

**Refereeing costs**

**Some demands unreasonable**

**T**HERE IS A lot of concern this fall about the cost of youth soccer in coming years. We all know about inflation, which is added to the cost of uniforms and equipment. But two other factors are causing concern.

In some areas, referees are making unreasonable demands. I know that it costs more for gas to get to games, that uniform costs are increasing and registration fees are all expenses which referees might reasonably be expected to recoup.

However, if a referee buys a complete new uniform every year, which is a bit extravagant, that together with registration fees need only total about \$80. I hear of some referees collecting as much as \$4,000 in a season, without paying any tax on it. That may be exceptional but there are many picking up substantial amounts over and above their expenses.

Referees are essential to the game and when it comes to officiating senior games, they are entitled to some reward for the abuse they take. However, I sometimes think that the fact the referee is being paid a handsome fee encourages the players and coaches to take the attitude, "They are being paid so why shouldn't I take a shot at them."

So referees are certainly entitled to cover their expenses but are they entitled to pocket substantial amounts after that? There are hundreds, even thousands, of people involved in coaching and administration of youth soccer who do not even get to cover their expenses and often end up out of pocket.

I think it is time referees took a look at just what they are contributing to the game for which most would claim they have so much love.



**Soccer talk**  
with JOHN MORGAN

The other area which is causing concern is the "user pay" policy which some municipalities are introducing. While this is potentially expensive it does have a brighter side. If a club is paying for the use of facilities then it will be reasonable for them to expect that those facilities will be maintained in good condition which has not always been the case.

Municipal politicians are always looking for ways of trimming budgets and making a name for themselves. Recreational facilities might seem to be less essential than proper sewage treatment or an efficient law enforcement agency but is this, in fact, the case?

Remember the old saying, "The devil makes work for idle hands." Very few youngsters involved in sports programs appear amongst the trouble-makers on our streets. Youth sports programs perform a valuable community service and the people who run them, almost entirely volunteers, should not have the added problem of finding the funds to finance their operation. If the cost of participation goes up substantially, there is a risk of losing the very children who benefit most from the program.

Hockey, which has the additional problem of high equipment cost, has already gone out of reach for many. If municipalities promote their "user pay"

policies for baseball diamonds and soccer fields they will be in danger of making all youth sports programs affordable only to those who are better off financially.

On the other side, I believe a limited "user pay" policy is reasonable for a municipality to justify the provision of better facilities for those teams who need them and are prepared to pay for them. However basic facilities, for use by houseleague operations, should be provided as a civic necessity.

The City of Brampton is proposing a fee structure which threatens to eliminate youth soccer there in 1982. Mississauga is proposing a much more reasonable arrangement where they will be making a charge for every game played on six fenced fields which have floodlights, while still providing basic facilities for house-league operations.

Here in Milton, we are fortunate to have a number of very good referees with a real concern for the game and a municipality which has provided adequate playing facilities. However, soccer is still the poor relation amongst local sports despite the many players involved.

When you look at the large chunk of tax dollars which go to subsidizing ice time for hockey and the new baseball diamonds being provided with flood lighting, that fact becomes very obvious.

Something you may have missed last week; I did until I happened to hear about it by chance. The Canadian National soccer team beat, and I mean beat the Cosmos 4-1 in Vancouver Wednesday evening.

Sam Lenarducci was the final cut from the team which is heading for the World Cup playdowns in Honduras next month.

**Sockets lead the way**

The youngest rep hockey team of them all is showing the way. Milton novice Sockets started the season on the right note with a pair of two-goal victories in winning both at home and away.

Sockets won their league opener 3-1 Saturday afternoon in their home opener at Memorial Arena. Milton came from behind to beat Georgetown with Michael Cox taking the hero's role with all three goals including two while his club was short-handed.

The game started with much tentative play by both sides until Georgetown took the play to Milton. Sockets' goalie Ryan Peddie was called upon to make six good saves before Georgetown took the lead on a goal 50 seconds from the end of the first period.

Sockets came out strongly in the middle frame led by the strong skating of Kevin Davidson and Cox up front. The club's first good scoring chance occurred with a minute gone when Trevor Brandt collected the puck at his own goal line and broke up the left flank. The winger fired a low hard shot which beat the Georgetown netminder but rebounded off the far post.

Georgetown bounced right back with a good scoring chance but Peddie came up with a strong save. With six minutes to go in the period, Jarret Blanchard set up Cox at centre ice and he broke through the Georgetown defence and scored the equalizer.

