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Marshall named 'Coach of the Year'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Brent Marshall received the Philip (Scotty) McCristall Memorial trophy as the Acton house league hockey 1993-94 Coach of the Year during the annual awards night at the Legion on Friday.

Marshall, 43, took his Acton Lions Club squad to the Midget-Juvenile championship, prevailed and was later notified he won the award.

"I was pleased," Marshall said Sunday of being named Coach of the Year, "but what is most gratifying is what I can do for the kids. I've never had difficulties with the boys or the parents and they show respect for me. If you provide the same respect to the boys as you expect from them, the players will understand and the parents will respond."

There's additional significance for Marshall winning the award that wouldn't be as evident had any other coach copped the prestigious trophy.

"The name brings back a lot of memories. Scotty and I go back 23 years to when I began as a firefighter with the Halton Hills Fire Department," Marshall remembered. "He was one of the people I looked up to. He was a captain and I was one of the people in his company."

"I think I'm the first firefighter to get this award and I know that would sit well with Scotty as he



COACH OF THE YEAR: Brent Marshall was given the Philip (Scotty) McCristall Memorial Trophy by McCristall's daughters, Kim Young (left) and Connie Bath, for being named house league hockey Coach of the Year at the annual awards night on Friday at the Acton Legion. (Doug Harrison photo)

was known."

Marshall won Coach of the Year honours in 1990 at the Bantam level when each of the divisions named a recipient. However, he ranks this year's award at the top.

Throughout his coaching career, Marshall has preferred to develop his own style of coaching rather than emulate others.

"I have my own style and it's a style that most of the community follows. I have to be objective, fair

and demonstrate that in everything, so people know what to expect from me whether it be in my full-time work or in the hockey arena," said Marshall, who is the director of maintenance for Halton Region's Public Works department. Part of Marshall's coaching philosophy has been to teach the kids to never give up.

"The proof of your abilities is as a team and not as individuals and I always tell my players to wait

until the end of the season and then they'll know who has the best group of players," said Marshall, who has sat on the Acton Figure Skating Club's board of directors the past four years.

The fun for Marshall as a coach is the game itself, but he says it's not so much fun as it is gratifying once the players develop team spirit.

"Then you can have some fun, joke, tease and the boys feel comfortable," Marshall said. "But that takes time and they have to learn where the magic line is (so things don't get out of hand). And I, as the coach, have to be careful not to fall below that line. But I like to see the camaraderie and it's gratifying how the players respond at the end of the season."

The father of three says he's going to take some time to assess his other involvements in the community before deciding whether he'll return for a lucky 13th year behind the bench. His son Bryce plays hockey, while daughters Bronwyn and Edyn are AFSC members.

"The jury's still out, but if I was to return it would be for the boys more than anything," mentioned Marshall, who indicated he may feel obligated since some graduating players from this year have told him they would like to be assistant coaches for the 1994-95 season. "There's a good possibility, though."

Minor hockey is healthy

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton house league hockey is healthy both on and off the ice.

That was the feeling of league president John Toebes on Friday night following the handing out of hardware at the annual player awards night at the Legion.

"I think the product on the ice is improving," he said, adding that a record 286 players donned house league jerseys for the 1993-94 season. "A lot of kids are only interested in one game a week and don't like the travelling (that's commonplace in a rep league)."

"As well, a lot of kids are coming back each year and I think the coaching has improved."

The action this year was also hot away from the arena as twice-a-month bingos during the season kept the financial state of the league on solid ground, says Toebes.

Meanwhile, Toebes said he would like to return next year for what he thinks would be his 21st year as the league boss, saying "it gives me something to do."



JOHN TOEBES

Rugby team impresses with defence

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

They were outplayed and outthusted, but a strong defence and excellent tackling by the Acton Redmen Junior Boys' rugby team in an exhibition game in Brampton on Thursday was enough to make coach Dave Boycott smile.

For the opening 11 minutes and 30 seconds of the first half, the locals kept a much larger — both in stature and in bench size (34 players to 15) — Brampton Centennial squad off the scoreboard with timely tackles and a strong work ethic.

However, an inability to maintain control of the ball after a change in possession quashed any chances of the Redmen scoring in the 24-0 loss.

"We knew they (Brampton) would be tough," said Boycott on Friday, noting Brampton's Midget squads have won their league title the last two years. "Their centres played excellent in the first half and whenever we got the ball we couldn't move it quickly, because they were on our backs."

Boycott, who's in his 15th year coaching rugby, says his team's first pre-season contest was a good

start defensively. He pointed to rookie flanker John Earl, who literally bounced off a Brampton opponent in a tackle attempt. The diminutive Earl, though, made good on a second chance and tackled the player lower and prevented the try.

Teammate Dwayne Rhynold

also knocked a player off his feet to keep the score close.

"Defensively there's a lot of potential," says Boycott, who added 10 of his 22 players are rookies.

The Redmen open the season at home on Tuesday against Appleby. Game time is 4 pm.

Hockey Moms win Bantam hockey championship

Half of the Dirty Dozen, otherwise known as the Acton Hockey Moms Bantam house league hockey squad, were first-year players for the 1993-94 season.

Also backed by two Peewee players, the Hockey Moms finished the year in third place against two teams from Erin and Caledon and the Acton Team I club. They capped the year off with a Bantam championship.

The Acton championship game was decided on a two-game total goal format. At faceoff time, the Hockey Moms' standout players put on their game faces.

The Hockey Moms were led offensively by Ryan Seads's eight

goals, while Paul Dale chipped in a goal and five assists. Joel Lucier potted a goal and added an assist, while Brad Williamson collected two helpers.

As well, Allen Reynolds, Mike Laing, Blair Williamson and Curtis Archibald proved to be an excellent defence corps.

The team was also backed by the superb goaltending of Kevin Cullingham.

Although the remaining players didn't hit the scoresheet, they played a large part in their team's season success and championship win. The other members are: Chris Young, Jeff Hunter, Richie Dalziel and Mike Moulard.



BRUISIN' BANTS: These Bantam house league hockey players grabbed hardware at the year-end awards night at the Legion on Friday. Back row, from left, are Brad Rhynold (Best Defenceman) and Dave Dolliver (Most Sportsmanlike). Front row: Kevin Cullingham (Outstanding Goalie) and Brad Williamson (Point Leader). (Doug Harrison photo)