

Steamers bounce Tonelli — name Hudson

In a move intended to dramatically shake up Milton Steamers, the club has fired coach Ray Tonelli and replaced him with Gary Hudson.

The coaching change was made Monday afternoon but not announced until Tuesday morning when all parties had been notified.

Howie Scannell, one of the club's owners, said the move was made with the intentions of gaining some measure of success out of the year. Steamers have been the worst club in the Central Ont. Jr. B League over the last half of the season posting just two wins in their last 18 games.

"Ray just didn't get the team turned around," said Scannell. "We've been on a slide since Christmas. We decided not to sit with our tails between our legs and say it was a bad year."

"Ray did the best job he could but he just couldn't get the potential out of the kids we think is there. Last weekend was the last straw. Losing a 4-1 lead against the worst team in the league shouldn't happen."

Hudson was hired, said Scannell, just for the balance of this season. He hasn't yet named any assistant coaches. Perry Caputo, Tonelli's assistant coach, also is gone.

Hudson has coached hockey in Milton for many years at the minor hockey level. He started the season with Acton Sabres but was released (resigned) in December when Acton underwent an ownership change. Hudson has followed Steamers since leaving Acton and had helped Tonelli over the past few weeks.

Scannell said Hudson was unaware of any potential change until he was reached Monday night. "I know some people may think Gary was after Ray's job but that was not the case and the first Gary knew of the change was when we called him last (Monday) night," said Scannell.

The move comes at the end of the regular season and just three days before the start of the playoffs. The luck of the draw will see Milton play Barrie in a rematch of last year's first-round playoff. Steamers finished the year with 29 points, on 12 wins and five ties in 40 games, and in seventh place in the nine-team COJBL.

In the playoff selection, first-place Streetsville Derbys selected Burlington Cougars, fifth-place finishers. Oakville chose Acton Sabres next. After Barrie selected Milton, Georgetown and Mimico were left in what promises to be an interesting and physical series.

All playoff series are best-of-seven affairs with Milton and Barrie getting underway Thursday with a 7:30 p.m. start in Barrie. Last year, Colts won the series taking the final four games after Milton had won the first two. Four games went into overtime. The second game in the series will go Friday at 7:45 p.m. with the third and fourth games scheduled for the same days and times the following week.

Steamers finished the season on a better note playing a more disciplined style of hockey than they had in some time. In a playoff preview Friday at Memorial Arena, Barrie held on for a 5-4 win. In the final game of the season, Acton rallied from a three-goal disadvantage to earn a hard-fought 5-5 tie Saturday in Acton. The point put Acton into the playoffs, one point ahead of Thornhill. If Acton had lost, Sabres and Thornhill would have needed to play a tie-breaker Sunday at 11 a.m. in Streetsville.

Against Acton, Steamers came out flying and led pretty much for the first two periods. Steamers led 2-

1 after one period and 4-3 after two but they needed a goal from Mark Haskett midway through the final frame to pull out the point.

Milton needed just four minutes to get on the board when Rob Kozak's shot from the point found the mark. Randy Perusello made it 2-0 later in the frame when his shot from just outside the shot eluded Acton goalie Rick Landry.

Acton battled back two minutes later to close to within one but second-period goals by Bob Mills and newcomer Dale Dorion put Milton ahead 4-1. Actually, Milton could have led by more. Trevor Erb, Richard Griffiths, Mark Haskett and Dorion all had breakaways but none could score as Landry made a several good saves.

Battling for their playoff lives, Sabres bounced back with two goals two minutes apart later in the period and surged into the lead with two quick tallies early in the final frame. Haskett avenged his missed breakaways when he made a pretty play on a two-one faking a pass before tucking the puck into the corner vacated by Landry.

Steamers were short-staffed in the game. The team's leading scorer, Bob Landry, Jeff Martin and Brad Warden, third and fourth in team scoring, were

all missing for a variety of reasons. Landry was ill, Martin was suspended for the game for getting into a fight in the Barrie game, and Warden was attending a sales conference. In addition, defenceman Randy Heggie was playing hurt and Claude Bertrand injured his leg in the game and was put out of action for half the game.

Against Barrie, Steamers jumped into a 3-2 early second-period lead before Colts bounced back with three goals for a 5-3 lead. A late Milton goal brought Milton back to within one but a last-minute surge failed to knot the score.

