

Jeff Shevalier voted top rookie

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

Jeff Shevalier, of the Acton Sabres, has been selected 1989-90 Mid-Ontario Junior "C" Hockey League "Rookie of the Year," the league announced last week.

Shevalier led the Sabres in scoring this past season with 30 goals and 34 assists for 64 scoring points, well ahead of team scoring runner-up Bob Gagnon, who had 43 scoring points off 21 goals and 22 assists.

After Caledon Flyers eliminated Acton Sabres from Mid-Ontario Junior "C" Hockey League post-season play, in the fifth, and deciding game of an exciting first-round best-of-five series, Shevalier was called up by Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders (affiliate team of the Sabres) to help out in Georgetown's Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League opening round best-of-seven playoff series against Streetsville Derbys.

It took Streetsville six games to eliminate the Raiders and Shevalier acquitted himself well.

He scored three goals and added a pair of assists to finish in sixth place in the Raiders playoff scoring parade, six points behind Raider playoff scoring leader Brent Presswood.

Acton novices lose heartbreaker

A last minute gamble just didn't pan out and the Acton Leathertown West Wearhouse novice hockey team fell behind the 8-ball in losing a 4-3 heartbreaker to Fergus in the second game of a Hub League best-of-five semifinal playoff series played last Wednesday (March 7) in Acton.

The loss gave Fergus a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series and because of the March break, the third game in the series has yet to be scheduled. It will, however, be played in Fergus.

Acton pulled goaltender Andrew Coe in favor of an extra attacker with just 13 seconds left to play in the game and despite having a faceoff in the Fergus zone with just seven seconds showing on the clock, the Leathertown West Wearhouse crew just couldn't count the equalizer.

Despite the loss, Coe had an excellent game in the Acton nets and showed off his newly acquired trapper with a number of sparkling glove saves.

Fergus appeared to have the game well in hand by moving in front 2-0 after the first period.

Acton counted a second period marker to narrow the gap to 2-1 heading into the final period of play.

Fergus counted the first goal of the final frame and Acton was forced to play catch-up for the balance of the game and just fell a tad short.

Devon Fraser scored twice for the Leathertown West Wearhouse squad with David Lajeunesse adding a single marker.

Kyle Artem, Brent McGuire, Sandy Chapman and Shawn Weatherall collected assists.

Former Georgetown resident named to top CSA position

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Former Georgetown resident Gary Miller, who now resides in Oakville, but who played and coached at the minor soccer level in Georgetown, has been named the Canadian Soccer Association's high performance director.

Miller, who served as the technical director of the Ontario Soccer Association for the past seven years, takes over the CSA office April 1, replacing Bob Bearpark who resigned from the CSA last year after refusing to accept a transfer to the association's headquarters in Ottawa.

The 33-year-old Miller, who is married with a year-old daughter, is excited about his new position, which he views as "a challenge" and can't wait to take office.

Miller is the first Canadian-born individual to fill such a high-profile position with the Canadian Soccer Association.

Miller brings a wealth of soccer knowledge with him to his new position that will entail being in charge of player development, looking after numerous training centres, charting Canada's national teams' progress, coordinating coaching programs and implementing a drug-testing unit.

He will also be responsible for monitoring the progress of young players in the CSA's elite program.

Since most CSA coaches are of British background, Miller might have to calm some troubled waters in his own backyard, as last year he created some controversy by suggesting Canada should drop its British-style defensive oriented play in favor of a more attacking style if it wanted to keep pace with the rest of the soccer world.

Miller's soccer education began in Georgetown with the minor soccer program and continued through Georgetown's Junior "B"

team and in 1975 he played for the local Toronto and District Soccer Association entry, Georgetown Falcons.

He coached in the Georgetown minor system as well and helped develop Georgetown soccer product Gary Morrow, a stellar performer with the Hamilton Steelers of the Canadian Soccer League.

Miller was Morrow's coach with Ontario's 1985 Canada Games team.

Miller also served a year on the executive of the local minor soccer group, handling public relations duties.

He played four years with the Guelph Oaks, a senior team competing in the high-calibre Intercity League and played five years of varsity soccer at the University of Western Ontario in London, where he obtained a degree in physical education.

He also played two years with a top amateur team, the London Marconis, while attending Western University.

A one-year experiment teaching high school in Mitchell, Ontario only served to fan the flames of soccer for Miller, who returned to school and obtained a masters degree in physical education split between York University in Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

He played minor professional soccer with the Bradford Marshlanders of the National Soccer League and in 1983, accepted a position with the Ontario Soccer Association as schools program coordinator which involved organizing and scheduling soccer clinics throughout the public school and high school systems in Ontario.

Miller's brother, Gordon, also a product of the Georgetown minor soccer system, presently holds the OSA position of schools coordinator. Gordon played four years

of professional soccer in the Major Indoor Soccer League.

In a telephone interview, Miller stated that he feels his elevation to the position of high performance director for the CSA will have a positive effect on soccer in Canada mainly because he "knows the system, has been through the soccer system and similarly realizes what changes need to be made and how these changes can be made."

Canada's failure to qualify for this summer's World Cup in Italy has had a negative effect on the game, in terms of media coverage, according to Miller, but the popularity of the game at the grass roots level continues to grow.

Miller claimed that the number of participants in soccer rose to approximately 300,000 last year covering all facets of the game from six-a-side mini soccer to adult recreational soccer. He claimed there was also a dramatic rise in the number of females playing the game and that soccer only ranks behind hockey in Ontario in terms of recreational participation.

This is one area Miller intends to emphasize.

"The CSA wants to attract families to soccer," Miller said, "as a game that can be enjoyed as a life-long recreational activity."

He also insists that the much-maligned Canadian defensive style of play is more a matter of necessity than choice.

"The Canadian style is a defensive style," noted Miller, "mainly because the skill level of youngsters has to be upgraded to successfully adopt an attacking style of game. Canadians are known for their strong defensive play, determination and team cohesiveness. I plan to retain the strong points of the Canadian game but attacking skills will be emphasized."

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