

# Christmas comes in April for most sports fanatics

13—The Canadian Champion, Friday, April 6, 1990

'Tis the season, the pool season that is. Of course other sporting seasons offer the glorious gamble of pool possibilities but for the real aficionado April, with the promise of baseball season and the NHL playoffs, is like Christmas to a five-year-old.

These gambling endeavors exist in any combination of complexity and financial commitment to test the skills of everyone from the novice to the most ardent sports enthusiast.

Office pools for the most part cater to the lowest common denominator of sports knowledge, so that everyone can get involved. At the same time a pool called ScoreSheet Baseball demands managers draft a team, insists upon a line up against right and left-



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handed pitchers, defensive replacements, relievers, a starting rotation, and incorporates defensive skills, among other things. Games are then played by computer based on your players' statistics for the previous week.

For the less than rah-rah type a pool can bring some elements of professional sports

down to the level of everyman. It serves as an excellent way to heighten interest in professional sports or test knowledge and skill for those who usually argue such things over beer at the local tavern.

Sports publications carry advertisements beyond count for services which will calculate pool scores. Most people like to avoid this cost, especially when they have access to a statistics nut, who usually has an affinity for computers and will do the calculations. Many an office has a late burning light which, more often than not, indicates the tabulator is hard at work.

Officially, professional sports are appalled by gambling on the outcome of their games. Unofficially, they are delighted. While they

monitor gambling to make sure it doesn't get close to their sports, where it could ruin the credibility of the games, they do love the added interest the pools provide.

After all, added interest enhances ticket sales and television viewership, and that means a pile of money for professional athletics. Isn't that what makes the world go 'round, anyway?

In most pools the money is really only a fee to ensure sincerity and commitment as well as to provide a prize to the winner. The gambling aspect is negligible, rather the skill and thrill considerations carry the affair. Too bad professional sports barons don't have the same high sense of morality as the typical fan.

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Photo by JOHN WARREN

## Keep your eye on the bouncing ball

Joe Ng (left) of Toronto won the Eastern Canadian Open men's singles table tennis title last weekend. He defeated Horatio Pintos, also of Toronto, 21-17, 19-21, 22-20, 18-21 and 21-13 in the final. The tournament was held at Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary

School and featured competitors fighting for 23 titles. Ng will travel to the Canadian National Table Tennis Championship in Vancouver next month before competing in Japan.

## Minor hockey champions crowned

Championship Day results from the Milton Minor Hockey Association house league finale on Saturday are trickling in.

In pre-novice play Straight Line Fence notched a 2-1 victory over Milton Skate Exchange in the championship final.

Caleb Moffat and Mike Radbourn counted for Straight Line while Tyler Rennie notched the marker for Skate Exchange, with assists going to Rory McDonnell and Jodie St. John.

In the pre-novice consolation game, Knight's Dry Cleaners beat the Little Firemen 3-1.

Matthew Ventura collected all three Knight's goals. Jeff MacLeod and Lee Furness managed one assist each. Graham Carroll had the only bingle for Little Firemen.

### Hood champions

In minor novice action Bruce Hood Travel claimed the championship with a 5-2 victory over Mike's Barber Shop.

Goal scorers for Bruce Hood were Jed Cosby with a hat trick and Stephen Chuchmach with a pair. Assists went to C.J. Hunsinger, Paul Parrot, Jason Hill, Matthew Scarpino and Jarret Konkle.

Mike's Barber Shop goals were scored by Paul Faggion and Bradley McKnight. Derek McWhinney defended the net of the vanquished while Justin Lanigan held back the hordes for the winners.

As We Grow bounced Milton Bus Lines 4-3 in major novice action.

The victory was secured with only 20 seconds remaining when Scott Corfield scored his second goal of the game.

David Ellis and Jeremy Robert were the other goal scorers. Corfield also had an assist.

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## SKD Blues and Carefree Flyers advance to semifinals

The Carefree Flyers and SKD Blues both swept their respective first round playoff series in two straight games in Milton Hockey League action.

Carefree defeated Milton Pro Sport Kings 6-0 and 3-2 while SKD edged Fat Freddy's by scores of 4-3 and 5-4.

In the first game between Carefree and Pro Sport rookie of the year candidate Fred Pennell scored four goals with Blair Phillips and Jim Newman adding singles. Newman, Joe Gaetan and Jim Simmons all earned a pair of assists while Stu Anderson, Brad Nadalin, Tim Lamers, Kevin Howden and Phillips all contributed single helpers. Alex Giannuzzi worked the shutout for the Flyers.

The second game featured a rejuvenated Mil-

ton Pro Sport squad playing solid two-way hockey only to lose a heartbreaker in overtime. Pennell drew first blood on a solo effort for the Flyers with two minutes remaining in the first period.

Only 40 seconds later Ralph Serafini tied things up, with assists going to Eric Ellison and Don Habkirk. Midway through the second frame Pat McManus put the Kings ahead on the powerplay, with assists going to Earl Sheppard and Ellison.

With only nine seconds remaining in the period Mike Monahan sent the Flyers into the third tied at two.

The third period was scoreless, so the game went into overtime. Things looked bleak when the Flyers picked up a penalty, but Pennell

managed a shorthanded goal to end the Kings' season.

Carefree now plays first place finishers and defending champs Apple Auto Devils in a best of three semifinal series.

The other first round series was witness to SKD Blues' win over last year's runner up, Fat Freddy's. The first game was decided 18 seconds into overtime when Greg Faucher scored an unassisted shorthanded marker to secure the win for SKD. The squad had led 3-1 with only two minutes remaining but Fat Freddy's Ken Fox scored twice to send the game into overtime.

Derek Merileese had a pair and Dave Demencu had given SKD their lead while John Hackett scored the early goal for Fat Freddy's.

The second and final game of the series featured SKD scoring three third period goals to defeat the pesky Fat Freddy's. Paul Boivin, Tom Houston, Kerry Duggan and Fox each scored once to give Fat Freddy's a 4-2 lead heading into the final frame.

Dan Agar and Bob Mills accounted for the Blues' two goals up to that point. Twenty seconds into the third period Ed Gaeton drew the Blues to within a single marker. Bob Mills then took matters into his own hands and netted two goals three minutes apart to give the Blues a one goal lead.

Fat Freddy's tried valiantly to gain the equalizer but were turned back by goaltender Andy Saliba. SKD now goes on to meet the Winterhawks in the other semifinal series.