

Hockey school runs Aug. 31 to Sept. 4

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Their program was an instant success. Registration has been between 110 and 120 players for each of the last three years.

"Our cutoff mark is 120 players," said Hay, "This way we can maintain a ratio of 1 to 10 (instructor to players) and give the kids proper instruction."

The majority of the youngsters involved in the program are local hockey players, but a few start in the hockey school before entering a local minor hockey league.

Hay said that roughly 60 per cent of the players in the program are repeat customers.

The hockey school is divided into two categories: the Foundation Training Program and the Performance Program.

The Foundation Program is designed for the beginner and the houseleague player while the advanced player receives more intensified training in the Performance Program.

Each of the two programs is divided into three age groups: six to eight-year-olds, nine and 10-year-olds, and 11 and up.

Two training sessions, each 90-minutes long, are held for the players during each day of the week-long hockey school. Power skating is stressed during the morning session and the afternoons focus on hockey skills.

Video instruction, fitness and strength classes, and other activities like outdoor games are also part of the program. Juice breaks, courtesy of Knechtel Georgetown Food Market, are held each day and hockey games are played at the end of the week.

Registration fees for the school are \$190 per player or \$180 if two or more children in one family are registered.

These fees include, along with one week's training and instruction, one hockey sweater per player, a performance evaluation and a certificate of achievement.

The hockey school is associated with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, who provide sweaters and some goaltending equipment for the program.

A lunch option for \$35 can be taken for the week. These hot lunch-



es are provided by Kentner's Catering of Georgetown.

Registration brochures can be picked up at all three arenas in Halton Hills as well as M & M Pro Sports in Georgetown.

Both Hay and Krause have strong coaching backgrounds and help out with some of the on-ice instruction. Davin Ciglan is the school's head instructor and Hay says finding qualified coaches hasn't been a problem.

Along with local GMHA coaches,

many Georgetown Junior B Raiders as well as former Raider Adam Bennett have also been part of the program.

Hay said the school tries to teach the players responsibility, including pointers on how to organize a hockey bag and take care of hockey equipment.

"We try to teach them that they are hockey players, no matter how young they are."

He says the program is held at an

ideal time for the youngsters, after most of the summer recreation programs are finished and one week before the minor hockey season begins.

Hay explains that support from the parents has been excellent and that many people have suggested increasing the program to two weeks. Due to time constraints and expensive ice fees, this is not likely to happen in the near future.

Al Hay and Dave Krause have enjoyed great success with their hockey school and are optimistic about the future of the program.

"I think the success we've had has been more so because of the players all wanting to have a good time than anything we could have done," said Hay.

There are still plenty of spaces available for the program. Completed registration forms can be delivered or mailed to: The Halton Hills Sports Academy, 39 Jocelyn Crescent, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 2S5.

For more information contact Krause at 873-4991.

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Slow-pitch league continues to grow

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way in the competitive division while top spot in the recreational division is occupied by BFI Industries. Top spots in the over-30 and mixed divisions are held by A Touch of Grey and Country Lane respectively.

Each team plays one game a week throughout the season, which runs from April to September. Games are held Monday to Thursday at the Georgetown Fairgrounds, Prospect Park in Acton, and at ball diamonds in Glen Williams, Norval and Stewarttown.

Team caps and jerseys, as well as most of the league's equipment, are supplied by M.V.P. Distributors of Georgetown.

Courchesne says M.V.P. Distributors has been very supportive of the league with good prices and group discounts on equipment and jerseys.

A general spring meeting is held each April in order to attract new teams and address new

changes and an awards banquet is held each October.

Awards are presented to the first-place winners in each division as well as the home run king. Graham Dearsley of BFI Industries is currently leading the league in homers.