Scoring for Milton was Landry with two goals while Trevor Erb and Perusello, playing some of his best hockey of the year, added singles.

Off the track: Steamers announced that Ken Schaeffer has quit the team. Reduced to a limited amount of playing time, Schaeffer became disenchanted with the club and quit.

The only Milton player to play a full 40 games this year was Ric Serafini. Landry won the scoring race for the team. For a complete rundown, turn to the sports scoreboard on page B4.

The winner of the league scoring race was former Steamer Scott Sanders.

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Getting tangled in front of the Sandstone goal are Haggart forward Marty Farrell (foreground) and Roger Clements during Sandstone's stunning 10-3 upset of the previously unbeaten Haggart club.

Sandstone blasts away Haggart unbeaten string

Sometimes, winning strings come to a quiet stop. And then there the other times when they come to a crashing halt.

Such was the case Sunday when Sandstone Transport ended the 14-game unbeaten string of B.W. Haggart Crane with a landslide 10-3 win in a score which flattered Haggart.

The win tightened the standings in the Milton Hockey League. Haggart leads second-placed Straight Line Fence by two points which in turn leads Sandstone by two points. Sandstone and Straight Line meet in the final game of the season in the match which may decide second place and the other bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Sandstone was full marks and more for their win over Haggart. Down to two lines at the end of the game, Sandstone showed no sign of letting up. Haggart scored two late third-period scores.

Sandstone came out flying with Randy Coulson scoring just one minute into the game taking a rebound from a shot by Derek Griffiths and knocking it home.

Haggart tied the score when Gord Lyons scored three minutes later. However, with Ivo Zulian in the penalty box late in the period, Dave Harnden scored a short-handed goal which seemed to knock the wind out of what remained in Haggart's sails.

Sandstone went to town in the second period dominating the frame and sewing up the win with four straight goals. Randy Coulson added two more goals (he finished with four) with Ed Loeprich and Jim Newman adding one apiece.

In the third period, Sandstone upped the lead to 8-1 before Haggart put another up on the board. Randy Coulson, Zulian, Harnden and Newman scored for Sandstone while Danny Agar and Ray Evans replied for Haggart.

In other games, Charles-Knight's moved into fourth place with a 5-3 win over Remax Realty while Straight Line Fence made short work of West End Bulls with a 13-1 win.

Charles-Knight's exploded for all five goals in the third period including three scores in 75 seconds to take the win over Remax.

Remax jumped into a 1-0 lead with the lone goal of the first period. Ray Delegarde fired the marker with an unassisted effort and the club held on to the lead until four minutes were played in the third period.

Charles-Knight's briefly tied the score with Guy McGinnis scoring at the 10:51 mark but less than two minutes later Bob Baker put Remax back into the lead.

A power-play goal by Tom Chuchmach at the 3:45 mark tied the score for Charles-Knight's. Just 17 seconds later, Buddy Thomas put Charles-Knight's ahead for the first time in the game. About one minute later, McGinnis made the score 4-2. Baker narrowed the gap to 4-3 with just over a minute to go but Lou D'Orazio scored with 45 seconds remaining to seal the win.

In the other game, Straight Line showed no mercy in rolling over Bulls 13-1. Fencers scored seven unanswered goals in the third period.

MHL highlights

Ralph Serafini led Straight Line with three goals while Rob Champoux, Eric Ellison and Pat McManus added two apiece. Singles went to Len Smith, Ian Wanless, John Loeprich and Randy MacDonald. Scoring for Bulls was Greg Orpen.

Slashes—The Molson player-of-the-week award went to Guy

McGinnis, of Charles-Knight's. He scored two key goals and set up another.

Haggart's Mike Murray was high-sticked by Sandstone's Len Coulson. Murray went to hospital with a cut lip and possibly lost a tooth, although at press time it wasn't known whether the tooth was pulled. If it was, it was the first tooth Murray has lost playing hockey.

Games next week feature Haggart against Remax, Straight

Line against Charles-Knight's, and West End against Sandstone.

Game summaries and standings can be found in the Thruway sports scoreboard on page B4.

—The oldtimer hockey team, sponsored by Remax Realty, and heading to Lake Placid for a major tournament in two months, announced the winners of its Super Bowl draw. The grand prize winner of \$250 was Mike Leyworthy. Winning \$100 was John Parker while the \$50 winner was Dave Kerr.



