

OASA tourney held this weekend

Some of the best fastball this area will see this year will take place at Brian Best and Rotary parks this weekend when Milton hosts the Ontario Amateur Softball Association "AA" championships.

The eight-team double-knockout tournament will begin Saturday and conclude with the championship game Sunday at 4.15 p.m. The tourney is being hosted and run by Thornborrow Oilers of the Milton Fastball League. Milton will be represented by Milton Glass Construction. The team is coached by Chris Heath and Brian McDuffe.

Among the players suiting up for the Milton side are Keith McKinnon, Paul Wannamaker, Nick Gauthier and Jeff Haines on the mound. Haines will start the first game. He plays for Glen Williams.

The rest of the line-up is comprised of Brian Peavoy, Dennis Gleed, Kevin Smith, Peter McDuffe, Trevor Houston, Bob Baker, Ray Delegarde, Bruce Chinnery and Doug McLaughlin among others.

Action starts at 9.30 a.m. Saturday at Brian Best Park and concludes with an 8 p.m. start. Sunday, action gets underway at 11 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m.

There will be a full slate of games Saturday and Sunday at Brian Best Park. Scheduling problems have

caused three games to be played at Rotary Park Saturday afternoon. Beer and food will be available on the grounds. Admission is \$2 per day. Passes will be distributed to allow easy moving from the two parks Saturday.

The following is the schedule for Saturday and the lineup of times for Sunday.

Saturday
Game One—Kapusking vs York Merchants or Village Caterers, 9.30 a.m. Brian Best Park.

Game Two—Ingersoll vs Azilda, 11.15 a.m. BBP.

Game Three—Milton vs Owen Sound, 1 p.m. BBP.

Game Four—Palermo vs Sarnia, 1 p.m. Rotary Park.

2.45 p.m.—Winners games 1 and 2, BBP.

2.45 p.m.—Losers games 1 and 2, RP.

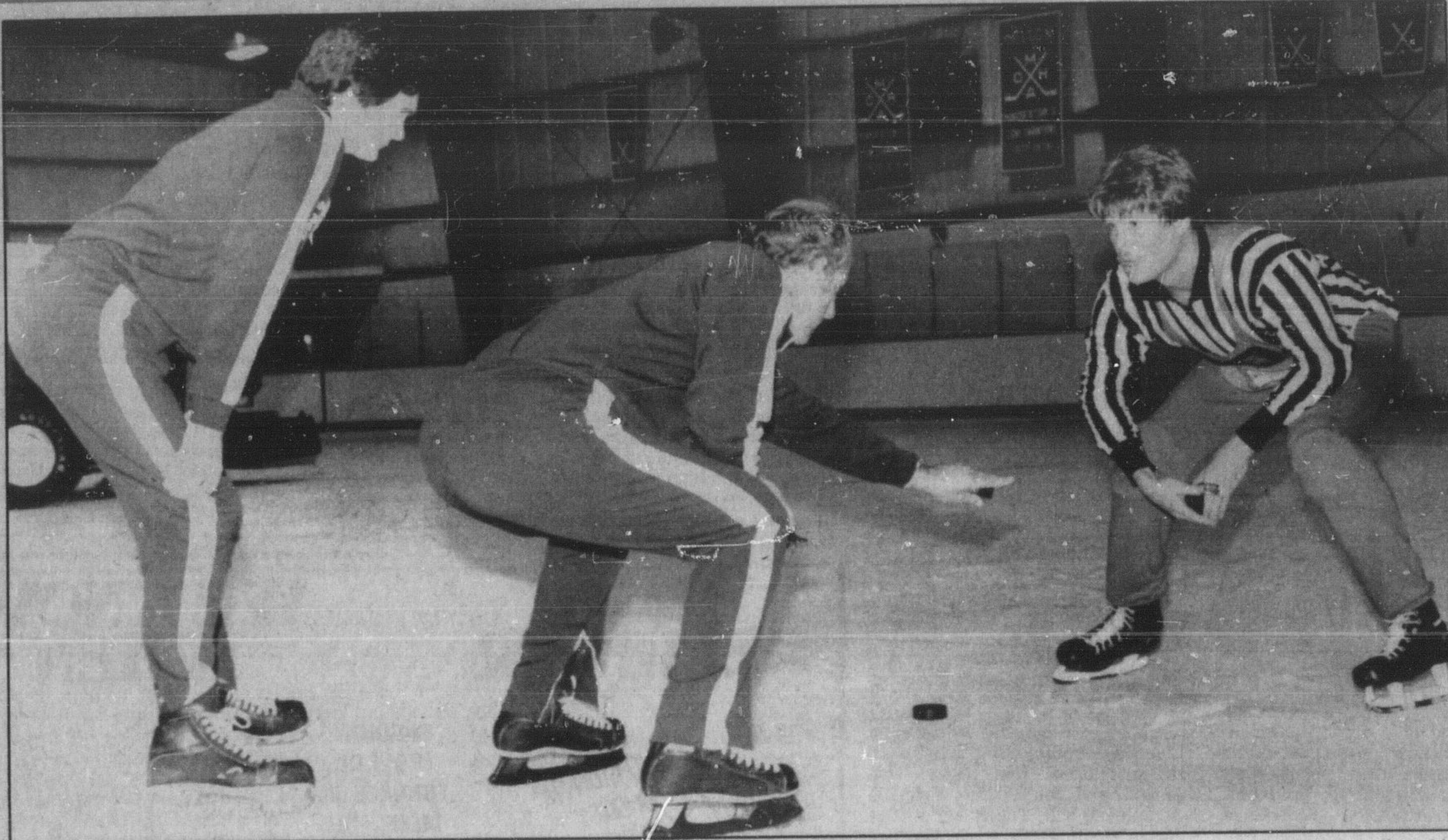
4.30 p.m.—Winners games 3 and 4, BBP.

