

Aeros are going down probably for last time

STEALING A LINE from a movie, five into two won't go.

As a matter of fact, it is indivisible.

After several years of "new beginnings" and "fresh starts", Milton's intermediate hockey team is unofficially dead.

This year alone, plans were being made to bring Milton the intermediate B championship and just a few months ago, owner Gary Thomas went before Milton Council to gain half-a-dozen Friday nights at Memorial Arena in order to take his club up into Intermediate A.

However, although it's not official yet, no ice time will be available in the town of Milton next year for an intermediate club. The Ontario Hockey Association has not yet received an entry fee from Milton for any Milton intermediate team. The deadline is July 1 although OHA spokesman Gary Wilson said he would consider late entries on their own merit.

The man holding the trump card is... you guessed it... Gary Thomas, of Milton Realty. Last week, he officially put up the club for sale and adds that he'd practically give it away.

However, the junior club has taken (back) all Friday nights for the 1982-83 season at Memorial Arena and Larry Arbic, the director of Milton Parks and Recreation, has re-slotted Aeros' ice time (five hours) for different purposes.

What we are witnessing is the death of intermediate hockey in Milton. Probably for a long time.

For almost a decade, intermediate hockey has struggled to gain recognition as a major hockey team in this town.

Efforts by owners Russ Lane, Vern Bridgman and Bob Barlett, combined with major sponsorships from The Charles Hotel, Rockwell International and Milton Realty have all failed to generate a local following, both in terms of attendance and players.

It has been uphill battle ever since Carl Hymers took his team from the White Oaks Hockey League in the early '70s and after surviving a long list of playoff rounds, captured the Intermediate B hockey championship.

Enduring the wrath of the league ever since, Milton has tried gamely to ice a competitive club with little resources. This year, it will all probably come to a stop.

While Gary Thomas says he is willing to almost "give" the team away for a relatively small sum, there is little doubt few people would be interested.

Also, Thomas still holds the trump card.

First, if someone wanted the team and couldn't come to an agreement on a sale price, the new aspirant would need the approval of Thomas for the OHA to approve its entry into the Intermediate B League. Existing OHA teams always have priority and must be consulted.

All this, of course, is elementary because with a strong junior team sewing up all the Friday nights at Memorial Arena next year, there is no way any team could make a proper go of it at the Intermediate level in either group.

And, of course, there's no time there.

Somehow, it doesn't seem right—especially when one considers all the ballyhoo involved in Thomas vs Gooding at Milton Council just a few months ago.

What it got Thomas wasn't the Friday nights—it was the juniors he gained. Without a full slate of Fridays at Memorial Arena, Flyers suddenly weren't as valuable anymore.

Suggesting Thomas went to the trouble in order to gain the juniors wouldn't, I think, be accurate. But holding almost all the cards ensured he'd have the top team in town if he wanted it—and he's got it.



Mike Boyle

Now there's no opposition for the juniors. With newly named general manager Pie Lee and coach Tom Martin generating enthusiasm for the juniors, they have nothing but clear sailing ahead with no roadblocks.

Five owners into two teams won't go.

Even if Milton Aeros wanted to operate at the Intermediate A level for 1982-83, they wouldn't have much company.

As of yesterday (Tuesday) noon, only one club, Collingwood, has registered for the coming year.

The great expected rivalry with Georgetown might have gone by the boards anyway. Most Raiders' players were extremely disappointed with their financial consideration (or lack of it) for winning the Hardy Cup this year. They have indicated an unwillingness to return.

While players can always be found if the price is right at the Int. A level, few prospective players would be inclined to join Raiders should word get around.

Sticking with hockey, Acton Sabres and Georgetown Gemini have decided against merging for the 1982-83 season.

Initial reaction between the two organizations was positive on the move, but several complications (past debt, minor hockey) couldn't be rectified in time for the new season.

Both groups say they review the proposal soon.

Again, not all Junior B teams may be back to the 11-team Central Ontario Jr. B League.

Dixie applied to the Metro League but was rejected and is considering folding its B club. Similarly, Brampton interests have indicated they won't be back.

However, OHA spokesman Gary Wilson said that neither club has so far pulled out of the league.

In local hockey news, Milton's major midget Comets have organized their first meeting of the year.

All players 15 and 16 years of age interested in playing with Comets this year are asked to meet at the back campus of EC Drury School Saturday July 3 at 10 a.m.

They will receive information on a dry-land training program and a rundown on team plans for next year.

Should rain fall, the meeting will be moved to the Community Room of Milton Sports Centre. All players are asked to wear running shoes and shorts for what looks like a run through.

If any player is interested but unable to attend, call manager Rick Horne at 854-2483.

It looks like minor bantam hockey coach and novice girls softball coach Larry Scott is trying his hand at match-making.

The coach of both teams, which involves boys and girls 13 years of age, is planning a combined garage sale and car wash at Sentinel Gulf, 433 Steeles Saturday July 3.

This will be followed by a challenge softball game featuring Terry Brandt's Bullies against Scotties Little Softies.

Agreement reached on tennis court costs

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Local tennis players who've been yearning for better facilities saw their dreams take a step closer to reality Monday night.

