



Gymnasts raise funds

The Halton Hills Gymnastic Club is hoping 1990 will be the year that the club moves into new and better facilities. To this end, the club has staged a number of fundraising activities. Club head coach Paula Geniole, states that despite the success of the fundraising efforts, donations will be accepted towards the hoped-for new facility. The club presently operates out of the Rose Room, situated on the top floor of the Georgetown Memorial Arena on Mill Street. Pictured above, Paula Geniole congratulates Cindy Boone who raised the most money selling chocolate almonds. Pictured below, club instructor Elaine Euwen is flanked by (left) Shannon Nolan and Kristin Boyle. Absent when picture was taken was Miranda Jamieson. The three gymnasts raised the most money performing cartwheels when the club participated in the Georgetown Santa Claus parade. All gymnasts taking part in the parade were required to perform at least 200 cartwheels. (Herald photo)



Ontario Hockey League Major juniors attract crowds

Through the first quarter of the 1989-90 season, the Ontario Hockey League has experienced an overall league attendance increase of 40,355 fans or 13.6 per cent. The increase follows a trend set last spring in the 1989 playoffs when the league set an all-time playoff attendance record of 225,653 fans in 65 games, an increase of 42 per cent, or 66,508 more fans than in the 1988 playoffs.

Twelve of the 15 teams have increased crowds this season with Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds showing the largest gain, 9,310 fans, followed closely by the Sudbury Wolves at 8,394. The Leyden Division leading Kingston Frontenacs have the third highest increase, 4,512 fans, followed by the Owen Sound Platers with a 3,836 increase. Of the three remaining teams, one team is even and two are down in total attendance. The three top teams in average attendances are drawing over 3,000 fans per game. Kitchener Rangers have the highest average attendance at 3,212 followed closely by Sudbury at 3,204 and London Knights at 3,001 fans per game.

OHL Commissioner David E. Branch attributes the increases to an almost re-birth of junior hockey. "There is no question that spectator interest and support of the Ontario Hockey League has been on a steady increase over the last several years and this season confirms that trend. In my opinion, there are several factors which have come together.

"Firstly, the quality of play has steadily improved and this can be directly correlated to the adjustment made in our arrangement with the National Hockey League. Players such as 1989 NHL first round selections Scott Thornton, Steve Bancroft and Rob Pearson (Belleville), Jason Soules (Hamilton), Steven Rice and Shayne Stevenson (Kitchener) and Adam Bennett (Sudbury) are all in the league this season and, for the most part, were left in junior hockey to hone and fine tune their skills.

Branch continued, "There is also a tremendous combination of 'player make-up' in the league when one considers the bright young stars such as Mike Ricci, Keith Primeau, Owen Nolan and John Slaney, etc. The league and the member teams have become so much more sophisticated and professional in terms of how we promote and present our product - like the TV Game-of-the-Week package - and the increasing support we are now experiencing from the corporate sector."

Branch also added that, "another major factor is the quality of management and coaching, both of which have never been better. When you look at the Kilrea's, Todd's, Templeton's, McMaster's and McDonnell's, etc., you have professionals in their field second to none which of course has led to

the league becoming much more competitive, thus increasing interest and awareness."

The top four teams with increases are a reflection that improvements in franchise stability is crucial to those teams which were once experiencing attendance problems. Owen Sound has its first chance at an OHL team when the Platers moved there from Guelph this past summer while the other three teams - Kingston, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie - are on the rebound from lean years at the gate.

Sault Ste. Marie kept its franchise from moving this past summer with a strong season ticket drive while Kingston has iced a competitive hockey club which leads, not only the Leyden Division, but is first overall in the league.

In Sudbury, the Wolves may have turned the corner despite making the playoffs only once in the past eight years. The increase in attendance and an improvement on the ice to the team's current third-place standing in the Emms Division is a result of general manager Sam McMaster's efforts

over the past two and one-half years.

McMaster believes one of the major reasons for the increased attendance in Sudbury "is the fact that they (the fans) have been waiting for a competitive hockey team for most of the '80s. The play of the players has been most entertaining so the community has gotten excited about it."

He has been the architect behind other successful franchises, namely Sault Ste. Marie where he was GM from 1980 through the 1984-85 season and also in Toronto where the Marlboros experienced a large increase in 1979-80 when McMaster was the Director of Promotions.

"Sudbury is a community of about 150,000 people and it is in a location in the province where the Junior 'A' hockey is the top of the ladder for family entertainment. Probably, a third reason for the increase in crowds and interest is the calibre of teams coming into the building and the competitiveness of the league, both of which has the people enjoying the OHL."

Sunny Acres host rival Ancaster

Georgetown Sunny Acres Farms major midgets will be looking to end their 1989-90 Tri-County Hockey League season on a winning note this weekend with two scheduled games.

Saturday afternoon, 5:30 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, Sunny Acres host Ancaster.

Sunday afternoon, Sunny Acres journey to Streetsville for their final game of the 1989-90 regular season.

Sunny Acres are sporting a 1990 two-game winning streak and their 19-3-1 season record, to date, in Tri-County play has the team comfortably in first place.

Rebel Midgets capture second

The Georgetown District High School Rebels midget girls volleyball team finished in second place in a four team North Halton league round-robin volleyball tournament staged Wednesday at GDHS.

Teams from Milton, Bishop Reding and Acton high schools challenged the Rebels on their home turf.

The teams played best two-of-three matches with points awarded for games won.

The Rebels beat Milton and tied

with Acton but lost to Bishop Reding.

Final tournament standings showed Milton in first place, the Rebels and Bishop Reding tied for second place with Acton finishing in third place.

The Rebels last round-robin league tournament is scheduled for Feb. 7 at Bishop Reding, while the North Halton league championships are slated for Acton High School, Feb. 14.

Rebels are presently in second place in league standings.



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