4.30 p.m.—Losers games 3 and 4, RP.

6.15 p.m.—Teams to be decided, BBP.

8 p.m.—Teams to be decided, BBP.

Sunday
Games will be played at 11 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. The championship game is at 4.15 p.m. If a second game is needed, it'll follow at 6 p.m.



NHL linesman John D'Amico shows referee-in-training Bob Farr some of the finer points of dropping the puck for face-offs during just one of several drills students were doing simultaneously. Bruce Hood watches on. Hood's International School of

Refereeing registered 82 students with most enjoying themselves and all working hard.

Hood's school combines hard work, fun, learning

By MICHAEL BOYLE
Champion Sports Editor

At 6.30 a.m., Elmer Blacklock breaks the silence by walking through the halls of the residence of E.C. Drury School playing the bagpipes.

It's Thursday morning and the fourth morning of Bruce Hood's International School of Refereeing.

Slowly, the eyes of the 82 students open. Many students have just a few hours sleep after a gruelling day. They scramble through the halls. Half head to Memorial Arena. The other half head to the field area of the school.

Among those who go to the arena is Bob Farr, a 21-year-old official from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Bob is a first-year student of the school.

At 7 a.m., teachers John D'Amico and Don Koharski get the students limbered up with a variety of stretching exercises.

The teachers guide the students through a succession of skating drills. Most drills concentrate on the specific skating skills officials require.

The drills are intended as a warming-up exercise. Each day, the students either skate for an hour or do land exercises, led by Trevor Houston, for the purpose of preparing the students for a busy day.

The session ends at 8 a.m. and the players skate off the ice. Many are tired even before the bulk of their busy schedule begins.

"A pro team came to town when I was 12," explains Farr. "I saw it and liked it. I signed up the next year."

Hockey began making in-roads into the south with the NHL expansion to Atlanta in the early '70s. Many minor hockey organizations were set up and players, mostly transplants from the northern American states staffed the teams.

In Farr's area of North Carolina, there are hockey organizations in Hillsborough, Winston-Salem and Charlotte with a total registration of 500.

In 1978, Farr broke his left leg in two places. The injury effectively ended his hockey career which was aimed at college.

"I loved hockey too much to get out of it so I got into officiating. I worked about five games three years ago and last year I did it full time."

The students return from the arena and immediately make a bee-line for the cafeteria for breakfast. Each fills his plate with generous helpings of bacon, eggs, pancakes and several glasses of four kinds of fruit juice.

The food is quickly devoured and most head back to their rooms for a quick nap for the first class at 9.15 a.m.

In this particular class, Hood distributes a test of the rules of the games to each student. With students from the United States, Europe and Canada in attendance, the rules vary for each student creating minor headaches for the marking staff.

Bob began taking refereeing seriously just recently. He arrived in Hamilton, his home base for August, back on Aug. 10 and participated in the Can-Am Hockey School. That school ran over three days.

Before he arrived in Hamilton, Bob

prepared for the schools by exercising strenuously for about a month in Winston-Salem.

