

Cliff Houston retires

Baseball, hockey helped shape his work career

By John Challiner
Cliff Houston's social, recreational and occupational life have always been, currently are and probably will always be affected by his involvement in the community athletic scene—even though he just recently retired from his job at P.L. Robertson's in Milton after 35 years of service.
Houston's athletic endeavors, be it as a goaltender in hockey or a backcatcher in baseball, have shaped his life and have led him to the point along the path he now walks. He has played and umpired baseball and he has also played and refereed hockey most of his life.
"Obviously, I didn't start my career at P.L.'s," the slightly graying Houston said. "I wanted to be a druggist and I started out as a druggist. I apprenticed as one while I was playing hockey in Hamilton. As it happened I was injured and by the time I got back from my injury, my job was gone."
Houston, now 69, said he went back to the team after his injury had healed and explained to them he was hurt and lost his job while playing for them.
"The sponsor of the team was a clothing store called

Grafton's," Houston said. "They hired me as a store clerk until the season was over. At that time the depression was about to strike and business was slow. They said they let me go for that reason."
Houston's ability as a baseball player earned him a job at Westinghouse.
"I was a lodge member in Hamilton," Houston remembers. "The lodge sponsored the baseball team I played for. I needed a job and the lodge recommended that I contact a lodge member who might hire me at Westinghouse."
Houston worked for Westinghouse as a clerk in the office until he was let go in 1930.
He returned to Milton and was hired to work at Dominion Woolens and Worsteds in Peterborough shortly afterwards.
He worked in Peterborough for six years. While there, he met his wife Lil. They have been married for 43 years.
He decided he wanted to come back to Milton and worked in the hockey stick factory for a short while.
When Milton Wool Mills opened, he worked there for four years, putting their machinery together for



POINTING OUT HIS Milton Baseball Club team picture taken during the late 1920s is Milton native Cliff Houston. Houston retired Dec. 23 after nearly 35 years with P.L. Robertson's. He received a gold watch from the company and a leather wallet filled with cash from fellow employees. Baseball and hockey have shaped Houston's life—and at times helped him find employment.

them—a skill he obtained while working in Peterborough.

Before the mill went broke, Houston left and began a routine of applying for a job at P.L.'s. He was playing goal for their hockey team in the Ontario Rural Hockey Association.

"Things were pretty rough for a while," Houston said. "But on my 35th birthday (May 4, 1943) I said to Lil, my wife, I had a feeling things were going to change—something good was going to happen. Before I could get it all out there was a knock on the door. The manager at P.L.'s was at the door and asked me if I wanted to start working the next morning. I said yes—and have been there ever since."

Houston, a native Miltonian, worked in the shipping and packaging department at P.L.'s the entire length of his employment. He was a foreman of different sections of the bulk shipping division and the lubricizing and cartoning division for nine years.

Employees and management surprised Houston with a retirement party in his honor Friday, Dec. 23.

Approximately 100 people gathered around the Milton sportsman and presented him with tokens of their appreciation for his 35 year effort.

Management presented him with a gold watch and the employees gave him a wallet filled with a sizeable amount of money.

Houston has no definite long term plans for his retirement.

"My wife and I plan to go to Barbados for three weeks soon," Houston smiled. "We've been going there for

five years now, usually around the time of our wedding anniversary.

"I hope to keep involved with softball in Milton," Houston admitted. "I'd like to continue as an umpire next summer. It depends on a lot

of things, though."
Houston is the proud father of Keith, 41, an Air Canada pilot; Sharon, 34, who is married to Don Heslop; and Trevor, 28, a physical education instructor at General Wolfe High School in Oakville.



DOWNHILL SPEEDSTER: Glen Eden ski hills were in full swing over the weekend holiday with the area reporting good conditions.

Juveniles blow final

Milton's Wilson Auctioneer juveniles travelled to Orangeville to take part in the week-long Kinsmen Tournament. Milton Crusaders St. Mary's 6-0, the pre-tourney favorite Woodstock 5-1, then Sarnia 7-1 only to fall to Mount Forest in the final 7-4.

It was strictly no contest in the first three games for Milton as they played poorly but won easily. Against St. Mary's Jerry Dean made two early key saves to preserve his shutout and blanked Woodstock in the second game until 30 seconds remained in the play.

The local playing worst game of the year, according to their coach, in the final against Forest. He said Forest was the best team Milton had met in the tournament but should have defeated them handily.

The Auctioneers picked up the majority of the penalties on "stupid" infractions and they had forgotten that if they

wanted to win they had to backcheck. The Milton defencemen and goaltender were often left at the mercy of three and four Mount Forest attackers.

