

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, September 2, 1992—22

Hurricanes run into problems securing ice time

By STEVE LaBLANC
Special to The Champion

It's been almost two years now, but problems over ice time availability in Georgetown continue for the Halton Hurricanes triple A hockey organization.

For the upcoming season other local associations, including Milton, are able to make up the difference and bail the Hurricanes out their dilemma.

The Hurricanes organization includes players from Flamborough to Orangeville and relies on ice time provided by the local minor hockey associations, primarily in Georgetown and Milton where most of the players live.

This year the Halton Hurricanes have been awarded five and a quarter hours of ice time per week in

Georgetown by the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association (GMHA) which is headed by president Hal Pells. Last season the Hurricanes were allotted 12 hours a week of ice.

This year's number of hours is much less than was requested by the triple A organization and according to vice-chairman Terry Brandt, is not sufficient for the teams' needs.

"We have tried talking to the GMHA and with the Town of Halton Hills but have had no success," said Brandt.

"It's as though we're treated like a renegade extension of the local hockey association."

Pells explained that the decrease in ice time hours awarded to the Hurricanes is due to increased registration in the GMHA and because, for the past two years, there have been 50 hours (approximately \$4,000

worth) of ice time given to the organization that wasn't used.

"Why should we be giving away our prime ice time if it's not going to be used? This doesn't make sense," said Pells, who has been GMHA president for three years. "We will have more players on both our rep and house league teams this season and we need to take back some ice time for our own players."

Pells added that the majority of players in the triple A organization are from Milton and that Georgetown ice time should be utilized

by local players.

Brandt said that the majority of the Hurricanes are from Milton but only because many of the best players and coaches are from Milton. He said that the GMHA's estimate of unused ice time is "not true."

"If we pay our ice fee each month, they (the GMHA) shouldn't be concerned if the ice is used or not."

Brandt also said that the entire five and a quarter hours of granted ice time in Georgetown this season is at the Georgetown Memorial Arena and not at Gordon Alcott Arena. He

claims the former building is not suitable for triple A hockey.

Brandt said that the ice time situation is an on-going problem and the GMHA should be working with the Hurricanes and not against them. Speaking on behalf of the GMHA, Pells feels the ice time awarded to the Halton Hurricanes is fair, and he says he doesn't see any real problems with the situation as it stands.

Brandt said that if these problems with ice time continue, the organization may be forced to curb registration in the near future.

Opens on Sunday

Mohawk fall meet ready to start

Mohawk Raceway will kick off the fall harness racing meet in grand style on Sunday with Grand Circuit stakes and great offers for racing fans.

Grand Circuit's \$300,000 Champlain stakes and \$220,000 Simcoe stakes, boasting North America's finest rookie and sophomore pacers will headline action on track while fans will be welcomed back with a \$1 grandstand admission, free general parking and free programs.

Grand Circuit continues opening week with more than \$1.7 million in stakes events headlining the racing from September 6 through to September 12. Post time on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays is 7:30 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. each night and there is no racing on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

The 1992 fall meet is full of top grade harness racing. The \$700,000 (est) Metro Pacing Stakes, which annually attracts the sport's finest freshmen will go postward with eliminations on September 19 and the lucrative final on September 26.

On September 20 the aged distaffers will move into the limelight for the \$100,000 (est) Milton Pacing Stakes for three year olds and up, fillies and mares. The highlight of the fall meet is The Breeders Crown,

the championship forum in harness racing. On October 9, Mohawk will host the four finals with a total of more than \$1.3 million in purse money for the aged pacers and aged trotters.

These events will showcase many of harness racing's superstars, both racers and drivers.

Fans can expect to see harness racing's \$100 million dollar man, John Campbell, in fine form behind Artplace, Hall of Famers Bill O'Donnell and Ron Waples along with Breeders Crown champions Bil-lyjojobob, Delinquent Account, Camluck and Me Maggie.

Back by popular demand for the fall is The People's Horse promotion where racing fans have an opportunity to share in the ownership of a harness horse. In 1991 more than 5,000 racing fans participated as owners of Magna Grafic who earned more than \$34,000 for his honorary owners.

Of course the autumn meet wouldn't be complete without the annual Mohawk Fall Fair, which is scheduled earlier than usual this year, falling on September 25-26. The fair features handicraft booths, agricultural displays, homebaked goods, and auction, nightly entertainment and something for the whole family.

Survivor Gold captures Confederation Cup race

Survivor Gold and driver Doug Brown took the \$354,000 Confederation Cup, the third leg of Canada's harness racing triple crown, on Sunday at Flamboro Downs.

Survivor Gold and Brown sat in fourth through the first half of the race and watched the two favorites, Staying Together and Tough Hombre battle. When the field of nine three year olds moved into the backstretch Brown sent his horse outside where they won by a length.

Bullvons Dream closed from fifth

at the half to take second money in the \$141,600 final.

Staying Together stayed for third. Survivor Gold crossed the line in 1:54.3 equalling the top Canadian mark for the season over a half mile, set earlier in the day by Tough Hombre.

Survivor Gold claimed his heat race (1:58.2) as did Tough Hombre and Staying Together (1:57.1) with the latter two posting coast-to-coast wins. By winning the heat and the final Survivor Gold boosted his lifetime earnings to \$491,042.

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Wednesday, September 2

MILTON MEN'S THREE PITCH
7:00 Milton Pro Sport vs Fat Freddy's
8:15 Subway vs Re/Max

MILTON MINOR HOCKEY
7:00-9:00 p.m. — HOCKEY REGISTRATION (Lions Hall — Memorial Arena)

Thursday, September 3

MILTON MEN'S THREE PITCH
7:00 Don Cherry's vs Racer's Edge
8:15 Dickens II vs Dickens I
9:30 Moviola vx Xebec

MILTON SPRINGERS GYM CLUB
7:00-9:00 p.m. — REGISTRATION (Milton Mall)

Saturday, September 5

MILTON SWIM TEAM
Registration at Milton Mall

Tuesday, September 8

MILTON MINOR HOCKEY
7:00-9:00 p.m. — HOCKEY REGISTRATION (Lions Hall — Memorial Arena)

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