

Raiders looking to improve

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders Jr. B hockey organization is hoping a more aggressive scouting approach and a series of early tryouts will improve on its sixth place regular season finish and first round playoff elimination in the 1990-91 schedule.

Raider coach Charlie Hanman, named as Gary McFadyen's replacement at the beginning of April, said the idea of the early tryouts from April 14-21 at Alcott Arena was to try and get potential players to identify with the Raider name and take advantage of the recent completion of the 1990-91 season.

"This way, most of the guys haven't been off the ice for very long and are still in reasonable condition."

Hanman said close to 200 players were looked at and approximately 40 have been chosen to return for further camps in August. He added that those 40 players have been given a conditioning program to work on over the summer that is designed to improve muscle strength and increase size, something he believes will help the team down



the road.

"It's an eight week program that (assistant coach) Mike Marcolini has put together for the boys to work on individually. Generally, I believe increased size gives a player more confidence on the ice. Brampton (which swept Raiders in the playoffs) was generally bigger and more physical than Georgetown, which I think gave them an advantage over us."

Hanman said another change which should bring about positive

results was getting about 10 Raider players from last year's team to help referee the scrimmages and run the benches.

"I wanted to start a team concept right away. Rob Doucette, a veteran in his fourth year, among several others, have shown an interest in helping out. This should help develop leadership among them as well."

The coach said the team has increased its efforts to reach more prospects from around the province this year, placing advertisements in many local newspapers about the tryouts.

"I think we've gotten a very good response. We've gotten people from all different areas, from several Jr. C teams up north to the Brampton triple and double 'A' teams and the Toronto leagues as well."

Hanman said the team is aiming to play 500 hockey this year and advancing at least past the first round of the playoffs. The coach said the team is capable of being competitive with any of its rivals in the Central Ontario League, with Oakville, this year's top team, seen as its toughest test for the coming season.

Acton Minor Hockey

According to Andy Williams, president of the Acton Minor Hockey Association, his group had a fairly successful 1990-91 season.

"We did very well, with three of our teams winning Hub league championships and four of them finishing first in their local leagues. The boys all had a good year."

Williams said there were a few less players signed up this year, resulting in two fewer teams, but is optimistic the AMHA would get the same number back next season.

"It seems to go up and down

every so often. One thing that was at capacity was our executive membership, so our organization of things ran fairly smoothly. We'll be working on forming our budget over the course of the summer."

Williams said one of the executive's main projects is getting Halton Hills Town Council to provide the funds needed to build a new arena in Acton since the old one is in danger of being shut down due to its advanced age.

One area of concern that didn't turn out to be too serious was the possibility of losing too many players to the newly formed AAA

league, resulting in fewer teams being put on the ice.

"Only about five players went to the triple 'A' league and a few more will probably go next year, but it won't really affect us. We had quite a few capable of going but they didn't want to leave," said Williams.

Williams said the two tournaments the association ran this year were also successful, drawing a lot of the public in to watch the games.

"The Atom and Novice tournaments are something we started up last year and we're happy with the way they have gone. We had a lot of people help to organize them, with no complaints about how it went."

Still, Williams said the AMHA can never have enough volunteers for such events, including fundraising. With the cost of ice rentals going up, along with other necessities like new equipment and sweaters, people are needed to help sell raffle tickets and cheese or other items during fundraising drives.

Acton minor softball full to the brim

Acton Minor Softball Association increased its numbers this year from 215 to 240, forcing the organization to turn people away because of the limited number of playing fields.

Cornelia Turpin, president of the association for the last two years, said the organization might have to reorganize its scheduling in the future because the teams can't take on more players than they already have.

"It's not fair to the kids if there are too many, since they wouldn't get that much playing time. The only other way around it is to buy our own field, which is something we'll have to look at down the road."

Turpin said other people who have asked to join have been given the numbers of other centres in the area, such as Limehouse and Glen Williams in order to find a place to play. The growth in numbers has led the association to bring a second pee-wee boys team into the fold and the first pee-wee girls team that Acton has had for a few years.

"We've also added another atom boys team, making a total of three this year. The younger groups have grown more as well, with T-Ball doing very well. The only one we lost was the Halton Hills Bantam girls rep team, which is operating out of Georgetown now," said Turpin.

The president said the main goal of the local sports group is to try and get a batting cage in the near future, which would be located at Prospect Park and used by all the baseball organizations.

"It would be a great help to everyone, being able to improve on their hitting, especially the kids. The cost is about \$25-30,000 with the most expensive thing being the fencing."

Turpin said aside from always looking for coaches to help out with the teams, everything has been running well so far and believes this year could be one of the association's best.

GMHA ingenuity leads to increase in registration

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association used a little ingenuity to help increase its registration this year, said GMHA president Hal Pells, raising its numbers for the second year in a row.

"We had 640 registered this past year and are hoping to increase marginally next year as well. What we did to reach new people was compare the baseball and soccer registration lists with ours. Any that were missing from our list were sent a letter of introduction to encourage them to join us."

Pells said the greater numbers enabled the GMHA to increase the Midget/Juvenile hockey house league from four up to six teams while still maintaining a high level of competitiveness.

"It was a big surprise how well-matched these guys were. There was only a five point spread between the first and last placed teams at the end of the regular season."

As a result of the increase in that age division, Pells said some of their games had to be moved outside of their traditional Sunday evening slot, but the move didn't cause many problems.

"One big success we had this year was the Day of Champions. We packed more people in there than the Raiders (Georgetown Jr. B team) could ever hope to. It was a lot of fun for everyone involved and something we're really looking forward to next year."

Pells said part of the reason for

that enthusiasm is that people from the Tim Horton's Donut store chain were impressed with the way the event was organized and how many members of the public came out. As a result, the store may be sponsoring the event in the future, a winfall for the GMHA's budget.

