

Darryl Sittler

"...nothing greater than helping someone.."

By PAUL SVOBODA Herald Sports Editor

Darryl Sittler enjoyed some spectacular moments during his 15-year NHL career, moments that most Canadian hockey players can only dream about.

But the 39-year-old former captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs won't tell you that his NHL record for most points in one game (10) was his biggest thrill in the game. Nor will he say his Canada Cup winning goal against Czechoslovakia in 1976 provided him with a larger degree of satisfaction.

For Sittler, the guest speaker at Monday's GHHC award dinner, there are more meaningful things in life.

"To be honest, I had other games in which I felt I played better than in the 10-point game," Sittler told the Hockey Heritage audience. "It was just one of those nights when things went right."

"But when I look back on 15 years there are other things that come to mind. I always felt an obligation and responsibility to answer my fan mail. One letter I got was from a girl in Sick Children's Hospital who was dying. I wrote her a letter of encouragement. Soon after she went into remission and today she's a 25-year-old University of Toronto student."

Sittler derived a greater degree of happiness from incidents like that one, and others, than he did from 10-point games and winning goals.

During his NHL tenure Sittler helped kick off Ronald McDonald House in Toronto, a residence for parents of cancer-inflicted children seeking treatment in Toronto. Now there are 11 such residences across the nation.

Sittler says one of his personal highlights was meeting the late Terry Fox when the one-legged cancer victim was attempting to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. "He was giving everything he had to fight a disease that eventually killed him," said Sittler. "When I was training I thought how tough it was just to run five or six miles and this guy was out running 26 miles a day on one leg."

"Sometimes we get wrapped up in our own life, we don't take the time to listen to others and have a positive impact on others. That's what I'd like you take home with you. There's nothing greater than to help someone



Mariene Tost watched intently as her husband Bob was honored on Monday night.

Hockey Heritage is Morrison's business

By PAUL SVOBODA Herald Sports Editor

Bigger and faster players, video replay machines and a more serious business-like attitude. Those are the biggest changes in the game of hockey that Scotty Morrison has seen since breaking into the NHL in 1964 as a 24-year-old referee.



Scotty Morrison

"Yes, hockey has changed," he told the GHHC dinner crowd on Monday night at Holy Cross Auditorium. "But the qualities it takes to be a good referee in the NHL are still the same. Courage, integrity, physical and mental strength and most importantly, a good sense of humor."

Now an NHL vice-president

and in charge of the revamped Hockey Hall of Fame, Morrison says he misses that close association with the game that officiating provided. But he quickly adds that he considers himself lucky to be involved with the history of the game.

Morrison called the new Hall of Fame, located in the old Bank of Montreal building in Toronto, "a cathedral for the icons of hockey."

"It's the Ontario Science Centre or Epcot Centre of hockey," raved Morrison. With videos and laser technology fans can match their skills against Gretzky, Lemieux and Sittler, he said. "fans can feel what it's like to referee in the middle of Chicago Stadium with 20,000 people screaming at them."

Aside from the new space-age video and simulation equipment, the Hall also offers a centre for international hockey excellence where Morrison said future NHLers can benefit from the best of NHL and international coaching contributions.

Morrison closed his address by applauding the efforts of people like Bob Tost. "Through efforts like those of yours, future players can look forward to hockey."



1987 GHHC award recipient Del Beaumont looks on.



Herald publisher Dave Beattie presents Rob Tost with a color portrait that will be displayed at Alcott Arena with those of other GHHC



The wit of MC Ron MacLean had Darryl Sittler and Raider GM Bob Hooper grinning



Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy, an original member of the Jr. B executive, presents a plaque to Bob.



Former Leaf Ron Ellis chatted with local hockey fans.