



### Sports Ramblings

WITH BRUCE HOOD

**GARY "DUKE" EDMUNDSON**, one of the best liked Toronto Maple Leaf hockey players, will have 300 more fan club members next winter when he takes to the ice once again. This was proven last Wednesday when "Duke" was a special guest at the wind-up banquet for the minor hockey league and the hefty checking star was called upon to sign what he estimated to be 1,000 autographs. "If there are 300 boys here tonight, they must each have a brother and a sister at home," he commented after spending some 35 minutes signing everything from a slip of paper pushed at him from the smallest hand, to a finely bound autograph album which found its way to him later.

At 27, Gary is seeing his first year of N.H.L. hockey that is since he played in three games in the Stanley Cup finals for Montreal at the age of 19. It was at this age that he finished out his Junior years with the Kitchener Greenshirts (now defunct) and in the same season was drafted to the parent Canadiens where he took part in the finals.

"I had a real chance at the big time then and had hopes of nailing down a regular turn with the Canadiens come the fall camp season," the Duke noted between autographs, "but a few days after camp opened I broke my shoulder and that thought went down the drain."

"I spent the next four years at Springfield in the American league, had a season at New Westminster in the Western circuit and then went back to Springfield where Punch (Imlach, managing coach of the Leafs) picked me up and I'm back up again." I asked him how he liked playing in the Leaf organization, and he piped the old adage, that the Montreal Canadian wall is too hard to crumble and there is a better chance of getting into the National league with the Leafs.

He enjoyed a terrific response from the fans at Maple Leaf Gardens in his first year and if they have anything to say about it, he will definitely be back. At least that is the general consensus one gathers, by the roar of approval when he comes on the ice at a game.

Duke was called upon to present the M.V.P. awards for the three minor hockey leagues in town, and before doing so he spoke to the young fellows, stressing the fact that you don't have to be a winner to be a sport. After all, he pointed out, the Leafs didn't win and they are good sports.

The gum chewing star bade farewell to the young players thanked the executive for inviting him, they in turn thanked him for coming, and he was away to the west. He is doing some visiting and making some personal appearances before he settles down to working for a brewery in the Toronto area.

**"NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE** just what category the Red Sox will operate in this year," agreed both Len Ste. Marie and Beane Serafini when I asked them this week. The question was, "if you use one or two players you have out to practice this year, you will have to play in a higher class of ball than you did last year, isn't that right?"

I was referring to Tom Barrett, a sharp-eyed slugger at the plate and a fine fielder who has been working with the club this year, and Gerry Homewood, who makes his home at Guelph Junction. Barrett is fairly new to the baseball scene in town but has seen considerable action in the Milton Industrial hockey league, where he has been a member of the P. L. Robertson team for the past three years. Homewood has played ball with Campbellville clubs.

So with this statement it looks as if the loop is back to where it was last year at this time, when nobody knew for sure who was playing what class of ball and everybody is going to have to be on their toes to keep ahead of the other team. Campbellville looks to be still undecided as to their definite whereabouts and the population question once again will have to be answered at the last minute.

However it looks as if both Oakville and Brampton are in the "A" Major series together (with Campbellville possibly to join them), Acton and Dundas look to be headed for "A" ball unless Dundas uses a couple of Hamilton boys they are eyeing and then go "A" Major. Bronte is definitely in "C" ball this year by special permission of the O.B.A. and even this is not settled yet, with a lack of pitching talent forcing the Bronte club heads to look out over their boundaries also. All of which shapes up to another season of contention over the various categories in the loop.

**THE COMMERCIAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE** will hold its first meeting of the 1960 season tonight. This league has enjoyed much success in the past couple of seasons and last year had six teams within its bounds.

Ontario Steel's entry, one of the top contenders in recent years, is a doubtful starter this year but the remaining clubs, Canadian Meter, Canadian Tire, Canadian Legion, P. L. Robertson and Milton Brick have all noted their intent to return. A new face may be welcomed to the set this year in the person of an entry from the James H. Matthews Co. Officials of that firm have noted they would consider an entry in the league this year.

Last year Canadian Legion copped the title for the second year in a row.