While on the topic of expenses, Pells said the organization will continue to pressure Halton Hills Town Council to give the group a reduced rental rate for the Alcott Arena facilities during the two tournament's they run.

"It's a special event as far as the town is concerned, but by holding the tournaments, we're bringing in a lot of business to the area. Also, the town makes a small fortune from the snack bar they run in the arena while the events are on."

Another major area of concern is the effect the newly-formed Hurricanes AAA organization in the area has had on the GMHA's other minor hockey teams.

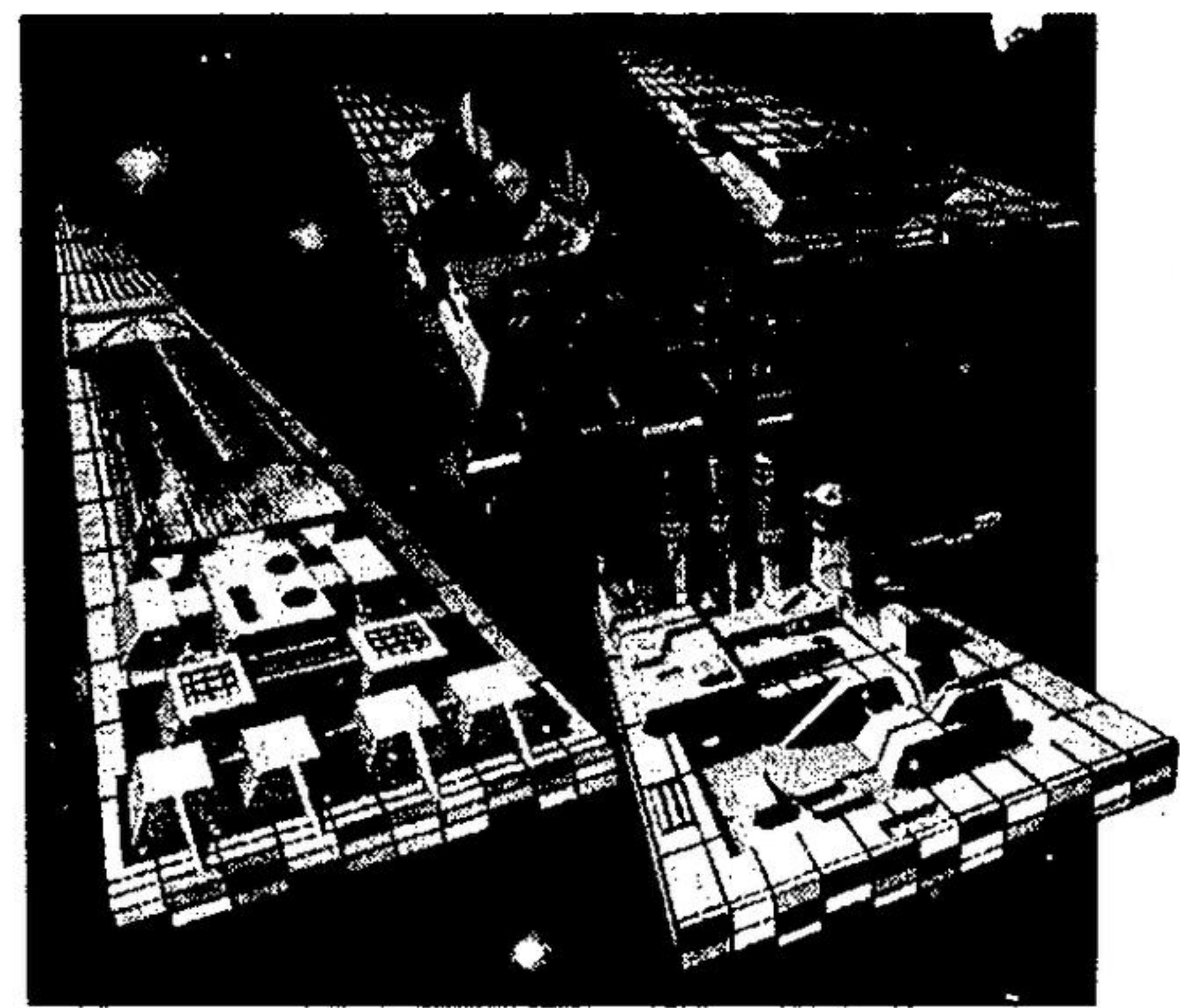
"From an overall standpoint, we suffered to some point. We had to re-classify some teams from double 'A' to double 'B' because they weren't as competitive as they were before. We lost about 35 kids and I don't see it improving in the near future."

Pells said the association will be discussing the triple 'A' question at their June meetings as they try and decide on a course of action, one of which includes trying to get rid of the Hurricanes.

AT VARIAN OUR...

FOCUS

ON TOMORROW



Varian is a science based, electronics company that designs, manufactures and markets high technology systems, components and support services for communications, defence, medical, environmental, industrial and scientific applications.

Some 10,000 employees worldwide are focused on making technology work for customers. Whatever the problem or challenge, Varian people find solutions by applying core technologies to new frontiers.

varian

HEAD OFFICE:
45 River Drive
Georgetown

SALES OFFICE:
332 Guelph Street
Georgetown

Serving the...
HALTON HILLS AREA
FOR OVER 28 YEARS

Manufacturers
Since
1963



Fast
Efficient
Delivery

ACTON PRECAST CONCRETE LIMITED

- Septic & Holding Tanks
- PVC Sewer Pipe
- Well Tiles & Culverts
- Transformer Bases
- Steps & Porches
- Yard & Patio Products
- Interlocking Paving Stones

**IF IT'S PRECAST...
IT'S BUILT TO LAST!**

1-519-853-1529