"I ran every day and rode my bicycle as much as I could. I also played basketball quite a bit. You have to be in good shape before coming to the school. If you come here expecting to get into shape, you'll be exhausted by the second day."

"After Monday and Tuesday, I was sore all over. But it's a good sore. You're pushing yourself to do better each time and you're pushing yourself to do better than the next guy. We're all friends here and we pull for everybody else. But just the same you push yourself to do better than the other guys."

After the students write the test, most return to their rooms for a short while before meeting back at the classroom for a lecture.

Before the 11 a.m. starting time, student Joe Prescott from Chicago entertains some of his fellow students with a few choruses of O Canada. He even knew the new lyrics. He is joined by Rob Kroonenberg on the piano and before the class starts, the room is revitalized with music.

The lecture is given by Barry Bartlett, from Sheridan College, on conditioning. Bartlett explains some proper exercises before the officials go on the ice and then some they can use before the games. "It was informative," Farr says of the lecture. "I haven't heard of some of the exercises. The stretching is also important because of the conditioning we're doing here. I feel a lot better because of it."

One interesting statistic Bartlett reveals is that officials skate the equivalent of 33 laps a period in the NHL which works out to 2.53 miles.

In all, 82 students registered for the school. Of that number, nearly half, 38,

are returnees. There are 53 from Canada, 27 from the United States, one from Yugoslavia and one from Finland. There is also one girl, Tony Onichuck from Fort Francis.

They came from as far away as California and Calgary in North America. The nearest student was from Acton.

They paid \$310 Cdn. or \$280 U.S. for the session which began Sunday night and concluded Friday night with the championship of the Milton Hockey League tournament.

Six NHL officials instructed. They were Ron Wicks, Leon Stickle, Mark Pare, John McCutcheon, Koharski and D'Amico. Originally, Bob Hodges was slated to instruct but he injured his knee and spent the time recuperating. Father Jim Armstrong, Bruce Hood's right-hand man and the one best identified as the guiding spirit of the school, was also back for the eighth straight year. He's never missed.

The numbers were down somewhat from last year's total of about 125. Hood said he felt the poor economic situation held down the students from the U.S. which usually take part in greater numbers.

The smaller number made the atmosphere a little better, said Marilyn Hood, Bruce's daughter and administrative chief who attended the school for the week.

"It went off excellently," she said. "There were no major problems and I think this was the best school I've attended with respect to atmosphere."

After lunch, Farr goes back out to the arena for more extensive training in skating and on-ice officiating skills. The school is split into two halves.

The instructors have set up a comprehensive drill incorporating several drills which involve all the students. Half the difficulty is remembering

exactly what is expected of the officials.

At 2 p.m., the officials break into a controlled scrimmage. After 15 minutes, the students relax by skating around the ice while listening to piped-in music. It was the first time music was used and the students received it well. The adrenaline was flowing even at the end of a 90-minute hard session.

"The instructors instill in you that looking the part is important. Otherwise you'll make a fool of yourself. There's a lot of little things they help you with."

"The schools give you all the aspects that a lot of people don't think about. All instructors are informative. They make it easy to learn. They're very good with one-to-one instruction and if you want any advice they're more than willing to help you."

Returning back to Drury School, the students break into halves once again with one group playing a vigorous game of European handball in one gym while another group plays baseball with a volleyball in another gym.

The competition is intense and the students show none of the strain of skating for 90 minutes.

The school is broken down into teams with points awarded for a variety of games and events. The games are fought as if a great deal of money rests on the line but it is apparent that competition alone keeps the students going. There was a tie for first place between Stickle's group and Koharski's group.

Farr looks beyond the school with aspirations of some day officiating in the NHL.

"I think I have the personality, character and tools for it," he says. "All I need is experience."

Farr officiated college games last year but he said his added experience should help him land some games in the Atlantic Coast League. He is a member of the North Carolina Hockey Referees Association. The leader of the NCHRA selects officials for the ACL.

"I figure they need some youth this year. With the experience of the schools, I'll be a commodity when I go back south."

For the most part, the evenings are the most relaxed part of the day. Each official took part in a selection of games in the MHL tournament. Scotty Morrison, the NHL's referee-in-chief, and John McCauley, Morrison's right-hand man, were both in attendance and made notes regarding prospects for the NHL referees training camp which begins in two weeks.

Some officials visited Toronto and the CNE while others lengthened their day by enjoying the comfortable surroundings of the Legion's facilities.

"You get tired from all the work," adds Farr, "but you get psyched up by the other students and the instructors."