That's when town council and the Milton Tennis Club finalized an agreement on financial arrangements for the construction of six lighted courts and a new club house to be located on the northeast corner of the EC Drury property.

Councillors were told the total bill for the project is expected to be \$268,100 and that financing will be split between contributions from the town, provincial government and the club.

Don Lougheed, town treasurer, said that in addition to providing \$15,000 of its own, the tennis club would borrow \$53,000

from the town, to be repaid over five years.

Although an interest rate of 15.25 per cent was attached to the loan, Mr. Lougheed recommended that the town take possession of the facilities currently used by the club in Rotary Park instead.

In addition to the loan given to the club, the town will also make a \$65,000 contribution to the scheme from its parks dedication fund and another \$68,000 from its general budget.

When the new courts are constructed, they will be owned by the town but operated by the club under a five-year agreement. The land will be leased from the provincial government for 10 years with two options of five years each.

Although council gave its approval to the financial arrangements and to a by-

law allowing the mayor to sign an agreement with the club, not all were enthusiastic about the scheme.

Coun. Bill Johnson said he was concerned that tax money should be spent by the town on projects that would have the maximum benefit for the maximum number of people and that the new tennis courts didn't fit into the plan.

"This is an elite group looking for some sort of special treatment and they seem to think that our pockets should be wide open for them," he said.

"I'm not convinced that there's enough interest in tennis in town to justify this," he added. "I think there are better ways to spend the town's money than on facilities like this."

That comment drew criticism from Coun. Blanche Hinton who argued that

council decisions shouldn't be aimed only at the largest groups in town.

"I'd hate to think that the only things we pay attention to are those where we're sure we'll get 10,000 votes rather than only 500," she said.

Town clerk Roy Main said the agreements to be signed with the club would keep the town from any direct involvement in its affairs, other than requirements laid out in the contract.

He noted as an example that the agreement provided some protection for the town by requiring the club to file annual financial statements.

Plans call for 25 per cent of the cost of the courts to be financed through provincial grants. If the grants are refused then the town and club will split that portion of the bill.

Champion Sports

Defence spurs major bugs

Great week includes win in Ontario Cup

Enjoying a spectacularly successful week, Milton Ontario Tree Fruit major mosquito soccer reps won all four games including an Ontario Cup opener against Clarkson.

Defence and strong goalkeeping led the way for the major bugs as Milton outscored their opponents by a combined margin of 10-1 in the four games.

Goalkeeper Philip Leach shone for Milton with outstanding efforts in each game. Milton coach Andy Kirkwood beamed with pride at Leach's goalkeeping which, he said, instilled a great deal of confidence in the Milton's defence. The only goal which beat Leach was scored on a rebound.

Beating Clarkson 1-0 Sunday in the Ontario Cup opener high lighted the week. The win wasn't totally a surprise. Milton defeated Clarkson no less than twice earlier in the week in Peel-Halton League action by scores of 6-1 last Monday and 2-0 in pouring rain Saturday at Clarkson.

In between, Milton edged Kitchener 1-0 Thursday.

In the Ontario Cup game against Clarkson Sunday at Brian Best Park, it was again the work of the defence and Leach which led to the victory. A majority of Clarkson shots were taken outside the 18-yard box.

Defenders Glen Foster and Gerd Hermanns also performed well Sunday with Hermanns preventing his opposite number for Clarkson from getting anywhere near the goal.

The teams played through a scoreless first half. Milton scored the game's only goal nine minutes into the second half.

Just prior to the goal, Clarkson was on the attack. Neil Garrett stole the ball from a Clarkson forward and passed to Ian Leid, who was about 10 yards inside the Milton half. Leid then kicked a high ball over the Clarkson defence.

Chris Harrison ran through the defence and controlled the ball. With the Clarkson defence on his heels, Harrison raced downfield and laced a shot from 20 yards into the top left corner of the goal.

Clarkson controlled much of the play for the remainder of the contest. Good play by the Milton defence and some



Milton's Chris Harrison (right) slips the ball past two Clarkson players during Milton's 1-0 Ontario Cup victory Sunday at Brian Best Park. The victory capped a brilliant week for the Milton side which won all four games and allowed just a single goal in

crazy bounces enabled Milton to protect the shutout.

Milton received a scare with about 10 minutes left in the game when Leach was injured. Suffering from a wrenched muscle, Leach played in pain.

The defence, again, drew rave reviews from Kirkwood for its performances earlier in the week. The defence has allowed just three goals in the club's first six games. Because of that, the club sports a five-win, one-tie record for an undefeated start.

Saturday, Milton bounced back in the rain from a scoreless first half to rifle home two second-half goals in producing the win.

Leid scored the first goal on a good solo effort. From just inside the Clarkson half, Leid picked up a loose ball. After

beating one player, Leid out-raced two others and, from about 20 yards, shot low and hard into the back of the net.

Harrison started and finished the play for Milton's second goal. Starting from Milton's half, Harrison made a good pass to Ray Wark who beat one man and raced down the wing. He crossed the ball into the middle to Harrison who side-stepped one defender and blasted a shot which deflected off a Clarkson defender into the goal.

