

Sockets finish season on another winning note

Milton Novice Sockets finished the year on a positive note by winning the highly competitive Plattsville Tournament last week.

Sockets opened the tournament against Hespeler Thursday. They started quickly with three goals from Robby Mifsud, Jeff Maher and Shawn Healey assisted by Mark French and Kyle Hasselheld.

Hespeler fought back with two of their own to make it interesting. With just 10 seconds remaining in the third period Healey teamed up with Scott McLeod and French to put the game away for a 4-2 win.

Sockets faced much stiffer competition in the second game against Stoney Creek, a 5-4 win. They fell behind by two but buoyed by their harmonious fan support opened up for a three-goal barrage in the second on goals from Healey with two and Maher with one assisted by Eddie Dillon and Kyle Hasselheld.

Stoney Creek came right back with two to go up by one. But Sockets were flying and with just 1:13 left to play Healey notched his fourth of the game for the tie and set the teams into overtime.

A hush fell over the fans when sudden death overtime was announced. The puck was dropped, Healey passed it to Hasselheld who immediately fed it back to Healey and he made no mistake on a quick shot for the score after only 18 seconds had elapsed sending an uproar from the fans and Sockets in the final against Leamington.

Sockets were ready and waiting for Leamington who had taken the gold medal away from them in a Hespeler Tournament at Christmas.

The play went from end to end with both teams having numerous scoring chances but unable to break the scoreless tie. Then with 1:35 left in the first period, Leamington bounced a high shot in off a helmet surprising Milton goalie Chris Newell for a goal.

Sockets pressed for the tie but just couldn't beat Steve Young in the Leamington net until Dillon banged in a rebound for the tying goal from Healey.

French's line controlled Leamington top scorer Joey Silva throughout the game.

With tension mounting and thoughts of another overtime in sight, Healey made another spectacular rush and beat a surprised Leamington goaltender for the game winner and championship.

Shawn Healey was voted the most valuable player of the A division for his efforts in the tournament and received a trophy and toque. The team was presented with individual medals and a trophy ending a very successful season.

Members of the Sockets include Mark French, Mark Harrison, Chris Newell, Todd McLeod, John Bacon, Shawn Healey, Kyle Hasselheld, Jeff Maher, Jason Blanchard, Robby Mifsud, Scott McLeod, Eddie Dillon, Kevin Moffatt, Mike Stevens and Mike Bascom would like to thank coach Ken Thompson, manager Jack Champoux and Peggy Finn for a very enjoyable and rewarding season.

Firefighters win opener with outburst

A quick three-goal outburst in the first period put Firefighters on the right track and the squad coasted the rest of the way to take a 5-3 win over Racer's Edge in the opener of the Milton Industrial Hockey League championship series Sunday night at Milton Sports Centre.

Neither team played with much enthusiasm in the first game of the best-of-five final. The second game goes next Sunday at 7 p.m. also at Milton Sports Centre.

After Firefighters scored three goals in the first three minutes of the game, the contest slowed down with neither team having many good scoring opportunities.

Racer's Edge closed the gap to 4-3 in the latter stages of the game but couldn't maintain much pressure on Firefighters' goal to find the equalizer.

The situation was made more difficult when Racer's Edge Richard Murray and Brent Murray each took two-minute minors in the last five minutes of the game. Firefighters didn't apply much pressure to stretch the lead but held on the keep the win.

Firefighters' coach Murray McConnell wasn't about to make any wild accusations about the future of the series.

"It's going to be tough," he said. "I'm certainly not going on a limb and say we're going to win easily."

Racer's Edge coach John Penson was less talkative offering little comment. He did say he was pleased his team came back from a 3-0 disadvantage but added they didn't come back far enough.

Doug Thomson opened the scoring 26 seconds into the game assisted by Buddy Thomas.

One minute later, Dave Marshall made it 2-0 tucking one behind Racer's Edge goalie Dave Ballard assisted by Rick Serafini and Paul Stover.