With Mike Lee serving a two-minute holding penalty, Blanchard set up Cox again just eight seconds after the ensuing face-off and the speedy centre put Sockets ahead with a replica of his first effort.

Blanchard won the resulting face-off and got the puck to Cox at centre ice who left the Georgetown defence standing. Cox made no mistake in posting the goal just five seconds after his second, with a low hard shot to clinch the win.

Against Flamboro, Sockets had to battle back twice from one-goal disadvantages to secure their second league win.

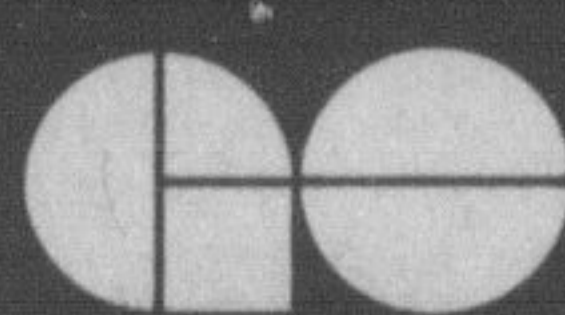
After an early breakaway Flamboro marker, Brandt tied the score for Milton with an unassisted

goal at the 3:21 mark of the opening period. Flamboro regrouped and went ahead just 50 seconds later. Sockets re-applied pressure and with just 26 seconds left in the seesaw period, Russell McLean backhanded in a rebound from another Brandt shot to tie the score.

The end-to-end action continued in the middle frame which was highlighted by excellent defensive play by David McDuffe. McDuffe almost scored the go-ahead goal in the period when his shot from the point was almost deflected into the goal by Blanchard.

Sockets found the go-ahead goal six minutes into the final frame when Cox collected a pass from Davidson and fired a hard shot from a tight angle which gave the Flamboro goalie no chance.

Sockets continued to dominate and Cox again scored in the final minute when he tapped in a rebound after Robbie Crowe had carried the puck the length of the ice.



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**Alpini rolls to soccer title**  
Two-game sweep of Meteors for "A" Division crown

Despite moving up a division, Milton Italian-Canadian Club Alpini captured the Inter-County Soccer League 'A' Division championship in just its first year of competition.

Alpini won the best-of-three final series with Georgetown 'A' Meteors by scores of 4-3 and 3-1. It was just the second year of operation for Alpini which won the 'B' title last year and ran away with the 'A' division this year in posting a 17-1 record.

Alpini was threatened in the first game and after a draw in regulation time, the game went into overtime. Georgetown jumped ahead 3-2 with just three minutes left in overtime.

However, two cross balls by Ed Pat-

erson first tied the score and then resulted in the winner as Alpini pulled a 4-3 win out of the bag.

In the second game, Alpini began the contest with just 10 players. The manpower disadvantage didn't hurt too badly as Alpini jumped ahead 1-0 after just two minutes had been played. The team went on to win 3-1 with Gord Barkley firing two goals and Bob Lockwood adding one.

The championship is the culmination of a year's effort when Alpini put its act together.

John Phelps, Jeff Lockwood, Aurelio Garcia and Gary Lockwood combined to form a formidable defence.

In the middle, Gerry Spanois, Sid Carlos, John Barnes and Gord Barkley

showed good ball control and generated several good attacking plays which resulted in goals.

Up front, Marco Bernabei, Ken Lockwood, Dave Patterson, Ed Patterson, Bob Lockwood and Vince Gemenco supplied much speed and scoring.

Dave Patterson, in particular, was Alpini's scoring machine all year despite being marked by two Meteor defenders in the championship series.

Alpini also entered a second team in the Inter-County 'B' Division sponsored by Sorrento Pizzeria.

The club finished third in league play which is encouraging for the senior club in that the club is comprised of many young players.

**Shepherd's status is now in limbo**

The future of goalie Mike Shepherd remained in limbo with the Milton Industrial Hockey League after the veteran junior netminder played Friday night with Milton Flyers.

Shepherd, through The Racers Edge hockey team, had requested the league to join The Edge. However, at a meeting of the six team representatives last Wednesday, it was resolved that Shepherd's name would

be placed in a re-entry draft which was held last night (Tuesday).

The re-entry draft allows all teams to put their unwanted players into a pool. The teams draft in reverse order of their 1980-81 finish.

Shepherd may not play with any team this year should it be learned that he signed a card to play junior. Any player who has signed an Ontario Hockey Association or OMHA card is ineligible for MIHL play.

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