

# Heritage award acknowledges debt owed to referees

The recent honoring of Gerry Perkins as the 1990 recipient of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award is a very just and deserved recognition of the contribution he has made to the town.

After putting more than 30 years of his life into refereeing and coaching hockey, he has helped countless numbers of people to enjoy and improve themselves.

He didn't take the world's easiest job either. A referee is perhaps liked more than some politicians I can think of, but doesn't quite rank up there with Santa Claus. When speaking of

getting respect, Rodney Dangerfield stands a better chance on most game nights.

However, it is respect that Perkins received from the Heritage Council, along with quite a bit of admiration. His big day in the sun will be on March 4 when the awards banquet takes place, so I thought it wouldn't hurt to bring a few of those rays over to shine on the rest of his zebra-striped associates a little earlier.

As pointed out earlier, the job isn't the easiest to do. Because it's not the ref's job to take sides, those people in the stands who



**RISKY BUSINESS**  
By Rob Risk

definitely have are going to come into conflict with the officials - some more noticeably than others.

Perkins said he wondered if some people came to the rink simply to cause trouble rather than cheer on their favourite team. It takes little to amuse some small minds and since hockey is an aggressive game, a little action likely pushes the less responsible over the edge.

He also told me some referees have quit because they couldn't

take the abuse from the stands any longer. When the morons are out in force in the bleachers, it can get hard to take.

It's too bad some give refereeing up, but as in any job, people discover that some things are just not for them. For those who stick with it, the game can be a very satisfying experience.

I refereed for several years, helping a ringette organization get started as well. As the seasons went by, it was satisfying to see the players and the quality of the game improve. Looking back, I like to think the time I put into it helped them progress in some small way.

I think that it's the same for most referees, just as it is for Gerry Perkins, who helped the Georgetown Referees Association function and grow from its earlier days. In some way, every good referee helps whatever level of play he or she is involved with.

Coaching staffs do most of the work, but even referees teach the players a few things. Some of it is

bad, like learning how to get away with a slash with the official isn't looking, but a lot of the comments a good referee gives (especially to the younger players) can be constructive. If an official can teach players what it takes to play a clean game and still have fun, they've done their job.

I'm not saying referees are perfect, because many are not even close. However, hockey officials do have a tough job. The game is very fast paced, there are 12 (and sometimes more) players to keep their eyes on, scores and penalties to record, off-sides to call and some fights to break up.

To those who have to blow that (sometimes frozen) whistle: Turn a deaf ear to the crowd - you're not there to make friends, just to call it as you see it. The coaches, fans and players won't admit it after you've just given their side a penalty, but they all realize the game couldn't be played without you.



**Having a ball**

Rebel senior basketball player Adam Poyntz goes up to fight off a Pearson player for the ball during their game at Georgetown District High School Wednesday. Rebels lost 57-25 to the first place Pearson squad. (Herald photo)

# Novice Sabres unbeaten streak ended at 23 games in Wasaga

Acton Major Novice Leather-town West Warehouse Sabres lost their first game in 24 starts against Alliston Dec. 15 in the opening round of the Wasaga Beach Silver Stick Championship.

Acton captain David Lajeunesse scored his 50th goal of the season for his team's only marker in the 3-1 loss.

Alliston got started early, scoring from the opening face-off. The team's third goal bounced in off an Acton defender's skate.

Sabres hadn't fully recovered from their first setback of the year when they faced Tottenham in their next game. Goalie Andrew Coe kept the team in the game, shutting out Alliston through the second period to

maintain the 0-0 tie.

Beginning the third, the Sabres started to click, led by Kyle Artem and David Lajeunesse, each who had a goal and assist. That was all Sabres needed, as they hung on to win 2-1.

After a late night snowball fight between the parents and the players, Sabres couldn't put the puck past the Wasaga goaltender in their Sunday morning game until late in the match. In the third period, Sabres connected with six goals to give them a 6-0 win, Coe's 12th shutout of the season.

The win also earned Sabres a return trip to Wasaga Dec. 30 to face off against Alliston. The winner of the match advances to Sar-

nia Feb. 1 to compete in the Ontario Finals.

Artem netted a hat trick, along with two assists, followed by David Lajeunesse with one goal and three assists. Jason Christopher and Ryan Young each had one goal, while Sandy Chapman and Richard Raju got one assist each.

Before heading to Wasaga, Sabres extended their winning streak to 23 by beating Woolwich on the road 3-2 Dec. 8.

Lajeunesse scored two goals and one assist, while Artem got one goal and two assists. Raju assisted on one of the goals.

Sabres play their next game today in Fergus, starting at 4:00 p.m. Dec. 27 the team hosts its own tournament at Acton Arena.

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