



Sports Outlook

OLIN GIBSON - Herald Sports Editor



MAJOR JUNIOR HOCKEY PLAYERS Rod Pasma of the Cornwall Royals (left) and Adam Bennett, of the Sudbury Wolves (right) returned to their hometown hockey roots Wednesday evening at the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association Rep teams awards banquet. Pasma and Bennett each spoke briefly to the captive audience and each insisted that a National Hockey League career was well within

the realm of possibility for those young players who displayed dedication and were willing to work for their dream. Both players also took time to sign autographs and chat with the players in attendance, much to the delight of two Bodanis Bruins players. Doug Sheppard (left) and Jamie Stephenson got to meet the hometown hockey players and trade hockey yarns. (Herald photo by Colin Gibson)

Soccer season to prove exciting

By STEVE LEE
Herald Special

1990 promises to be an exciting year in soccer at both the local and international level, with the World Cup in June and, at the other end of the spectrum, a large group of Georgetown Mini-Squirts (U6 and U7) getting their first chance to be involved in the world's most popular sport!

Minor Soccer in Georgetown offers both a Girls' and Boys' House League. Boys' Commissioner, Bill Harrison (877-4501) indicates that, based on current enrolment, the League will consist of 7 Mini-Squirt teams (U6 and U7 - born 1984, 83), 4 Major Squirt (U8), 6 Atom (U9 and U10), 4 Pee wee (U11, U12 and U13) and 3 Bantam (U14, U15, U16 and U17).

Girls' Commissioner Isabel McNeily (873-1073) has responsibility (again based on current enrolment) for 4 Squirt (U6, U7 and U8), 4 Atom (U9 and U10), 3 Pee wee (U11, U12 and U13) and 3 Bantam (U14, U15, U16 and U17) squads.

There are a very limited number of spaces left in all age groups, both boys and girls, for late registrants. Contact Steven Lee, Club Registrar (877-8027) regarding availability - fees are \$50 for Squirts and \$65 for all others. Teams will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, Georgetown will have two U18 Rep teams in the Peel-Halton League, the core of the teams have been working out for some time, but potential new players should contact Sally Remedios (877-7647), coach for the Girls' team, or Nunzio Verrichio, Boys' (877-8820) immediately.

The coaches and managers meeting will be held in the GDHS Gym 1 on April 29th, from 12:00-1:30. Coaches will contact their players and distribute uniforms early in May. A few coaches for the older divisions, and referees at all levels, are still needed - if interested, contact the Commissioners. The season begins May 12 and ends in the second week of September. Squirts and Atoms play 7-a-side mini soccer, while the older groups play the regular 11-a-side game.

(Mini-soccer is played on a smaller field, with smaller balls and goals and fewer rules - for example, no off-side. Mandated by the Canadian Soccer Association, mini-soccer is gaining huge acceptance around the world, as a method of introducing small children to the pleasures and skills of soccer in a non-competitive environment. Stress is on having fun, and no standings are kept, every child gets equal time on the field regardless of skill level, and all participants receive the same trophy at the end of the season. It is an excellent introduction to team sports for young children, and many of the concepts carry over into other sports, such as hockey - while providing them with an opportunity to burn off some of that excess energy by running around in the fresh air!)

Games are played on numerous Georgetown fields Monday to Thursday throughout the summer - spectators are always welcome. Perhaps the small child with the big grin you watch this summer - you will see again, representing Canada (and Georgetown) in the World Cup of 2010!

Rep teams awards banquet

Silverware and stars highlight evening

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

The Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association Rep teams group held its annual awards banquet Wednesday evening at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena hall and aside from all the silverware that was handed out, the youngsters were treated to three special guests.

Georgetown minor hockey products, Adam Bennett, of the OHL's Sudbury Wolves and Rod Pasma of the OHL's Cornwall Royals, were on hand to meet the young hockey players and offer words of advice.

In addition, former NHL goaltender Rick Heinz - one of the frontrunners for the general's managers position vacated by Bob Hooper, with the Georgetown Junior "B" Raiders - took to the podium as the evening's guest speaker.

PASMA RATED HIGHLY

In addressing the young hockey players, Pasma urged them "not to give up the dream of one day playing in the National Hockey League."

He recounted how, at a similar banquet several years ago, it was suggested to him that he not get his hopes up too high of one day playing in the NHL.

After just one year in the Ontario Hockey League, the latest NHL scouting bureau ratings rank Pasma 12th in terms of junior hockey talent and he urged those youngsters harboring NHL dreams to "go for it, it can be done if you have the ability and are willing to work for what you want."

CLOSE TO CONTRACT

Bennett, the number one draft choice of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks in last June's entry draft, revealed that he is very close to inking a pact with the NHL club, after months of wrangling by both sides.