### SPORTOPICS

The annual Ontario Hockey Association meeting on Saturday at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto was the scene of a repeat in the thinking of several of the gentlemen present. This was the fact that the O.H.A. is slowly yet graciously going downhill. The reason for the discussion arose from an amendment which was proposed by the local Merchants hockey club to deal with players being used illegally. Jack Roxborough of Simcoe, a former president of the O.H.A. and a member of the C.A.H.A. executive stated it was high time everyone got together and made sure that player was signed and okayed before he takes part in a game of hockey. Now the manager of a team can be suspended for up to one year for using players whose cards have not been okayed by Bill Hanley, O.H.A. business manager. Bucko McDonald, the Mr. Hockey from Sundridge Ontario was voted a gold stick award by the executive of the O.H.A. but was not on hand to receive it as his club is currently vying for "B" honors. Big item which was discussed to all ends was the Olympic hockey issue and this was tossed back and forth for some time. Either the N.H.L. or the government should be the sponsors of such an undertaking was all we could gather after the Kitchener club lost thousands of dollars on their recent trip to Squaw Valley where they finished second to United States in the Olympic trials.

Oakville arena is the home of a soccer league in that community and in the Preston arena roller skating is held two nights a week with dancing one night for a booming summer season already underway. The Tri-County juvenile hockey tournament executive will meet this Friday night for the final meeting this year. Officers are likely to be elected for next year's tournament. The junior ball club is going to start practice this Monday night in conjunction with the Intermediate club, both of which will use the same diamond.

**HOW ABOUT THAT:** "Mother, should I marry a girl who lies to me?"  
"Don't be silly. Don't you ever want to get married?"

## 7 Towns, 19 Teams Enter Halton Minor Ball Loops

Seven towns registered entries in the minor division of the Halton county baseball league at a meeting last night (Wednesday) in Milton. Altogether a total of 19 teams entered the five loops of pee wee, bantam, midget, juvenile and junior.

**Big Bantam Loop**  
The most entries were realized in the bantam league where seven teams will do battle. In the pee wee league, four teams are entered with four in the midget,

and one juvenile and three junior teams will go together for another league.

Campbellville is represented in the pee wee, bantam and midget, Milton in pee wee, bantam, midget and junior, Carlisle in junior, Burlington in pee wee, bantam, midget and junior, Aldershot in midget, Dundas in bantam, Bronte in pee wee, bantam and midget. Schedules are to be released next week.

# Honor Beaner's Big Bopper Boys At Dart League Windup Banquet

Fun and laughter was the order of the day on Friday evening when the members of the eight-team Milton Industrial dart league held a windup banquet in the Legion Hall. Even though he was a member of the winning team (and didn't let the audience forget it) Bill Boyd made an amicable master of ceremonies for the event and presided for the presentations following a sumptuous dinner.

"It has been a wonderful season and we've had a lot of laughs with little or no hard feeling," said the M.C. At his urging, the dart league gave a big ovation for Legion sports chairman Dennis Rowley and secretary Bruce Mountain, who capably handled the affairs of the league throughout a busy season. Mr. Rowley said he hoped to make the league a little better next year, and Mr. Mountain reported a small balance in the treasury.

**Big Boppers Champs**  
Grant Yarnold, a brewery representative, handed out the championship trophy to captain Beane Serafini of Big Boppers and his teammates Primo Rigo, Bill Serafini, Squeek Rigo, Andy Graham and Bill Boyd. Dennis Rowley awarded the consolation prize to the Ontario Steel team captained by Marty Caputo.

Laugh highlight of the evening was the presentation of "Gertrude" awards (something like Emmies or Oscars—only worse) to some of the fellows who stood out in their personal behaviour during the season. Bill Boyd received the blame for arranging and building the trophies.

The "Gertrudes" Bud McDonald of Romeos received the "shine" award for dazzling the other teams with his bald head, Ken Schultz of Mountaineers got the "tooter" award for his boasting, top "vocalist" was Geo. Kinnie, Ace Babcock of Legion got the "time" prize for coming the latest, the "orbit" award went to Jack McLaughlin of Legionnaires for firing darts too high, George Kendrick won the "spreader" award for his tales of blarney, the "go home" trophy

went to Jack (Over 'Ome) Frost of O.S.P., Andy Graham of Big Boppers took the "sportsman" trophy, and Gary Kent pulled in the "coin collector" prize.

An added feature was the furnished receptacle which the Firemen's team received as "also-rans".  
**Captains Comment**  
The captains of each team were called upon to comment on why they lost this year, and some of answers were classics:  
Jack McLaughlin, Legionnaires—We weren't good enough. There were a couple of contrary players on the winning team.  
Pete Tonelli, Romeos—Too good for us.  
Bruce Mountain, Mountaineers—Too many players stayed home

because they knew they would get beaten.  
John Cannon, Firemen—We had some good nights and some bad ones too.

