



# Sports forum

by bob burtt

Player personnel is a problem besetting just about every hockey team in Ontario and the competition for players has never been keener. The problem rapidly surging towards a climax and there aren't too many hockey clubs that are not concerned.

At a recent meeting of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association, (a branch of the OHA) the problem of northern talent being raided by southern teams of Junior A and Junior B calibre took priority.

Northern minor hockey associations are bringing players along to the point where they can play and then when southern Junior clubs want the players they are not willing to pay what the northern clubs think is fair.

Even more aggravating to the northerners is the idea that the clubs are being consulted only after the player has been spoken to and is already excited about going on to something great and glorious in the southern ranks.

When the scout or team representative does get to the club he had an advantage because he has talked the youngster into going and he too is pressing for a release.

While the OHA Jr. A appears to be the villain in the northern part of the province, they too have problems and readily point their finger to the American colleges who come north with promises of hockey and an education too.

Add to that the increasing number of teams of Junior A, B and C classification and the problem is a real one. The Western Ontario Junior League (an outlaw league) can't help but be a problem as far as hurting Junior B and C teams. Before if a boy in a Junior C town wasn't good enough to play or get a substantial offer from a college after high school, he played on the hometown team and was happy to get a position.

You don't have to go any further than the Suburban Junior C Hockey League to experience the problem. Before the season started Milton Merchants expected 12 players of last year's club to return and form the nucleus of this year's club. As it happened about half that many actually returned for another year and the club is faced with a rebuilding job rather than rounding corners.

Several Junior B clubs have approached the Merchants for player releases. On one occasion releases were granted, but had the club granted all releases requested there would be no club... and it is as simple as that.

Rick Cole, Graham Hern and Paul Kitchen, all top rate players, left the ranks this year before their time was up in search of greener pastures. Hern went to Brandon, Manitoba, Cole to the new Junior A league and Kitchen went off to school at Troy, New York.

Gary Young will play Junior B hockey in Dixie and to further complicate the situation John Gagne, Steve Lawrence and Jim Chalkley all will be out of action as far as the Merchants go.

Gagne has decided not to commute any longer, Lawrence is in teacher's college and doesn't have the time for hockey, and Chalkley has become Burlington property. While Chalkley has played here in other years and will not play anywhere until the McMaster football season is over, getting a release from the new Burlington team will be tough.

Even with all these problems the Merchants still are reasonably sure of coming up with a good contender, thanks to a healthy Milton Minor Hockey Association. Without that no club can produce.

While Milton's problems might seem grave they are only of a minor nature in relation to those of our great rivals in Georgetown. The Raiders have run into more than their fair share of problems.

Not only are they faced with the problems of players graduating to higher ranking clubs but four players from last year's club want to play Juvenile hockey rather than Junior in that town.

Milton organizers of course are concerned about the situation in Georgetown because for one, it is a close trip, and secondly because Georgetown rivalry has brought their best gates for years.

While Georgetown is doing everything possible to get a contender their problems are serious ones and the problems facing most other area clubs are and will continue to become serious.

In this and other parts of the province court battles have been threatened and in at least one instance they have gone to court. There has to be a solution some place.



## Game & Fish News

by arn coulson

Duck season in Southern Ontario was a huge success for some at least! Bill Shields, Jim Smith, Don Kearney, Lenny Naylor and some of the boys from the club all got their count opening day.

Arn Coulson and some friends got their full count of Blacks and Mallards soon after opening day. These birds were shot in grain fields and were in excellent condition. One black drake weighed nearly three pounds.

The Halton Sportsmen's Association had a successful stag night last Friday and a good number of guests were present. As was stated last year anyone wishing to sharpen their eye for duck shooting may use the electric trap most Saturday afternoons for members and guests. All you do is contact a member and pay for shells and clay birds.



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# Merchants rock Hespeler to score second victory

Milton Merchants rocked Hespeler 8-2 in a chippy OHA Junior "C" exhibition hockey game here Friday night. Merchants outshot Hespeler in the first period, taking a 1-0 lead and outshot Hespeler 20-3.

The shots were indicative of the play in the first period as the Milton offence swarmed around the Hespeler net but failed to get many of their shots away with any zip. Add to that a tough Hespeler goalie and the Merchants came out of the first session ahead by only one goal when they should have led by four.

All Hespeler attacks were readily stopped at the Milton blue line. During the first period Milton had free reign on the ice and the only bright spot on the Hespeler club had to be the goalie who held them in the game. He missed one shot by

## Merchants to open season

Milton Merchants will be riding on the crest of three victories in exhibition play, two against Hespeler and one over Burlington when they open the Junior C season here against Streetsville Friday night. Game time is 8.30.

Merchants will go into Friday's game at full strength and will be out for their first win of regular season play.

## Win once tie Guelph

A hard-skating Milton Pee Wee club scored an impressive 6-2 win over Burlington Friday and battled to a 4-4 tie with Guelph here Sunday.

Stover scored twice for the Pee Wees while John Tonelli added a pair and Paul Sprout and Rowley picked up singles. Friday, Guy McGinnis, Ron Twiss, Stover and Tonelli all picked up assists in the first game while Turner helped out twice.

They play in Guelph tonight and in Chinguacousy Sunday in the league opener.

# Minor hockey meets Sunday

By John McLean

There will be a meeting Sunday afternoon at 1.30 in the Legion for all minor hockey coaches, managers, convenors, referees etc. as there are several rule changes this season as well as updating other ones. All those concerned are urged to attend.

The Hockey School comes to an end Saturday and once again it has been a success as there has been a very good turnout for the entire school. Head instructor Joe Auger wishes to thank all of his helpers (junior instructors) for their help during the school as well as thanking the students for their co-operation in making the school a success.

