

Bennett ends season with mixed feelings

By PAUL SVOBODA
Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown native Adam Bennett had mixed emotions as his first season in the Ontario Hockey League ended abruptly last weekend.

Bennett's Sudbury Wolves missed qualifying for the OHL playoffs by just one point as they finished the season in seventh spot in the eight-team Emms Division with 53 points, one less than the Windsor Spitfires who earned the sixth and final divisional playoff berth with 54 points.

"There was quite a lot of disappointment (in missing the playoffs)," said Bennett during a telephone interview from Sudbury on Monday afternoon. "We couldn't pull it off at the end. During the season we actually had a chance at fourth place but we couldn't get ahead of Guelph. After a good run we fell off."

Indeed, the final standings were cruel to Sudbury as northern rival North Bay Centennials also made the playoffs with one more point than the Wolves. For Sudbury, the hunt was actually over on Thursday night when Windsor upended third-place London Knights (78 points) 4-2.

But a full house for the Wolves' final home game of the season last weekend for what was then virtually a meaningless game has returning Sudbury players, like Bennett, talking optimistically about next season. "We've got about a dozen guys coming back next year," said Bennett. "We should be an improving club."

Meanwhile, the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Bennett, who'll turn 18 on Mar. 30, expressed satisfaction with his own first season in major junior hockey. After going to the Wolves as the second overall pick in last summer's OHL midget priority draft, the former member of the Jr. B Gemini is



Adam Bennett

now being tabbed as an early first round selection in the June 17 NHL entry draft.

"I was kind of happy with my season," Bennett said. "I didn't think I did too well in the first half but I felt I did better in the second half. I kind of carried on with what I wanted to do in Jr. B hockey and hopefully I played up to my capabilities. I wanted to carry the puck more, and I think I improved my defensive positioning."

Bennett's offensive totals were healthy for a first-year OHL defenceman as he ended the regular season with seven goals and 23 assists for 30 points.

His 133 minutes in penalties also attested to his toughness.

Next year he feels the Sudbury coaching staff will look to a sophomore Adam Bennett to

carry a larger leadership role. "They've talked to me about next season," he said. "We're going to have a young defence so they'll want me to help the younger players."

But first of all, there's a matter of June 17 and the NHL draft. During the season Bennett was ranked as high as second in the OHL and fifth in North America among draft eligible players by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau.

Although he's been contacted during the season by several NHL clubs including the New York Islanders, Vancouver Canucks, Washington Capitals and Quebec Nordiques, Bennett says the big league teams are being predictably tight-lipped about their drafting plans. "They really don't say anything early," he said. "I'm sure I'll be contacted as the draft approaches."

Bennett says he'll be thrilled no matter who calls out his name on June 17 in Minneapolis. "I can't decide where I want to go but I'll be happy wherever I go," he said.

Any perceived pressure associated with being Sudbury's top pick didn't seem to hamper Bennett's play during his inaugural OHL season and the big blueliner is adopting the same low-key approach as the NHL draft nears. "I think I have a pretty clear head about it. Some guys like to talk about it but I like to stay quiet," he said.

Meanwhile, Bennett will knuckle down to the immediate task at hand - completing his Grade 12 high school year - now that Sudbury is out of the playoff picture. He returned to Georgetown yesterday to finish his academic year at GDHS and he's looking forward to a rest before he resumes his puck pursuits.

"I want to rest right now and then get back into training," said Bennett.

Desouza moves on after college finals

By PAUL SVOBODA
Herald Sports Editor

After two shots at a national championship, it appears Ray Desouza is ready to move on to new horizons and new challenges.

The former Georgetown Gemini rearguard returned home to Norval on Sunday night after his Humber College Hawks had to settle for a bronze medal at the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) hockey finals in Edmonton last week.



Ray Desouza

career."

After three years in the Jr. B wars, one season of Tier II Jr. A action and one year in the college circuit, Desouza says he'll hang up his blades next season to accept a position as host-manager of the new Club 2000 entertainment and recreation facility in Norval.

Desouza says he's leaving the game with no regrets and he's even leaving the door open for a possible return. "I've had excellent competition, I've played for and against guys who've made it to the NHL," he said, while adding he might consider enrolling at Humber for a semester in 1991 if the Hawks are seriously considering another title shot.