**No Grievance**  
Jim Ireland, Wildcats—Thanks to everybody for making it a good season.  
Murray Grenke, Misfits—Next year we'll be too strong for you. We all showed for the last game. We were battling all year for last place.

Marty Caputo, O.S.P.—We were following the N.H.L. team is set for Saturday, July 9 at Omagh.  
Beane Serafini, of the winning Big Boppers—Quit moaning and groaning. Come back next year and see if you can beat a championship team.  
Following the awards and speeches, the players spent a social evening in the hall.



**TOP DART HURLERS** in the Milton Commercial dart league were the Big Boppers. Seated are captain Beane Serafini and Bill Boyd, while the other members on the team were Squeek Rigo, Bill Serafini, Primo Rigo and Andy Graham. The league wound up its first season Friday night with a banquet at the Legion Hall (where games were played weekly this winter) and one highlight of the gathering was the presentation of "Gertrude" awards to the shiniest, noisiest, singiest, latest, highshootingest, spoofingest and sportiest leaguers.

### Softball in Swing For High Schoolers

Softball games are in full swing at Milton District High School as both boys' and girls' teams vie for honors in the inter-team play.

The girls began Tuesday with six teams captained by Mary Mowat, Jennifer Charlton, Vallie Salewski, Ausma Verlis, Sharon Houston and Marg Armstrong. The boys, meanwhile, began their school league last week and are having trouble finding competition at Acton and Georgetown schools for an all-star team.

—1800 tax bills were mailed from the town office on Tuesday. They are due May 17.

## Merchants Off to Flying Start Price May Join Hamilton Cards

The champion Campbellville Merchants' ball club is off to another flying start this year. The players have been working out for the past two weeks now and to date all have been out to the loosening up sessions with the only exception being Jackie Price.

Price was the topic of many a heated conversation last year when manager Len Andrews signed the agile infielder who lives in Burlington. He then made entry into the Intermediate 'B' division of the Halton County Baseball league and was flatly refused permission to enter anything but the 'A' Major division. The parent O.B.A. agreed to the new boundaries of Burlington which include some 32 square miles instead of the old boundaries, which was thought to be the case.

**Helped to Title**  
Price played hockey for Milton Merchants in the O.H.A. Intermediate 'A' ranks on joining the club in the 1958-59 season, and last year was a mediocre player. He showed he was worth the

### Novices End Season See Free Cup Game

The greatest finish to a hockey season ever was the picture here Sunday when the members of the Milton Novice team were guests of the Toronto Maple Leafs' hockey club at the Memorial cup playoff game between St. Catharines Tee Pees and Edmonton Oil Kings at Maple Leaf Gardens.

**Accept it Well**  
A real treat was the way the young fellows, many of whom had never been to the Gardens, accepted it although the score (9-1 for St. Catharines) didn't prove too much in the way of hockey.

Hot dogs and pop were the order of the day between periods with the Leaf club directorate giving the lads the run of the Gardens with no specific seat to sit in. With 10,000 fans there though, it left little space for them except up in the Greys section.

**Higgs Arranges**  
The trip was arranged by Herb Higgs, manager of the team, with Brian Lynch, a guest at the Higgs' home during the juvenile hockey tournament during the past two years, setting things up with the Toronto organization. Lynch, a member of the R.C.M.P., is also a part time scout for the Leafs and contacted Bob Davidson, chief scout for Toronto, to set the plans.

This offer was included in a letter which Mr. Higgs received thanking him for the wonderful hospitality he received here in his two stays.

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**Ivan Ellis Prexy**  
**Rural Ball Has Six Entries**

Ivan Ellis of Palermo was re-elected president at the annual meeting of the Halton Rural Softball League held Friday.

W. C. Eves was returned secretary-treasurer and Harold Learmont of Hornby is the newly-elected vice-president, replacing Stu Richardson.

**Begin May 24**  
The schedule will begin on Tuesday, May 24 with six teams comprising the league, including Trafalgar, Omagh, Hornby, Nelson, Palermo and Lowville. Several games this year will be played under the lights. The annual all-star game with the N.H.L. team is set for Saturday, July 9 at Omagh.

There are plans to hold an annual banquet and awards night at the end of the year.

Players' names for this year's teams are to be approved at a meeting on May 16. Fifteen names are submitted by this date and three more may be added by June 10. A committee of all teams' representatives will pass the names. "Trafalgar players' names will likely cause the most debate," said one league official.

The regular schedule will be published shortly and is expected to end around July 8 at which time, the playoffs will begin.

**Two Go On**  
This year the Ontario Rural Softball championship will be a round robin series with the top two teams in each division playing a four out of seven final series.

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