

Sport Spots



By FRED SIMPSON

He Grins, Slightly

I don't know if it would be fair to say that Richmond Hill Rams' Hockey Coach Karl Brimblecombe was exuding confidence about the 1972-73 season when I talked to him the other day. He looked to be on the verge of bubbling about it.

Maybe it was the way he would grin slightly when he would say that, "yes I'm quite confident we'll do no worse than the first division."

This was followed by another slight grin and an "of course."

"Of course I'm always aiming for first place. It's the only place to be."

It seemed alarmingly like the old Brimblecombe of last season at about this time. He was predicting a no worse than first division (likely second or third spot) finish for the Rams at that time too.

The only difference was that there were a few people around who didn't agree with him. Some even said his team would be familiarly like the losers of all the other years.

It's somewhat ancient history now that Karl was only too right in his predictions as his Junior "B" Rams were the second best in the league. They might even have been first in the province if it hadn't been for the power-laden Markham Waxers who eventually won the provincial title.

So there shouldn't be too many doubters around this season. Karl, in his second full year at the helm, commands a lot of listeners when he talks these days. Myself included.

JUNIOR "A" NOW

It will be a whole new ball game with the former Metro Junior "B" loop now a Metro Junior "A" Tier Two body and Karl likes it that way.

The Rams open their 1972-73 season Tuesday night at the arena against the Maple Nationals. Game time is 8 pm.

"There's no doubt the hockey will be improved," he said. "It has to be when you have the Metro clubs going all over Ontario for top players. It should be a great year."

Brimblecombe figures his team will be right in the swim of things although he doesn't feel they'll get off to such a devastating start as last season when they and the Waxers literally ran away and hid on the other teams.

"This is a vastly different team than last season," he said. "This is a rookie team. Last season we were comprised mainly of veterans."

TOP ROOKIES?

Brimblecombe thinks he has some top rookies lined up that might surprise a few people around the area. That slight smile again.

"These rookies will take a little while to jell," he said, "but along about midway we'll really start to come. I have about 10 rookies on the club so you can see that it will take them awhile."

He'll also have some key veterans on the club although he admits that he's lost some top notchers like Bill and Dick Weber, Steve Lyons, John Barnett and Steve Colp.

Let's be honest, you don't lose fellows like this without leaving gaps, some question marks. Also, most of the above guys were local boys too. You don't come up with as many new local fellows right off the bat."

Karl figures his biggest initial advantage will be the experience he'll have going for him in goal in the persons of Gary Carr and Gordon Woolnough (Woolnough at writing was rumoured to be perhaps headed for Peterboro Petes of the Major "A"s).

"We'll be very strong in goal with these two boys and that has to be a big advantage," he reasons.

STRONG DEFENCE

He also will have what terms a "strong defence, a solid one which may not score that many goals but will stop that many from being scored against them."

Karl's talking about returnees such as Billy Stephenson (a Richmond Hill product) and Paul Terry who will be paired. Then there will be newcomers like Jack Guest, 17, of last year's Toronto, Foster Firebirds (who won the Richmond Hill International Hockey Tournament, by the way), Dave Hill of Uxbridge, and Hughie Cutler of Richmond Hill.

"Hill is a solid defender and has a good shot from the point. I'm quite high on him. Cutler, of course, is a big rough boy at 170 pounds and that's the way he'll have to play it to be effective. We want him around to keep the other guys honest."

Up front he'll have veterans Alex Pirus, John Lumley, and sharp shooting Craig Terry going for him and that's calculated to help spur the rookies. All three played well last season with Terry the big goal scorer.

Newcomers will include Left Winger Don Reesor, of Etobicoke, Glen Sharples, Mike Jones of Stouffville, and Pat Hughes who was the fourth draft choice of Hamilton Red Wings but "decided to come with us instead."

SLEEPERS, MAYBE?

He describes Reesor as a digger; Sharples as an all-round player "who I think is a real find. He could be our big sleeper of the season in this league."

Karl is also impressed with Mike Jones who "people say has a style like the Weber boys and even looks like one of them, or both of them."

He's very happy with the play of Dave Dunkley of last year's Richmond Hill Midgets who "looks like he has come to play and has been doing very well."

Another Richmond Hillite who has been doing a lot of impressing is Greg Binkley who finished out last season with Aurora Tigers.

(Continued on Page 14)



CARL BRIMBLECOMBE

Just Three Miles Apart

Vaughan Nats Meet Rams In Opener

By FRED SIMPSON

Just three miles will separate the home bases of the Richmond Hill and Vaughan Nationals' Junior "A" Tier 2 hockey clubs this season and that could spell rivalry of the highest order.

The two clubs — the former Toronto Nats have moved to the new Maple Arena still in a state of preparation — will get off to an appropriate start Tuesday night when the Rams meet the Nats at the town arena at 8 pm in their home opener.