"You want to keep going because when you go into the dressing room you feel good about yourself, what you're doing and why you're here."

"It's a good feeling."



Showing one of the leg-strengthening drills taught, Bob pushes another student the length of the ice. The students skated in 90-minute hard sessions in the afternoon and alternated skating hard for an hour in the mornings.

Nice guys finish last? Certainly looks that way

FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE baseball manager Leo Durocher famous quote of "Nice guys finish last" couldn't be better applied to Jack Thorne, the coach of Milton Lions Club bantam baseball rep team.

Having advanced to the semi-final round of the OBA playoffs against Merriton, Thorne found his team thrown out of the playdowns when Merriton protested a rule against Milton and won the protest.

Briefly, the situation was this. After losing the first game of the best-of-three series Saturday, Milton journeyed to Merriton Sunday. The host club built up a commanding 8-4 lead with just one inning to play and seemed in command.

Earlier in the game, Milton outfielder Steven May pulled a muscle in his leg rounding third base but continued in the game.

When he came to bat in the seventh, he took two strikes and then tried to move out of the way of a brush-back pitch. He strained his leg further and could not stand without assistance.

Now, Thorne, in the spirit of a broad-minded coach, had put all his players into the game and had no substitutes on the bench. May could not continue. So, Thorne used a rule in the Halton County League which allows an injured player to be replaced by the first player taken out of the game from the starting line-up.

Merriton protested the re-entry rule and the OBA upheld the protest. Gary Bissonette replaced May and took a call third strike. He took May's place in the field but no balls were hit to him. In Milton's seventh, Lions scored six runs and won the game 10-9.

For starters, he was concerned about further injuring the ballplayer. At 14 years of age, the youngster is still growing and long-term damage might have resulted had he gone back in the field (nine players must be on the field at all times or the game is automatically forfeited). He wasn't going to take any chances.

Secondly, in the interests of the players, he'd gotten them all (two substitutes) in the game and was left without a sub.

Some coaches would have gone with their best nine players for the important game and had the subs on the bench. But Thorne said he didn't think that would be fair to the players who travelled with the team so he was left short-handed.

Of course, the OBA needs a rule allowing an umpire to determine if a player is unable to play because of an injury and appoint a sub, whether or not the sub has played before.

What hurts further, is that Merriton was 45 minutes late for the opening game Saturday. By rights, Milton could have called the game 15 minutes after the start and won the series (any protest in a series awards the series to the successful team whether they've won the game or not).

But Thorne figured the players were here to play baseball and if the other team was tied up in traffic then so be it.

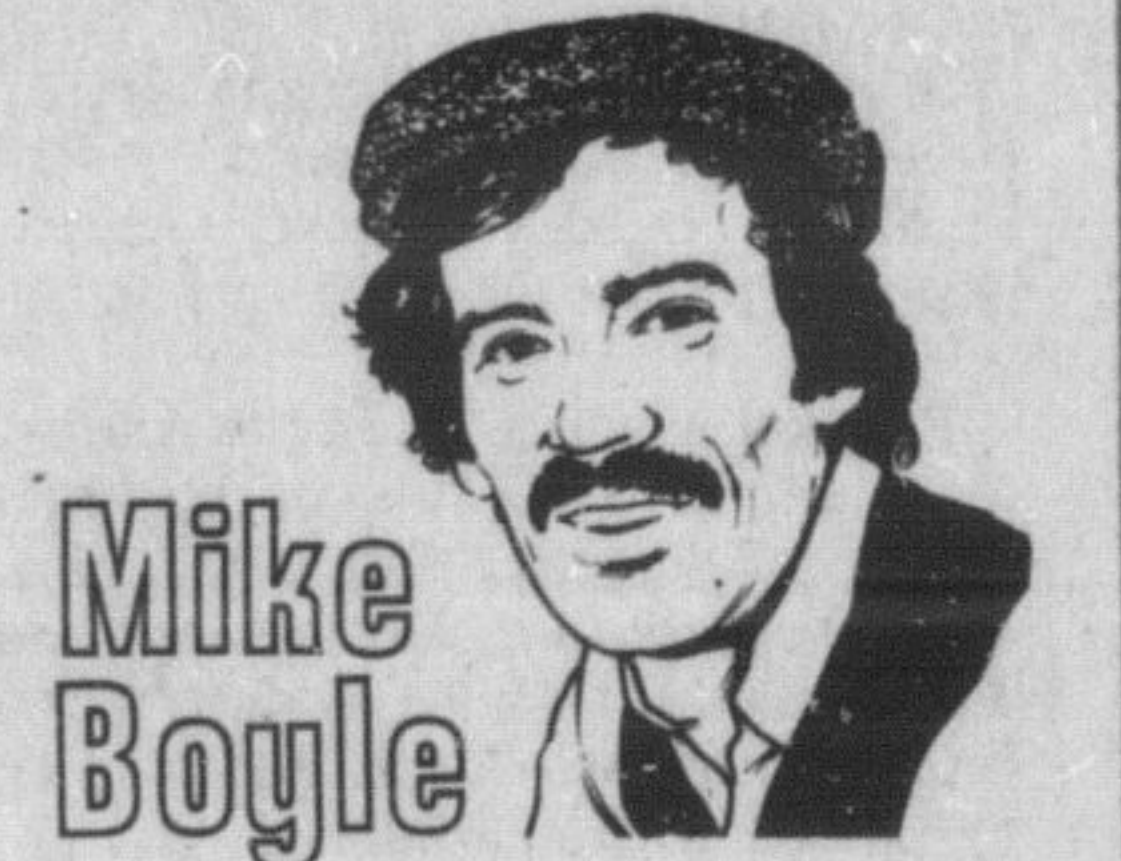
What it shows the kids is that you can take advantage of well-intentioned people.