"We (he and his agent, Anton Thun, of Toronto) have an offer in the mail. I'm hoping things will be wrapped-up soon."

In his address to those in attendance, Bennett stressed just how much hard work and dedication is necessary to succeed in hockey,



Rick Heinz

even at the major junior level.

"You can basically say," pointed out Bennett, "that it is a 24-hour-a-day job. Unfortunately, at the junior level, school often has to take a back seat to hockey."

He outlined a typical day for a junior hockey player and what with practices, viewing video tapes, journeying back and forth from the arena, then reporting early for that night's game, how little time the players really had for other activities.

Bennett touched on the money aspect involved as a professional hockey player but stressed that should not be the be-all and end-all of a youngster's hockey dream.

"Sure the money is nice," said Bennett, "but the game still has to be fun. It's a lot of hard work and you have to be dedicated, but for me, it's worth it."

Both Pasma and Bennett had praise for and offered sincere thanks to all the people who provided the help and proper guidance for them as minor hockey players.

EDUCATION IMPORTANT

Heinz was a bit of a surprise guest speaker, considering he is in the hunt for the Raiders general manager position.

Heinz moved to Milton last August and is a real estate agent for Canada Trust. He also offers advice on tax shelters.

He recounted how his nine years

as a professional hockey player had its ups and downs, but overall, was a positive life experience.

Heinz appeared last weekend on the television program, Don Cherry's Grapevine, to plug the book he has written, "Many Are Called, Few Are Signed."

Heinz toiled for four years as a minor professional hockey player and was employed mainly as a backup goaltender throughout his five year National Hockey League career with the St. Louis Blues and the Vancouver Canucks.

In his book, Heinz stresses young hockey players take a realistic look at their chances of playing hockey and offers advice on things such as retaining an agent, how to go about getting a hockey scholarship and planning for life after hockey.

Unlike many former professional hockey players, Heinz is adamant on the importance of education.

He advised the youngsters at the Wednesday evening gathering that there is life after hockey and that they had better be prepared for it, citing the fact that the average career of a professional hockey player - including minor professionals - is 4.5 years.

Heinz, who grew up in Essex, Ont., went the scholarship route and played for Minnesota-Duluth.

He bounced back and forth six times between the NHL and the minors and suggested to the young hockey players, "have fun playing the game, making the NHL is a bonus."

Years ago, Heinz played for Essex in the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament, so he is not a total stranger to local environs.

The highlight of the evening for the young hockey players, naturally, was the handing out of awards - and there were plenty.

Esso medallions were handed out for the Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player and Most Sportsmanlike Player in both the Junior and Senior Rep divisions.

In addition, special awards were handed out to both players and team officials.

Esso Medallion Winners

JUNIOR REP

Minor Novice - MVP Scott Ellis, MIP Mark MacInnes, MSP Jason Campbell.

Novice - MVP Robert MacLeod, MIP Danny Cabral, MSP Chris Hall.

Minor Atom - MVP Steven Smith, MIP Trevor Rich, MSP Allan Rasmussen and Mike Crawford.

Atom - MVP Peter Mashinter, MIP Darin Finlayson, MSP Ryan Taylor.

SENIOR REP

Minor Pee wee - MVP David Boere, MIP Kevin Lumb, MSP David Kotsos.

Pee wee - MVP Doug Shepherd, MIP Jim Katsilierus, MSP Duane Erlek.

Bantam B - MVP Greg Dawson, MIP Jim Kingston, MSP Cory Rouix.

Bantam AA - MVP Steven Wright, MIP Dustin Thompson, MSP David Osborne.

Midget - MVP Rob Boyle, MIP Rob Lang, MSP Rob Boyle.

Juvenile - MVP Doug McDermid, MIP Gary Cunningham, MSP Kevin Rowe.

Special Awards

Hockey Moms Rep Vezna Trophy - Chris Hall and Joey Barber.

The Yeo/Christie Memorial Trophy to Most Improved Team - Bantam AA coach John Wright.

The Gilmer Trophy to Most Successful Atom Team - Atom AA.

The David Hulme Trophy to Goaltenders with Best Goals Against Average - Peter Downs and Paul St. Pierre.

The Paul Fendley Memorial Trophy to Most Valuable Midget Player - Trevor Ellensky.

Joe Pentesco Award to Executive Member of the Year - Jim Coleman and Carson Mininch.

The Pearce Family Trophy to Senior Rep Coach of the Year - Chris Milne.

The Hume Family Trophy to Senior Manager of the Year - Wayne Pries.

Junior Rep Manager of the Year - Brian Clark and Wayne Smith.

Junior Rep Coach of the Year - Ken Smith.