Leach played well in picking up the shutout.

Last Monday at Brian Best, Milton rolled up a 4-0 lead before Clarkson scored and walked away with a 6-1 win.

Milton struck twice in the first eight minutes and added one before the half was out. They scored three more in the

second half.

Steven Dall and Harrison paced the scorers with two apiece with Jeff Truswell and Wark adding singles.

Foster came up with the play of the game against Kitchener when he blocked a shot which was headed into an open net enabling Milton to earn a slim 1-0 win Thursday at Kitchener.

Leach made 20 saves in the game including about 18 which coach Kirkwood says could be used to illustrate a goal-keeping textbook.

Colin Grieve scored for Milton on a nice second effort from Wark. Grieve's initial shot was blocked but the ball bounced back to him. With a defender on his heels, Grieve calmly side-stepped the goalie and placed the drive into the vacated goal.

Nicklaus, PGA agree

Abbey in great shape for Open

It's been a long struggle and the weather hasn't exactly cooperated, but Glen Abbey Golf Course is back in shape.

The nationally-reknowned links received the nod of approval from both the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and officials representing course designer Jack Nicklaus last week as it underwent the first of four inspections leading up to the Canadian Open.

According to Dennis Leger, associate agronomist with the PGA there appears to be no areas of major concern this year. And although the links are not yet in as good condition as they were in 1977, the Nicklaus group left head greenskeeper Don McFaul with the impression that they were very pleased with the improvements he has made.

The job has been a long and arduous one for the recently hired McFaul. Upon arrival at the Abbey from Australia where he managed another of Nicklaus's top-level golf courses, McFaul said, "I had to give my head a double shake," at some of the conditions around the RCGA owned course.

"My first attention had to go to the greens. Some of them had only about 50 per cent turf (numbers 1, 2 and 4). From there I went to the fairways and the tees," said McFaul recently.

Leger, who spent about eight hours at the course viewing greens and other problem areas, expressed optimism at the im-

provement of the putting surfaces which drew public outrage from Nicklaus last year.

"I think he has eliminated the problems. Don's (McFaul) ability to recognize winter kill, and go ahead and overseed, has done wonders. I don't anticipate any problems on the greens," said Leger.

Most of the greens have been overseeded as much as four times, as McFaul replaced the diseased C15 with Pencil Bent. Number 11, where major restructuring has been undertaken, recently received its eighth covering of seed.

"We put in totally new green on Number 11," said McFaul. "It has been moved forward about 20 feet, and shifted back and to the left. Last year the golfer approached the green perpendicular (to the water), but now it is about a 45 degree angle and starts about six or eight feet from the water's edge."

According to the greenskeeper, the hole is not only more scenic as a result of the work, but the three bunkers added made it more of a golf hole.

Currently the green is not in play. McFaul expects it to be ready in about three weeks.

Heavy rainfall activity early this spring has created a slow down for the maintenance staff. Wet grass is harder to keep trimmed properly and with many of the fairways soft, the big machinery has remained in storage this year.

May's rainfall was more than nine millimetres above the average. In fact, according to McFaul, one weekend gave the course more rainfall than the usual monthly average (64.8 millimetres).

Already in June (the first 10 days) 103 millimetres has fallen.

"Basically it slows down the mowing. . . we haven't had a chance to tighten up the fairways or the tees," said McFaul.

All this does not hurt the playability of the course for the average golfer, but it does keep the root systems close to the surface of the earth when McFaul would prefer they dropped "10 feet."

While the greens bore the brunt of Nicklaus assault last year, a number of generalities grouped together as "housekeeping" were also attacked by the PGA Tour's leading money winner (\$3,759,426 at the end of 1981).

"They were mainly the things that could change it from a good golf course to those that could make it a great golf course," said McFaul.

With excellent reviews from the PGA and Nicklaus last week (they visited Glen Abbey a day apart last week) the Abbey has just two major tests to pass. Nicklaus's entourage will be back once more, while Michael Shea, the PGA's rules official will give it final approval the week of the Open.

• More on Glen Abbey C5

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Bass derby starting at Mountsberg

In a well-rounded variety of activities, Halton Region Conservation Authority will hold its second annual Bass Bonanza at Mountsberg's Wildlife Centre.

The derby will be held over two weekends beginning this Saturday at 6.30 a.m. The derby will continue Sunday from 6.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the following weekend from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. each day.

Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish, the largest fish caught by the oldest angler, the largest fish caught by a youngster 12 years or under, and a prize for the best mess of fish. The best-mess category is held each weekend.

The authority will allow the use of non-motorized boats only on the reservoir. The derby registration fee and parking is \$3.50.

Also planned for the weekend are wagon rides, films on bass at the Interpretive Centre, live bass exhibit, concession facilities and wildlife displays and exhibits.

To reach Mountsberg, take No. 5 Sideroad (Campbell Ave.) through Campbellville along regional road 18.



Glen Abbey greenskeeper Don McFaul (left) passed one of his major hurdles in preparing the course for this year's Open last week when he got the nod of approval from PGA associate agronomist Dennis Leger (right). Leger was pleased with the improvements particularly on the putting surfaces.