



## Service with a smile

A member of the Midland Secondary School girls' volleyball team takes a swat at the ball during an MSS-hosted tournament Saturday. Eight teams

participated in each of the Junior and Senior divisions, while another Midget tournament was held at St. Theresa's High School the same day.

# All-star club and no Cowan?

## 'Unbelievable' says Dubeau

**by Garry Forbes**  
Leaving Carl Cowan off the Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League All-Star roster is, in the estimation of Penetanguishene Kings coach Ron Marchildon and general manager Peter Dubeau, akin to leaving Wayne Gretzky off the NHL All-Star teams.

It is, by anybody's estimation, bizarre.

All Cowan has done so far this season is score 42 goals and 56 assists in 27 games. He has been averaging more than three and a half points a game. He leads the league's second-place scorer by ten points. In his most recent contest, he scored three goals and three assists in a 7-4 victory.

Carl Cowan can dominate a game, and he's dominated a lot of them this season.

Yet he wasn't even included on the All-Star list released last weekend after a recent league meeting in Bracebridge.

The only Penetanguishene player chosen was defenceman Frank King, who has said he'll refuse to show for Saturday's All Star game against the Mid-

Ontario Junior C reps in Schomberg.

The Midland Centennials also had only one player chosen -- winger Paul Hahn.

It's Cowan's absence from the list that is most conspicuous, however. Worse, nobody seems to know why.

Dubeau couldn't make it to the Bracebridge selection meeting -- neither could representatives from Oro, Midland or Parry Sound. All of these teams have only one player on the squad, except Parry Sound, which will send goaltender Cec Gosse

and alternate defenceman Jeff Barks.

Dubeau was, to say the very least, miffed when informed of the results of the meeting.

"It's simply unbelievable," Dubeau said yesterday. "I consider it a direct insult to Carl and to the club. As a direct consequence, we're not going to attend the thing at all."

Dubeau described Cowan's reaction as "disappointed."

Kings coach Ron Marchildon said, "I cannot possibly see what their thinking is." Huntsville Huskies

lead the list of chosen with five players on the 19-member roster, league-leading Bracebridge Bears have four, Haliburton Huskies have three and the Granvenhurst Indians have two.

The two goaltenders chosen were the ones with the two top averages.

Of the league's top 11 scorers, the only others left off the team were third-place Tim Davies from Haliburton, eighth-place Dave Robillard of Penetanguishene and 11th-place Bruce Knox from Bracebridge.

## Today

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# OHA zaps A's protest

**by Garry Forbes**

An Ontario Hockey Association rule technicality has left the Midland Athletics two points and \$100 poorer.

In a ruling Friday in Toronto, the OHA's appeals committee turned down a protest lodged by the Athletics against the Barrie Flyers which claimed Barrie playing-coach Paul Regan was in violation of league rules by being behind the bench in an Intermediate A league game in Barrie Dec. 18.

The A's sought the two points for the game.

## The technicality

Basis for the appeals committee's decision was another OHA rule which stipulates that a letter of protest must be personally presented by a member of the executive of the complaining team to an executive member of the team allegedly committing a violation, and the letter must be presented within 48 hours.

Without personal delivery within the time limit, the protest is thrown out. That's what happened to Midland's protest.

Barrie general manager Gary Lyte told the OHA he didn't receive the letter until Tuesday morning -- over 48 hours after the Friday game ended (Sunday hours aren't counted).

However, Midland general manager Shawn Stewart -- who had to post a \$100 deposit to the OHA along with a copy of the letter of protest, refundable only if the decision went in Midland's favor -- is skeptical of Lyte's claim.

## Letter delivered

Stewart says he delivered the letter to Lyte's Barrie home Sunday morning, Dec. 19. He said the lights were on in the house, the television could be heard, and Lyte's car was in the driveway. But there was no answer at the door after repeated knocking, so he decided to slip the letter through the mail slot.

In addition, Stewart says, Lyte telephoned him the next day -- still within the 48-hour



**Shawn Stewart**

period -- to "Give me a blast" about the protest.

League convenor Debbie Brown also said earlier this week that Lyte had called her Monday regarding the letter.

Brown was not consulted by the OHA before the appeals committee ruling decision. She said Monday that she was concerned about the turn of events and would be taking the matter up with OHA officials.

Lyte said in an interview Monday that he had called Stewart and Brown after learning

of the protest from a Barrie newspaper report.

Last week, Stewart and Brown both said that information they'd received indicated the Flyers had filed no defense against the Midland protest.

OHA president Brent Ladds said Monday that the committee could only go with the information they'd received.

Lyte had in fact filed a defense, and it was that he hadn't seen the letter until Tuesday morning.

## 'Absolute proof'

"There's no absolute proof that he saw it before he said he did," Ladds said from Toronto. "We can't get into a guessing game about whether he did or didn't."

Ladds said the only acceptable methods of presenting protests under the OHA rules are direct -- and preferably witnessed -- personal delivery, or registration through the mails.

He conceded, however, that simple registration of the letter still couldn't constitute absolute proof of delivery if the mail wasn't signed for by the intended executive member.

The best way, he said, is to compose the letter of protest during or immediately after the game in question and confront the other team right at the scene.

## Evasion easy

Ladds said that any other method was risky at best, adding that it's "certainly possible" to evade receipt of an expected letter of protest, thus making it virtually impossible for complaining OHA clubs to make a protest stick.

He said the outcome of at least one OHA game this season -- in the Intermediate B ranks -- was reversed and points were awarded the complaining team after a rules-violation protest.

What may be most disturbing to the Athletics is that it was that one relatively simple technicality that caused the scrapping of their complaint.

Ladds said the OHA did have "solid information" that Regan was in fact on the bench while under suspension in the Dec. 18 game, and subsequently assessed Regan an additional three-game suspension for the violation.

That action, he said, still didn't alter the fact that available evidence indicated the Athletics made an improper presentation of their letter of protest.

Lyte said Regan's appearance on the bench was "a big mistake, but only one we made."

## A's back to bottom

"He was only changing lines," said Lyte. "I was coaching in the dressing room, as I've done all season."

Lyte has signed OHA cards as coach and general manager.

Regan's name was originally signed on the game sheet as coach, but Lyte said it was an error on the part of another Flyer executive member, and was scratched out and replaced with Lyte's name before the game started.

The A's had pointed out Regan's apparently flagrant rules violation to the referee twice during the game -- the first before the opening whistle was sounded.

As of today, the Athletics are alone at the bottom of the seven-team league, four points back of the Flyers.

## Drivers bundled

Sunday's scheduled game at Midland Arena against the Owen Sound Greys was postponed due to inclement weather.

Next outing for the A's is slated for Friday in Midland against the Port Elgin Sunocos. Game time is 8:30 p.m.