Paul Wilson and Rob Allen. Assists went out to Steve Young (4), Steve Wilson (3), Scott Early (2), George Artem (2) and Wayne Young.

Rams will look to extend their winning streak on Saturday as they visit Niagara to face the Warriors.

Eagles edge Streetsville

By TREVOR BANKS Herald Special

In the team's most important game to date, Georgetown's Juvenile Eagles lived up to expectations by defeating a tough Streetsville opponent 12-11.

Heading into the game, Streetsville sat atop the league, with a 6-0 record. The Eagles were coming off a bitter loss to Milton.

Starting off tight, the heated game became a seesaw battle with Streetsville gaining the upper hand, then late in the ballgame, Georgetown. In the end, Georgetown pulled it out on the last play of the game.

With the score tied in the bottom of the ninth, Eagle third baseman, Mike Ross singled with one out. After advancing to third, a missed suicide attempt caught Mike in a classic rundown play. Yet, through Streetsville miscues, Ross bowled his way in with the winning run.

Georgetown's comeback had started back in the sixth inning. Down 7-2, the Juveniles scored a pair of runs without even getting a base hit. Although Streetsville proceeded to widen the gap in the

seventh, by putting across four runs, Georgetown got those runs right back in the bottom of the same laning. The big inning saw shortstop Scott Williams triple, and drive in three while second baseman, Scott Mizener doubled and drove in one.

After pitcher Brent Falcone put down the Streetsville batters in the top of the eighth, the Eagles dug deep. With one on, catcher Rob Ogden proceeded to belt his second

triple of the year. For the Robby Ogden Fan Club, he is presently leading the team in five categories. This includes his .437 batting average. The real power shot of the

average. The real power shot of the inning though, came three batters later. With Ogden still on third, and a man on second, first basemen, Sean Mitton singled to right, driving in both runners and tying the game up.

The winning pitcher was Falcone, who had come in to relieve starter Tim Chapman.

Games this week include a home game Thursday. That match-up starts at 7:30.

SPORTS

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