The closest Milton came to winning was when Tom Chuchmach scored from Al Crisci and Rob Champoux to tie the score 1-1, late in the opening period. The opposition then nailed four goals in succession to salt the game away. Alfonso Crisci, Bill Lyons and Jay Norland scored for Milton to make the game more respectable.

In the tournament action Eric Ellison was the top marksman for Milton with five goals and four assists. Bill Lyons tallied four goals and an assist while Jim Longdo hit for four markers. Crisci potted a pair with four assists and Dave Marshall scored once and assisted on four others. Jay Norland scored once and added two assists and Chuchmach tallied a single.

CTC midgets lose but team has guts

Milton Canadian Tire major midgets dropped their first game in the Silver Stick tournament and battled till the final seconds of the consolation final when a goal into an empty net ended their hopes of returning with hardware.

The CTC midgets have played badly short-handed for the past month and had their ranks further depleted with players attending to their part time jobs. With four alternate players on the bench they battled their way to the consolation final and team officials said they are surely the team with the most "guts" in Milton.

In game one Milton fell to Whitby 5-3 as Mike Shepherd took the goaltending duties. Whitby must have caught Shepherd on the nap as they scored on a shot from the centreline and on one from the corner.

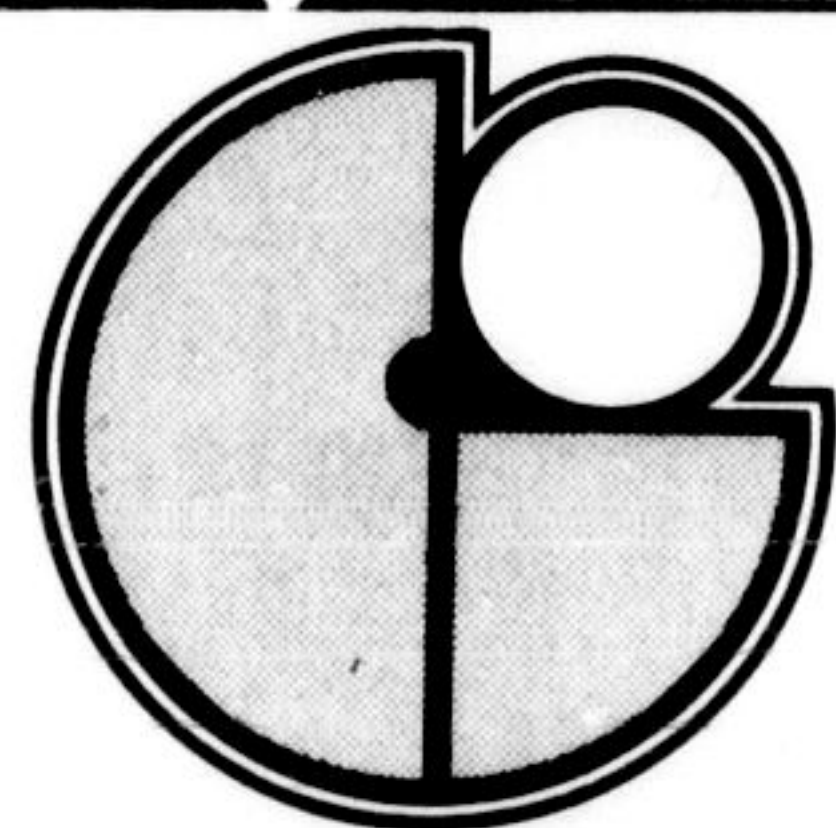
In game two Milton edged St. Catharines 5-4. Amazing performances from all players included dedication displays by captain John Leoprich who rarely left the ice, Norm Flemington and Scott Eves who double and triple shifted between forward and defence and "Tiger" Duane Stark who never stopped hitting and skating. When the smoke had cleared, "Tiger" Stark had nailed four goals.

Flemington nailed the other goal for the win and assisted on another. Leoprich scored two assists and Doug Dorsey assisted once.

Milton advance to the consolation finals against Bramalea-Chinguacousy at the Earnscliffe Arena.

Milton played disciplined cool hockey and allowed the opposing teams to take the penalties. The locals were down 2-0 going into the third period but battled to obtain a goal by "Tiger" Stark from Flemington. CTC team coach said they controlled the third period with inspired

gutsy play but couldn't put the puck into the net. Milton, in an attempt to grab the tie for overtime, pulled their goaltender and Bramalea signed the warrant for execution and fired two quick goals into the open net.



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