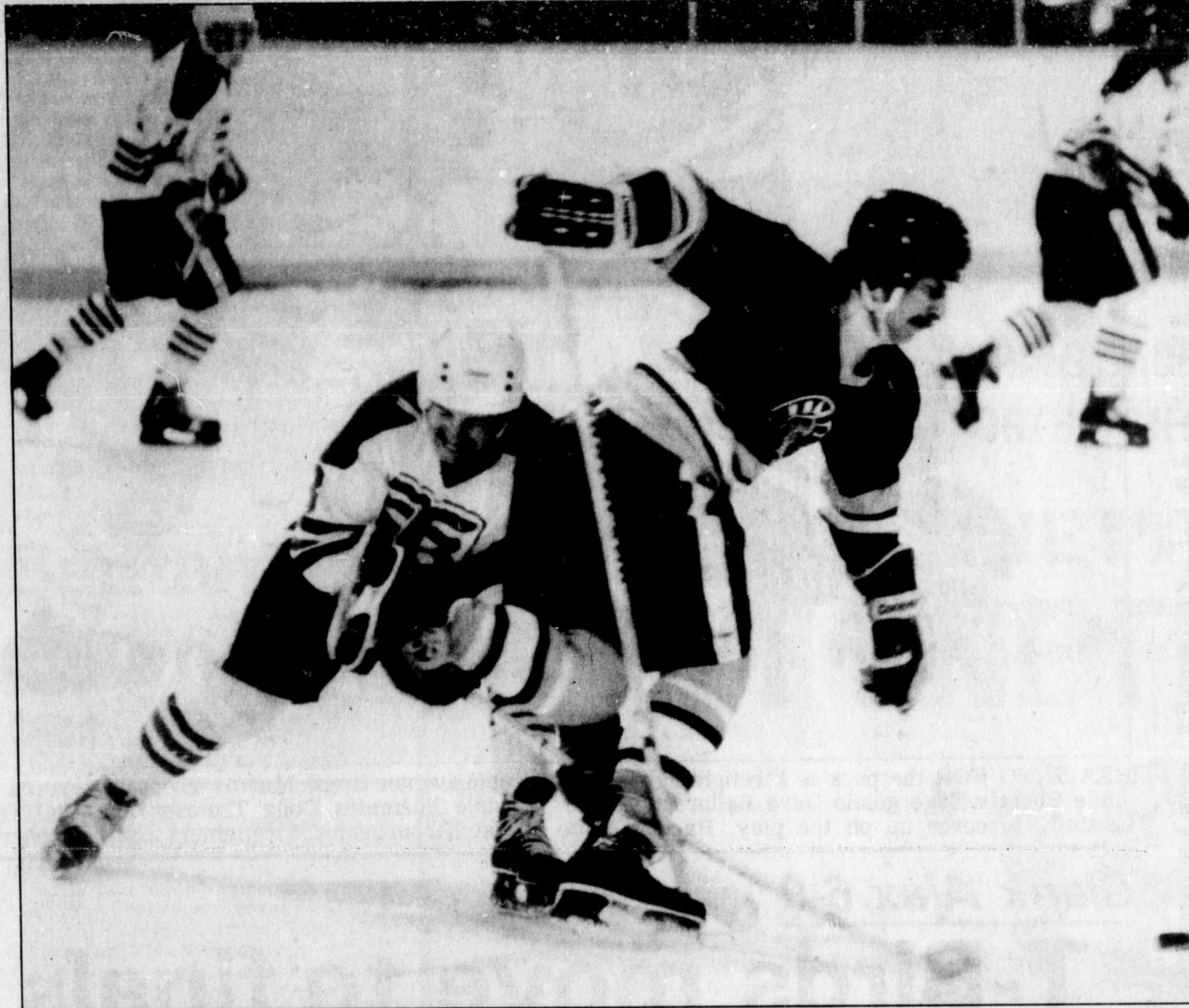
Then at the 6:57 mark, Thomas stretched the lead to three goals assisted by Thomson.

Racer's Edge Les Wilson, a sparkplug on the ice, got one back with 44 seconds left in the period when he found the range with a power-play marker.

Thomson scored the lone goal of the second period before Racer's Edge stormed back with two goals in a two-minute span midway through the final period to narrow the gap.