The Milton Curling Club team is ready to take its best shot at the provincial championships beginning today in Peterborough. The team consists of (left to right) Fred Bell (second), Ron Rowley (skip), Craig Thomas (vice) and Loris Faggion (lead). The rink has a hard task ahead of them and faces world champion Ed Werenich Friday night at 7:30. (Staff photo by Jon Borgstrom)

In Tankard finals

Challenge awaits Rowley

Milton's entry into the provincial curling championships figures it has a point to prove. And if Ron Rowley has anything to do with it, he's going to prove his point.

The curling foursome of skip Rowley, vice Craig Thomas, second Fred Bell and lead Loris Faggion begin championship action today (Wednesday) in the five-day long Ontario title event in Peterborough in the underdog position.

Since gaining entrance through the regional play-downs in January at Simcoe, the Rowley rink has assumed the position of underdogs in the Tankard this week.

"The curling paper which just came out," says Rowley, "has us rated second to last. I guess they figure we're so unknown they don't know how to rate us."

"But we're shooting for 5-6 wins. I think that's what we'll need to get into the playoffs Saturday."

"On paper, we shouldn't do very well. But the game's not played on paper and we'll see what happens."

Rowley said he won't change his strategy in the

championships from the style they've used throughout the year.

"We've been as successful as we have by playing a gambling game. We'll have to force misses by playing what some people call a garbage game and make the other team force misses. We like to leave a lot of rocks in front and force the other team to shoot around them and hope for a miss."

The Milton rink goes up against Penetanguishene's Russ Howard in the first match this afternoon (Wednesday). In their only match, Howard won at the regional playdowns by scoring a point on the last rock of the last end. Rowley's rink meets world champion Ed Werenich Friday evening.

"We'll definitely feel unenvied," he adds. "Getting to the provincials is well ahead of our schedule. But we're going there with the attitude of having nothing to lose and everything to gain."

The Milton Curling Club held a special night for the team Friday and chipped in some money to defray the expenses the team will incur this week. "I'd like to give a special thank-you to the members and club itself for what they've done for us," adds Rowley.

Wheelers on top 2-0

Quietly and efficiently, Milton Fifth Wheel major bantams go about their business of winning hockey games.

Wheelers grabbed a 2-0 foothold in their best-of-five OMHA Tri-County qualifying match with Georgetown with a pair of slim wins last week.

In the series opener, Milton got a pair of late goals to salvage a 6-4 win Saturday in Georgetown before returning to the comfortable confines of Memorial Arena Sunday and earning a hard-fought 2-1 win.

The third game was played last night (Tuesday) in Milton with the fourth game slated for Saturday in Georgetown.

In the opener, the two clubs saw the lead seesaw back and forth several times before Jason Pascoe scored from Rob Wilson with just two minutes remaining to give Wheelers a 5-4 lead. Dave Dillon scored an insurance goal with just five seconds left to sew up the win.

After Georgetown opened the scoring with the lone goal of the first period, Wheelers battled back with three straight second-period tallies to take a commanding lead.

Rally stops Oldstars

Belleville capitalized on a second-period lapse by Milton Oldstars with three goals to earn a 5-3 win and eliminate Milton from further action in a tournament in Trenton over the weekend.

Milton offset an early Belleville score to notch three straight first-period tallies for a 3-1 lead heading into the middle frame. However, Belleville caught fire in the second period scoring three goals to take the lead before adding a fifth marker with less than two minutes remaining to seal the win.

After Belleville opened the scoring, Rick O'Donnell evened the score with a goal from Bert Bertoli and Dave Del Papa. Sonny Osborne put Milton ahead 2-1 from John Hall before Larry Meehan tallied from Dave Parham and Gord Bell for a 3-1 lead.

In earlier games, Milton beat Markham 3-1 and tied with Trenton 2-2. Against Markham, Al Johnston notched the first Milton goal from Pie Lee and O'Donnell. The second goal was scored by Parham from Bell before Del Papa completed the scoring with a goal from Johnston and Meehan. Milton goalie Dave Ballard played well between the pipes.

In the second game, Milton saw their 2-1 lead end when Trenton evened the score with less than a minute left in the game.

Osborne and Del Papa scored for Milton with assists going to George Hicken, Johnston and O'Donnell. Goalie Rick Houle performed well.