Meanwhile, Desouza's second kick at a national can was unceremoniously halted in Edmonton when the high-scoring Hawks were outmuscled by a pair of tough Alberta sides.

After opening the tournament with a well-earned 5-4 win over B.C.'s Mount Royal, the Hawks took it on the chin twice, losing 8-3 to the eventual gold medalists

from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and dropping a 6-2 count to Red Deer, winners of the silver medal. Humber finished its week by destroying Calgary's Palliser College 11-2 in the bronze final.

Desouza said Humber's inability to play a physical game cost the Hawks a chance at gold. "We had all the snipers and no grinders," he said. "We'd never played in such physical games in Ontario. That's my type of game, but we needed more grinders. I was expecting that type of hockey."

According to Desouza, both the NAIT and Red Deer lineups were

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Ontario Commission de
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Board de l'Ontario

IN THE MATTER OF the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, 1988, S.O. 1988, c.18.

AND IN THE MATTER OF a reference made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to section 28 of the said Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE ONTARIO AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE BOARD (the "Board"), at the request of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, will hold a Hearing pursuant to section 28 of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, 1988, S.O. 1988, c.18.

Purpose of the Hearing

The Lieutenant Governor in Council has ordered the Board to conduct public hearings to examine the threshold no fault system of privately delivered automobile insurance (with two specified thresholds), and the choice no fault system of privately delivered automobile insurance. The Order in Council dated March 2, 1989 (the "Reference"), containing the details of the systems under consideration, is available upon request.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council has specifically ordered the Board to report on the following:

1. An estimation of the average prices that would be charged for automobile insurance policies within the referred systems, based on the mandatory classification system, the determinations of fact and rates established by the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board under its decision of February 13, 1989;
2. The feasibility of extending the systems to public and commercial vehicles;
3. The cost impact, if any, of the implementation of an alternative dispute resolution involving mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration, for the settlement of no-fault compensation;
4. The administrative barriers that exist in relation to the systems that could result in significant additional costs either in implementation or in the continuing operation of the systems;
5. Whether there would be greater stability in the average prices charged for automobile insurance policies after implementation of the systems; and
6. An estimation of the level of recovery to injured persons that would be achieved under the systems.

The Board is to commence public hearings and report back to the Lieutenant Governor in Council as soon as is practicable.

The Hearing

THE HEARING will be held under File No. R-89-1 and will commence on Wednesday, April 12, 1989 at 9 o'clock a.m. in the Board's Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, 5 Park Home Avenue, North York.

A PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 1989 at 2:30 p.m. in the Board's Hearing Room to deal with preliminary matters, including, but not limited to the following:

- written evidence to be pre-filed
- the interrogatory process
- the hearing process
- issues

The Board has engaged a consultant to assist the Board. The consultant will price the two systems of privately delivered automobile insurance as set out in the Reference. This evidence will be pre-filed on or before Monday, April 3, 1989.

A SECOND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE will be held on Friday, April 7, 1989 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board's Hearing Room to settle the issues and to deal with any other procedural matters.

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY IN THE HEARING, you (or your lawyer or agent) must file with the Board a written notice of your intention to participate as a party on or before Tuesday, March 21, 1989. A person who files such a notice intends to participate fully in the hearing.

INSTEAD OF PARTICIPATING AS A PARTY IN THE HEARING, you may comment on any of the issues as a LIMITED INTERVENOR by filing a letter of comment with the Board. A letter of comment should clearly state your views, set out the grounds and the factual basis for your position, and indicate whether you intend to make an oral presentation to the Board. Letters of comment must be filed at the Board's office on or before Thursday, April 20, 1989.

ALL DOCUMENTS FILED IN THIS PROCEEDING are available for viewing at the Board's office during office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ORDERS as to how the matter will proceed may be issued from time to time. Copies of any procedural orders will be sent to all parties.

IF YOU DO NOT BECOME A PARTY TO THE HEARING OR INDICATE THAT YOU WISH TO MAKE AN ORAL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED IN YOUR ABSENCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY FURTHER NOTICE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS.

DATED AT NORTH YORK this 9th day of March, 1989.

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