Wilson scored another power-play goal before Rob McKee put one past Firefighters' netminder Phil Bailey.

The two penalties hurt Racer's Edge in the last part of the game. Serafini put the game out of reach scoring from centre ice after Penson had pulled Ballard for the extra attacker.



TRIPPING FIREFIGHTER Bud Thomas is Racer's Edge scoring leader Richard Murray during Sunday's opener of the final. The penalty, in the last five minutes of the game, hurt Racer's Edge comeback attempt. Firefighters took the opener with a 5-3 victory scoring three goals before the game was three minutes old.

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Optimist roast: A lot of hams

By Michael Boyle

For nearly an hour and a half, eight roasters tried to make Hockey Night in Canada host Dave Hodge sweat.

They insulted him to the utmost. Former football player Granny Liggins even went as far as messing up Hodge's well-kept hair. But it was all in vain.

In the end, Hodge took the insults in stride and when his turn came up, he got back at every roaster.

Eight celebrities gathered at the Optimist Centre Friday night for the club's third annual roast. Those in attendance were Bob Goldham, Granny Liggins, Carl Brewer, Dick Beddoes, Roger Neilson, Ross Brewitt and Bryan McFarlane. The event was hosted by Milton resident Peter Maher who is the voice of the Toronto Maple Leafs on CKO-FM.

By all accounts, it was the funniest of the three roasts. Although each speaker was supposed to talk for just 10 minutes, several spoke longer and Beddoes, who comments on Leaf games for CHCH-TV and writes a daily column on Toronto city hall for The Globe and Mail, was by far the funniest and the most outrageous.

Beddoes said he was pleased there were no girls in attendance at the roast which was also a stag.

Beddoes took shots at each of the roasters mispronouncing the names of several as he does regularly in his column.

For 25 minutes, dressed in a red suit with matching hat which he con-

siderately took off for dinner, Beddoes held the crowd in his fingertips and was worth the price of admission all to himself.

Another surprise at the roast was the speaking of Ross Brewitt who manages the Labatt's Oldtimers hockey team. Brewitt called Dick Beddoes, "a pinball machine in heat" and "makes Peter Falk look well dressed."

Brewitt also had an "unkind" remark for Optimist president Gord Hull who, said Brewitt, "takes speech lessons from Foster Brooks."

Most of the remarks at the roast wouldn't exactly be considered for a children's audience.

When Hodge came to talk, he took shots at each speaker, reserving a special shot for Beddoes.

"They love him at CHCH-TV," said Hodge. "With Tiny Talent Time, Party Game and Beddoes, CHCH think they have culture well served."