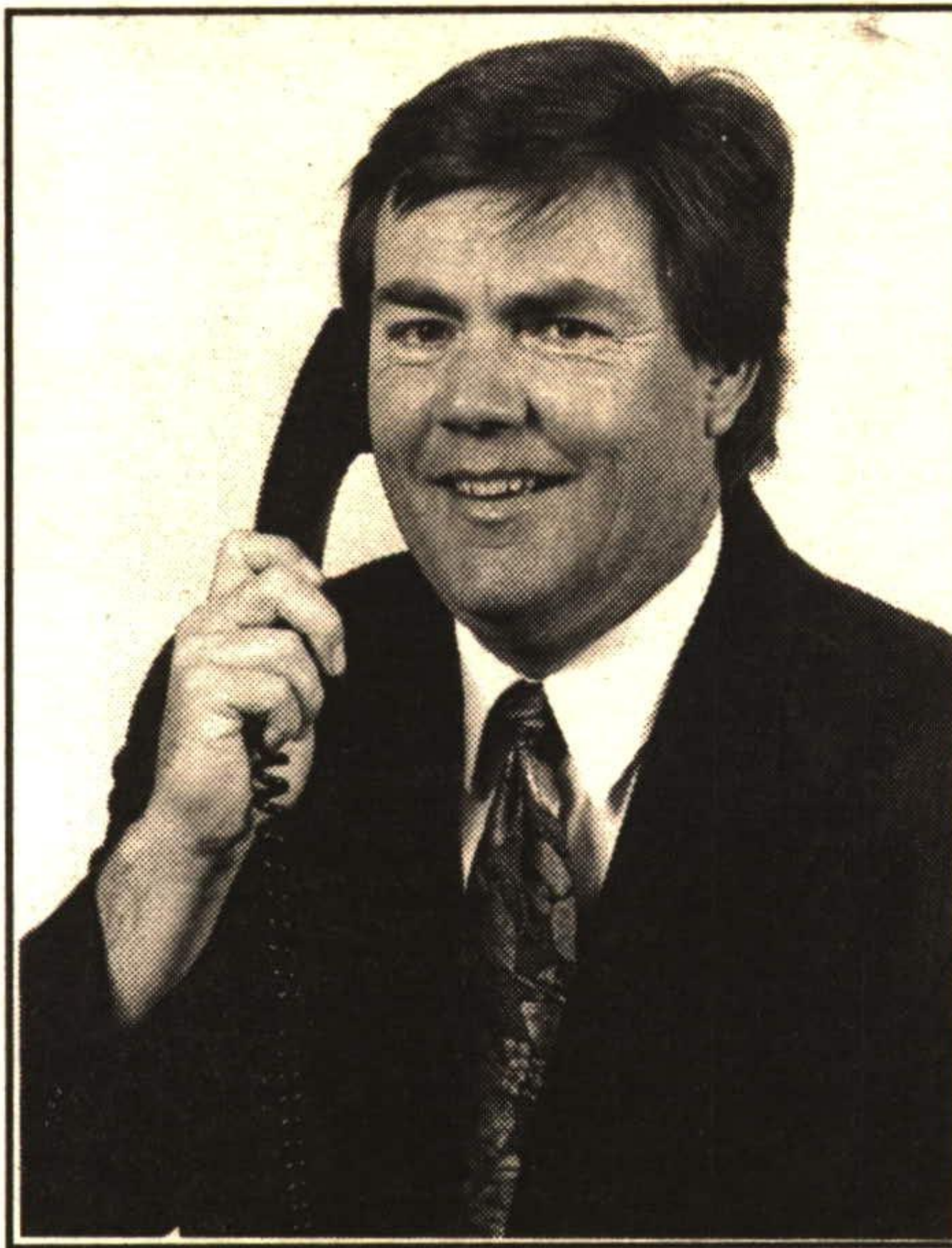
The league's annual invitational slow pitch tournament is being held this weekend at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Teams from Halton and Peel Region will be taking part in this tournament. Profits for the tournament will go to the Georgetown Kinsmen Club for charity purposes.

While he would like to see more growth and volunteer support, Andy Courchesne says things have been very positive and that he has enjoyed his three-year involvement with the local slow pitch league.

"It's been a blast."

For more information concerning the Georgetown Men's Slow Pitch League, contact Courchesne at 873-0135.



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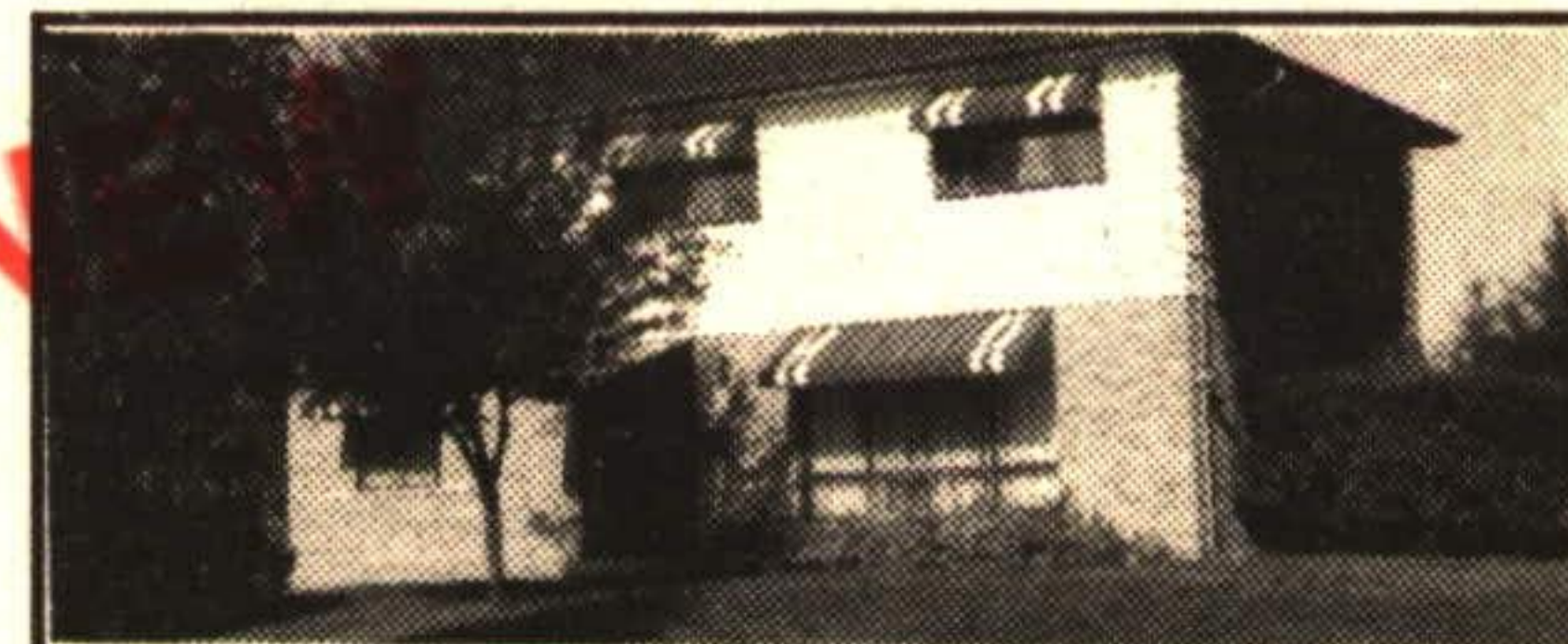
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