

Referees are on the hot seat

By Rod Beaumont

Long holiday weekends bring the horns out of editors as columnists are required to hurry their articles to ensure deadlines are met. With this being Friday, I am required to hurry my column and not being allowed a Victoria Day weekend at the cottage to stimulate creative juices (if this is at all possible, in my case).

Referees seem to be on the hot-seat in the NHL playoffs and Wednesday and Thursday nights were no exceptions.

Wednesday in Toronto Mr. Koharski drew the wrath of the Toronto crowd by calling several questionable penalties against the

Rodent's Racket

home team, leaving them short handed most of the second and third periods.

Thus, the expected result - series tied. I raise the question to the NHL executive whether this shabby display of officiating was a result of the Bettman factor.

The American public would rather see the Los Angeles Kings in the Stanley Cup final than those dreaded Maple Leafs and with TV markets in the States available, a Canadian final would be disastrous.

After all, it was the Blue Jays and Toronto fans who stole the American pastime last October.

Thursday night it was New York Islanders' turn to whine and take exception to the officiating. In overtime, the Montreal Canadians were caught with too many men on the ice. A flagrant hook in front of referee Kerry Fraser was ignored and, as expected, the Canadians rushed down the ice right after and scored.

After the game, Islanders coach Al Arbour got hold of Wally Harris (director of officiating for the series) and used a select choice of adjectives to voice his concerns. The bottom line was that Arbour and the New York media feel that the NHL is pushing for an all-Canadian final.

Be it the Canadian connection or the Bettman factor, it comes down to whoever feels they're on the short end of the stick.

Do you have a topic for discussion or an opinion on the past week in sports? Write me care of Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown or phone 873-2254. If it makes me go Hmmm, I'll include it in my column.

Y.B.C. seniors leave the lanes

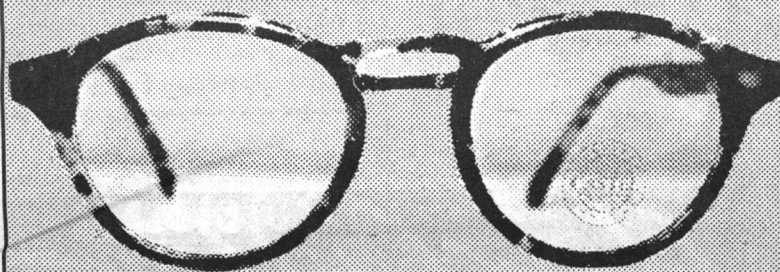
The Georgetown Youth Bowling Council senior's season has wrapped-up at Georgetown Bowl, with the team of Ryan Martin, Cindy Clarke, Melissa McGugan and Tara Brooks emerging as league champions.

Rob Harrison claimed the boys high average award, with Cindy Clarke winning the girls high average award.

Ryan Martin record high triple honors, with Joe Robichaud posting the high single mark in the boys' division. On the girls side, Tanya Martin won the high triple award while Christina Lane won for high single.

The team of Brian Crocker, Sharon Shapcott, Sherry Lynn Walsh, Chris Gostlin and Jason Dinney won the playoff championship.

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