

Sports Report

Midland Centennials: No. 2 in Ontario

by TED WATSON

It took a little while to realize it on Sunday afternoon but it finally sunk in.

There will be no more Junior C hockey at the local arena until after the fall fair in early September.

Why that's four months away!

Over the weekend Stoneleigh Centennials lost games 4 and 5 to the Belle River Canadiens by scores of 6-2 and 4-2 thereby losing the championship series four games to one.

Belle River was clearly the better team and fully deserved to win the "Clarence Schmaltz" trophy signifying the number one team in Junior C competition in the province.

To be number two in the province is not so bad. Our boys provided their fans with many exciting games over the season and we are all proud of them.

They played 32 games over the regular season winning 19, tying 2 and losing 11. In the playoffs they won 21 losing only 9. Their first series was with Stayner who they put away 4-0. Then it was Parry Sound 4 games to 1. Oro was next and they ran through them 4-0 and we were Georgian Bay Champs.

The first team they met outside of Georgian Bay League was the Bradford Blues and after a disastrous 11-3 loss in the first game they came back with four straight wins including two in overtime. Then it was on to Bowmanville and what a series that was! It went to seven games with Midland taking the final game right in Bowmanville.

Before putting away my pen for four months I want to thank all those involved with the Stoneleigh Centennials for some very entertaining and exciting games over the past winter.

First, Mike Stone, the sponsor, who put out a first class operation.

Next, management in the persons of Tom Garner and Joey Gagnon who put everything together. Trainer Gary Puddicombe and assistant Brian Lemieux who got the players ready each game. Jack Baguley who would tape up the walking wounded and stick boys Matthew Stone and Gary Puddicombe Jr.

The players were: defense, Wilson Cowan, Dean Marcellus, Dan Whitton, Rob Fortin, Chad Wiebe, Rob Jamieson and John Witzke (most valuable defenceman in Georgian Bay loop.); forwards, John Walter, John Johnson, Al Whidden, Marlon Gieseler, Daryl Belcourt, Owen Quilty, Shawn Davy, Doug and Dave Barber and the two spares who filled in so capably whenever called upon—Tom Hook and Drew Varley. Goaltenders: Chris Lemieux who played in the majority of the games and Peter Newburn who was a very capable back-up.

Finally the person who put this team together and made it jell. Ross McConnell the coach. Well done, Ross!

Some of the above mentioned players won't be back next year due to being over-age or continuing their schooling outside this area. To all of them I say thank you for a fine hockey season.



The agony of defeat

Midland Stoneleigh Jr. C Centennials are a dejected lot after bowing to Belle River in

game five of the All-Ontario Jr. C Hockey Championship in Midland, Sunday.



He shoots, he....

Midland Stoneleigh Centennials attempt to put their awesome offensive machine in gear in weekend action Sunday afternoon

at the Midland Arena. Midland was unable to penetrate the Belle River defence and

went down to defeat in the series four games to one.

Play ball! Powderpuff baseball tomorrow

by CAROLE WRIGHT
The Ladies Powderpuff League will open its season on Thursday, May 9.

Games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at Parkview School. All players should try to arrive by 6:15 p.m. in order to get teams organized and be ready to play on time.

There are four spots left for players. Anyone interested can call Bev Greenwood, 526-4831 after 3 p.m.

Baseball
cards
Jays
and firefighters
team up
collect 'em
P 29

Mining silver

The recent loss to the Czech Nationals by Team Canada in the World Hockey Tournament should be considered a victory.

Whoever thought they would come back with a silver medal? Maybe a bronze at the very best.

Even then it wouldn't be easy. After being bombed, pelted, blasted, and annihilated by the Russian 9-1, they came back to beat them 3-1. That, my friends, is the mark of a team that won't quit,—a team that wants to win. They even tied the eventual Champions 4-4. So no one owned them in the Tournament.

They got at least a piece of everyone. We are no longer second class citizens in the world of hockey. Even with players from our bottom clubs we are bona fide contenders for the World title. We couldn't say that a few short years ago. It has been more than twenty years since we have been respected on the world hockey front. But now it appears that we are back and we can't (and won't) be taken for granted any longer.

Touching bases

Midland Minor Hockey will be holding its annual Awards Night and Banquet on May 16. There will be countless smiling young faces sitting quietly (?) in eager anticipation to see who gets what award. They'll also be chopping at the bit to find out who will be the guest speaker so that they can wait in line for 20 minutes for an autograph that they can add to their collection which they will misplace by next year.

It is difficult to look at the banquet scene and see all these happy kids and imagine that there were problems this year or any other year.

Ladies Auxiliary will be there in full force happily dishing out the goodies. The Executive members will check that everyone is seated in the right place and that no one gets left out. It is a happy place and a happy time.

But all during the season you keep hearing little whispers that this coach is not doing something he

'Burgher Bits'

should be doing or that he's doing something that he shouldn't be doing. Stories may abound from time to time that some parents feel that the Executive is not doing their duty and that they are nothing but a bunch of idiots.

That may well be, but those so-called "idiots" are doing the best they can for our sons and daughters. They have frequent Executive Meetings, General Meetings, and Committee Meetings. All this takes a lot of time and involvement on their part and in a lot of cases places a huge strain on individual family relationships. All this for absolutely no pay and some brow beating by parents and others.

We may not always agree with the decisions of these people but they appear to be a lot more willing to get involved than you and I. We should offer more support to these people for baby-sitting our children throughout the long, cold winter. We should give them our heartfelt thanks.

What we really should do is attend the Annual General Meeting of Midland Minor Hockey at the Centennial Arena on Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. and let our names stand for office. Nobody to nominate you? I will.

Everyone loves a cheerful winner

Ex NHL stalwart, Marcel Pronovost is pictured just after his team won the Ontario Hockey Association Junior C Championship over Midland Stoneleigh Centennials in Midland on Sunday afternoon. Belle River won the series four games to one.



Ask the umpire

Question: Last inning, home team at bat, score tied 2-2, two out. Batter hits the ball to right field, base hit. Two runners cross the plate. Do both runs count?

Answer: In a word, no. When the batter-runner touches first base and the first runner touches home plate, the game is over. The home team wins 3-2. Credit the batter with a single and

presumably, a run batted in.

The basic reasoning behind this is that it is the last time at bat for either team, and only one run is required to win. The only exception to this rule is if the batter hits a homerun (not inside the park), then all runners score.

In this instance, the final tabulation would be home side 6, visitors 2.