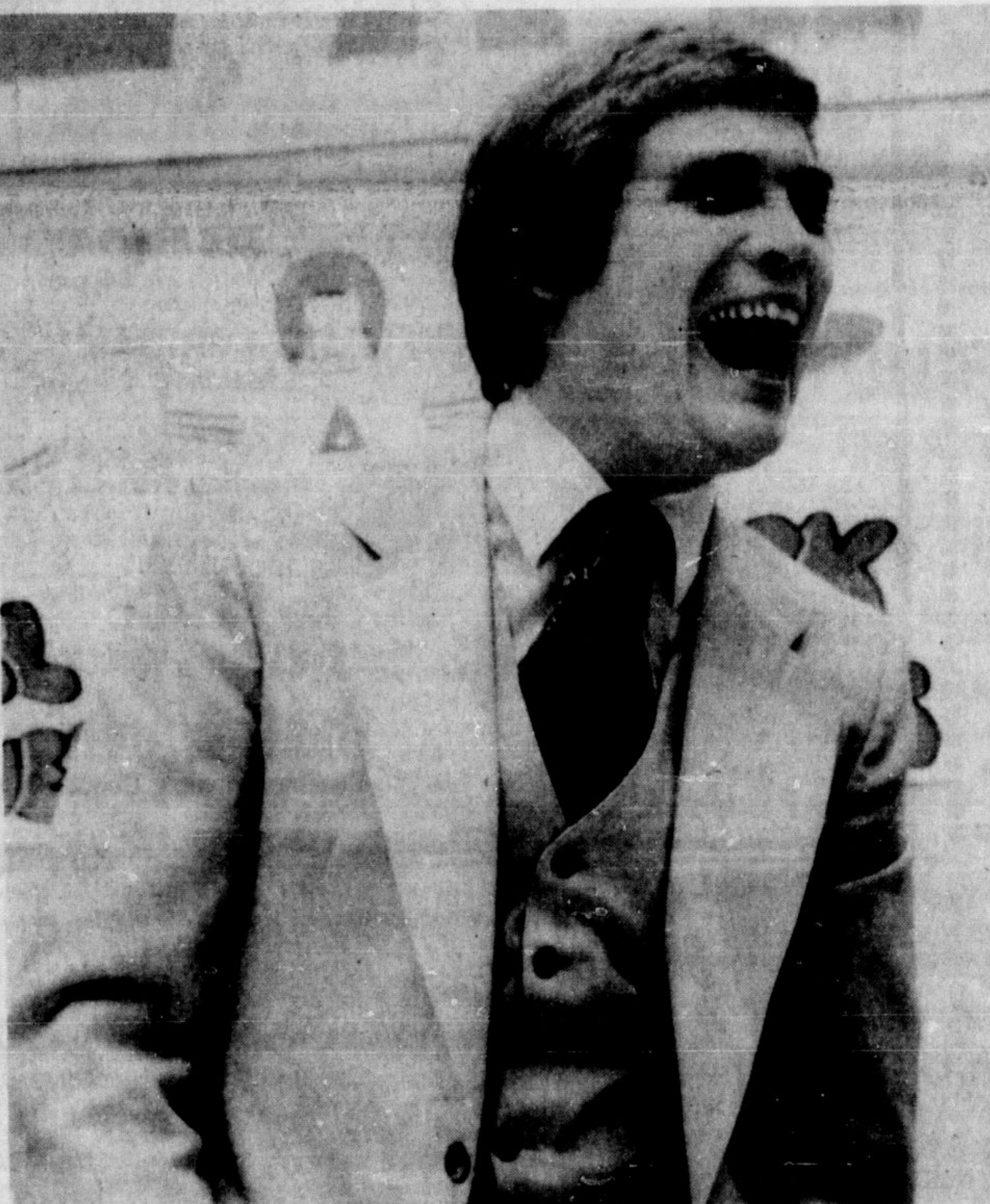
About 140 people paid \$20 apiece to attend the roast. The money, about \$2,000, will go towards the youth programs of the Optimist Club. Most roasters turned their honorariums back to the club.

There was only one no-show among the roasters. A change in the HNIC programming caused Gary Dornhoefer to be in Edmonton Friday night and miss the roast.

Optimist club member Bruce Fendley drew caricatures of each of the roasters which hung on the wall behind the head table.



BY FAR THE MOST abrasive roaster of the lot was Dick Beddoes, of The Globe and Mail and CHCH-TV. Beddoes ranted on in his familiar prose for 30 minutes which was the longest of any of the roasters. Beddoes spent a good deal of time roasting a fellow sportswriter whose newspaper has made a lot of news from a recent stag at the Boyne Hall Community Centre.



A ROASTER OBVIOUSLY caught Dave Hodge off guard during the Optimists' Roast Friday. Calm, cool and collected as he is during the Hockey Night in Canada programs, Hodge took the insults in stride before letting loose with his own brand at the end of the roast.



ALL HEAD TABLE GUESTS at the Milton Optimist Club Roast took several shots at Hockey Night in Canada host Dave Hodge Friday night. From left to right here are Bob Goldham, HNIC commentator,

Maple Leaf part-time defenceman Carl Brewer, former Toronto Argo Granny Liggins, Globe and Mail columnist Dick Beddoes and Dave Hodge.



A REMARK by roaster Bryan McFarlane caught three roasters in laughter. Peter Maher, a Milton resident who hosted the roast and is the Maple Leafs play-by-play commentator on CKO-FM is at

the left, Buffalo Sabre assistant coach Roger Neilson is in the middle while Chuck Ealey (note the spelling on the sign), a former Argo quarterback (who isn't) is on the right.