The House League will swing into action next week and because of this, any one who wishes to still register may do so

Don Hearn that proved to be Milton's first counter. Goals by defenceman Bob Robson and Ches Back in the

# Merchants top Hespeler 4-3

Milton Merchants carved a narrow 4-3 victory in a Junior C exhibition game in Hespeler Sunday night. The game ended with a dramatic finish with Hespeler coming within one goal of a tie, scoring at the 19.52 mark of the final period and with their goalie out of the nets. Milton took an early lead when Don Hearn scored in the first period unassisted. Hearn scored what turned out to be the winner as well, finding the range at 18.56 of the third period on a goal from Marty Seeds and Kirby Munro.

Keith Bridgman netted Milton's second goal of the game giving them a 2-0 lead. Don Dyer moved Hespeler with a goal of Milton but before the first period ended Milton's Ches Back had potted an insurance goal.

Trailing 3-0, Hespeler pressed hard to score the only goal in the second period and once again moved to within one goal of Milton. Doug Hillis counted for Hespeler in the second stanza.

first half of the second period put Milton ahead 3-0. It looked then as if the Merchants would call the shots for the rest of the

game and build up a large lead. Midway through the period though, Hespeler caught fire and scored two quick goals by taking advantage of the extra man. Dave Peace scored the first goal on a high shot that hit the cross bar before going in while Kip Tuckwell sat out a two minute minor penalty for tripping.

Hespeler's second goal came two minutes later with Ray Tonelli in the penalty box. The two quick goals changed the entire complexion of the game.

The third period was all Milton as the Merchants tallied on five separate occasions, holding Hespeler scoreless. Bob Robson started things off at the 5.03 mark scoring his second goal of the game from the point and minutes later Marty Seeds picked up a loose puck in the Hespeler zone and zipped by the net scoring Milton's fifth goal.

Perhaps the prettiest goal of the evening was set up by Keith Bridgman. Bridgman carried the play from centre ice and hit Gary Naylor with a pass going across the blue line. Naylor in turn dumped it to Don Chuchmach, ready and waiting near the goalmouth.

Two goals by Don Hearn and Keith Higgs within 30 seconds of each other concluded the Milton scoring, sending them ahead 8-2, the final score.

Don Hearn and Bob Robson led the scoring with two goals each while Ches Beck, Marty Seeds, Don Chuchmach and Keith Higgs fired singles. Gary Naylor was fundamental on three occasions picking up assists on each while Greg Chuchmach assisted twice. Don Chuchmach once and Keith Bridgman twice.

**BLUELINE BANTER**  
Players from both teams and a crowd of 659 paying customers stood silent for one minute paying tribute to Ted Hood who was killed in a car accident last week. Players and team personnel wore black arm bands in memory as well.

Merchant coach Earl Fox appeared pleased with the Merchants' second victory in as many starts. Coach Fox put in a special word for the rookies on the team. "The rookies will come along. There is no doubt at all in my mind that they will come."

The coach explained he was designing his team to avoid any super line. "There won't be any first, second and third line or any super defence structure," he said, "I want three solid balanced lines and four defencemen, that's all."

Fox used Brian Carter and Leo Brett in the nets. While both played well Carter holds the distinction of not yet being scored on after playing parts of two games.

"That doesn't give him the inside track though," said Fox. "We need to choose one of the two from out of town and we'll want to use one of the local boys playing Juvenile."

Referees assessed 103 minutes in penalties, 61 to Milton and 42 to Hespeler. Most of the penalties were either for elbowing or interference but each club picked up extra time in foolish penalties. Milton took two misconducts for having too much to say and a major for spearing while Hespeler took one major penalty.

Merchants see action here Friday night at 8.30 p.m. when they meet Streetsville in the first game of the season.

Also featured on the night of the seventh will be the handling of the game by officials supplied by the National Hockey League through the co-operation of its referee-in-chief, Scotty Morrison.

## All enrolled in swimming

Swimming is underway again this year at O.S.D. All students are involved in regular Red Cross lessons once a week. In addition to these lessons, the students may belong to the swim team, diving or synchronized swimming clubs.

On Sept. 27, 1969, Connie Dignan, Debbie Sullivan, Orlene Hartman, and Patti Wisnoski, members of the Synchronized Swim Club, went to Toronto to a clinic on water skills. All the girls on the team are working hard, hoping to perform and compete throughout the year. Both the diving and swim teams hold regular practices each week and are working towards competition this year.

## Win tourney

Mrs. H. Babcock and Charlie Anderson, both of Milton, copped low net scores at the Trafalgar Golf Club Chartered Members Tournament Sunday.

Local Scouts will hold their apple day this weekend. Buy an apple and support the Scouting movement.

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## Champion Sports Page

# Stage charity game for Ted Hood fund

Milton Merchants Junior "C" Hockey Club will meet the Hamilton Red Wings of the O.H.A. Junior "A" Friday, Nov. 7 at Milton Arena, in a game established to assist in the building of the Ted Hood Memorial Fund.

Executive members of the club lost little time in working out the details for the promotion of the game, as its contribution to the fund to maintain the former Merchant player's name in a memorial.

Eddie Bush, when contacted by Merchant president Dave Brush was only too happy to help out for the event and the general manager-coach of the Red Wings noted his respect for Ted as a hockey player. At least two of the Red Wing players had attended the funeral.

**Coaches, managers meeting** in the league are to attend.

**Currie signs** Don Currie, a Milton boy, will once again play with the Oakville Oaks in Senior A hockey competition. Last year Currie was named the most valuable player on the Oaks.

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