When kids were involved and the games were decided on the field, it's a poor sign of our collective values when win-at-all-costs takes precedence over competition and enjoyment. It's a sad commentary on our times.

One of the hottest teams in Milton is Karen's Flower Shop, a pee-wee soccer team which operates in the Halton Rural League.

The club in unbeaten in league play and last week advanced to the semi-finals to the Burger King Cup, a tournament for house-league players in the Halton-Peel Soccer League.

Karen's Flowers is coached by Harry Thomson. The club beat Milton rival Best Family 4-0, Clarkson



Mike Boyle

Travonil 8-3 and Brampton Touch of Class 8-3 to advance to the semi-finals.

And there seems no stopping them. The brilliant play of Robert Van Grootel and Gary Tattersall supported by Bruce Thomson has enabled the offence to score 74 goals this year.

The defence is paced by Hugh Silk, Kevin Bates, and Grant Thomson while Mike Summerfield has supplied excellent goalkeeping.

The club will play an Oakville club next. We'll keep you posted.

Milton Jr. B Steamers begin exhibition action Friday night with a 7 p.m. start against Fort Erie at Memorial Arena. The two teams meet again the next night in Fort Erie.

The club held its first tryouts this year over the weekend with about 50 players showing up. We should get an idea of the players available Friday.

Today is the first day of September and with it means the beginning of minor hockey. To prepare you for a winter of minor hockey, here's a little rundown on some events coming up or ones you might have missed.

Larry Scott, the equipment manager for Milton Minor Hockey, announced he was leaving the post immediately to enable him to spend more time coaching. He did not comment further.

Scott's leaving brings the number to four. That's four executive members who have resigned their positions since the annual general meeting in May. The others were Howie Scannell, Judy Dillon and Dunc Currie.

The final registration for all minor hockey is next Tuesday (Sept. 7) from 6-10 p.m. at Memorial Arena. The fees are the same as last year.

Registrations will be accepted after the deadline, but it'll cost \$25 more so register on time.

Bring all used hockey equipment to the registration. Milton Minor Hockey Moms is holding a Skate and Equipment Sale Thursday Sept. 16 at Milton Sports Centre. They keep a share of the selling price. The money goes to a good cause and a few dollars will come your way in addition to getting rid of some old equipment.

The MMHA executive has ruled that Cooperalls, or the Total Protection Pants, will only be allowed by travelling teams within MMHA should an entire team vote in favor. Individuals won't be tolerated.

The much-heralded major bantam trip to Finland is off permanently. A combination of several factors led to its downfall. Incidentally, Todd Horne was released from the team to join Guelph while Darren Shaw's family has moved to Toronto.

Finally, the MMHA will be operating a skating school, run by noted Milton teacher Cindy Brown, from Oct. 8 for eight weeks.

The school will be for atoms and peewees in programs especially designed for house league.

The sessions will take place at Milton Sports Centre on eight successive Fridays. The atoms will hit the ice at 4.30 p.m. for an hour followed by an hour of peewees.

Registration is limited although if enough players register, a second session may be held in January.

Cost for the entire session is \$10, cheap at twice the price. Bring the money to registration.