But Vaughan Nationals' Coach George Storey isn't particularly interested in starting a rivalry just with the Rams.

"I like to think we'll be rivals with every club we play," he said in a somewhat noncommittal way. "We just want to win every game we can."

Storey, who took over the Nats last season and coached them to seven wins and a tie in their final nine games, refuses to creep out on a shaky limb as to his squad's chances in the new loop this season.

Last year's Metro Junior "B" League has been upgraded to Junior "A" with most of the same clubs involved. The new additions will be North Bay and Kingston.

"It'll be a much bigger, much tougher league and I think it'll be more exciting. I'll be happy if my club plays 50-50 up until Christmas time."

Storey's club will be a young one and, he hopes, a respectable club.

"You can't make any predictions at this stage of the game," he said. "But we hope to hold our own."

He hasn't been exactly ecstatic with his club's record in the pre-season games which saw them win two and lose five but "you can't always tell in these early contests. It's in the exhibitions that you find out who you have."

The Nats dropped 6-3 and 6-4 games to Dixie Beelives over the weekend.

"I've been really impressed with the excellent showing of our goalies despite the fact I thought we were a bit shaky there against Dixie."

Storey has six goalies trying out and he claims that all of them have impressed him.

The two with the likeliest inside track at the moment (but it's a close run at writing) are Ray Hough and John Sidesy.

"Ray is the type of guy who looks nonchalant in his moves," said Storey, "but he gets the job done. He's not always impressive in practice but he comes on strong in the actual games. He's that type of player."

He's equally impressed with Sidesy who he terms very quick with the reflexes although he's small in stature.

"Both these youngsters look good." Another promising member of the twine brigade is Gary Kaschuk who is a recruit from the Etobicoke Canucks.

Defence could be the Nats' trouble spot with only two veterans returning from last season's team.

"I don't say we'll be weak from ability," said Storey, "but

we'll certainly be green at the start."

The two returnees are John Winder and Paul Clarke.

Clarke was a draft choice of the Major "A" London Club but opted for the Nats in order to pursue an educational career.

"He's an agile skater and he's a thinker out there and he's got to be an asset for us," reasons Storey. If things work out he'd like to shift Clarke to a right wing position due to his skating abilities.

His new players will include Left Defenceman Charles Hughes (brother of John Hughes of the Marlies) who has just returned from the Marlie camp.

"Unfortunately, Charles injured his shoulder and will be out for a month," said Storey. "But he should help us when he returns." Hughes played for Etobicoke Nats last season and was called up by the Marlies for a look-see.

Others are Jim Tyrell and Bob Palmer, both up from the Nats' Midget team.

"Our left side is definitely vulnerable," said Storey, "but we hope to shore it up before the season is too far gone."

The forward brigade is also an "iffy" proposition due mainly to the greenness of the players.

Storey will only have two holdovers from last season in Centres Rob Harris and Bob Osborne.

Harris is expected to be one of the bright spots along with Bob Osborne who also has just returned from the Marlie camp. Unfortunately, he's also nursing a back injury.

Others are Al Love and Gary Coates who "is a real comer." Coates was a member of the Toronto Foster Firebirds last season who won the Richmond Hill Midget Tournament.

Gary Gill is another Nat Juvenile graduate and is a fast skater, good puck handler, and shooter.

Another Firebird grad is Kenny Wallace who is "a very smart and gutsy player."

Max Carter, a grad from the Nats Midgets, Marty Prentice, and Ray Koopman are other young but promising players who Storey hopes will develop quickly in the new loop.

But it's still too early to tell. Storey plans to play each game as it comes and leave it at that.

"I hope our team will be able to handle itself in the rough going as well as skate," he said. "Former Nat teams have stressed mainly fast skating. I hope we can be a trifle physical too."

The Nats open their home season in Aurora Sunday against the Tigers.

Storey, a former coach of the Tigers before getting fired, would like to win that one in particular?

"Sure I'd like to win it," he said. "I'd like to win them all."

Bantam Girls Winners Bruce Thurston Cup

The Richmond Hill Bantam girls added yet another laurel to their list of victories this year when they defeated Thornhill twice last week.

It brought them the Bruce Thurston Trophy which is emblematic of supremacy in the Vaughan Bantam Girls Softball League.

The back to back wins gave Richmond Hill a perfect 14-win, no loss record in league competition this season.

The first game was won 14-10 by those members of the team who will be returning next year.

Young Debbie Howorth was the winning pitcher as she combined with Sue O'Connell to hurl 10 strikeouts.

Arriving at the game without either of his catchers, Coach Al Howard gambled and put Denise Barclay behind the plate.

She did an excellent job and should be a shoo-in for that position next season.

Big hitters in the game were Brenda Buchan with a single and two doubles and Sue O'Connell with two singles and a triple.

Game two was the farewell appearance of those girls who will be too old for the Bantam squad next year.

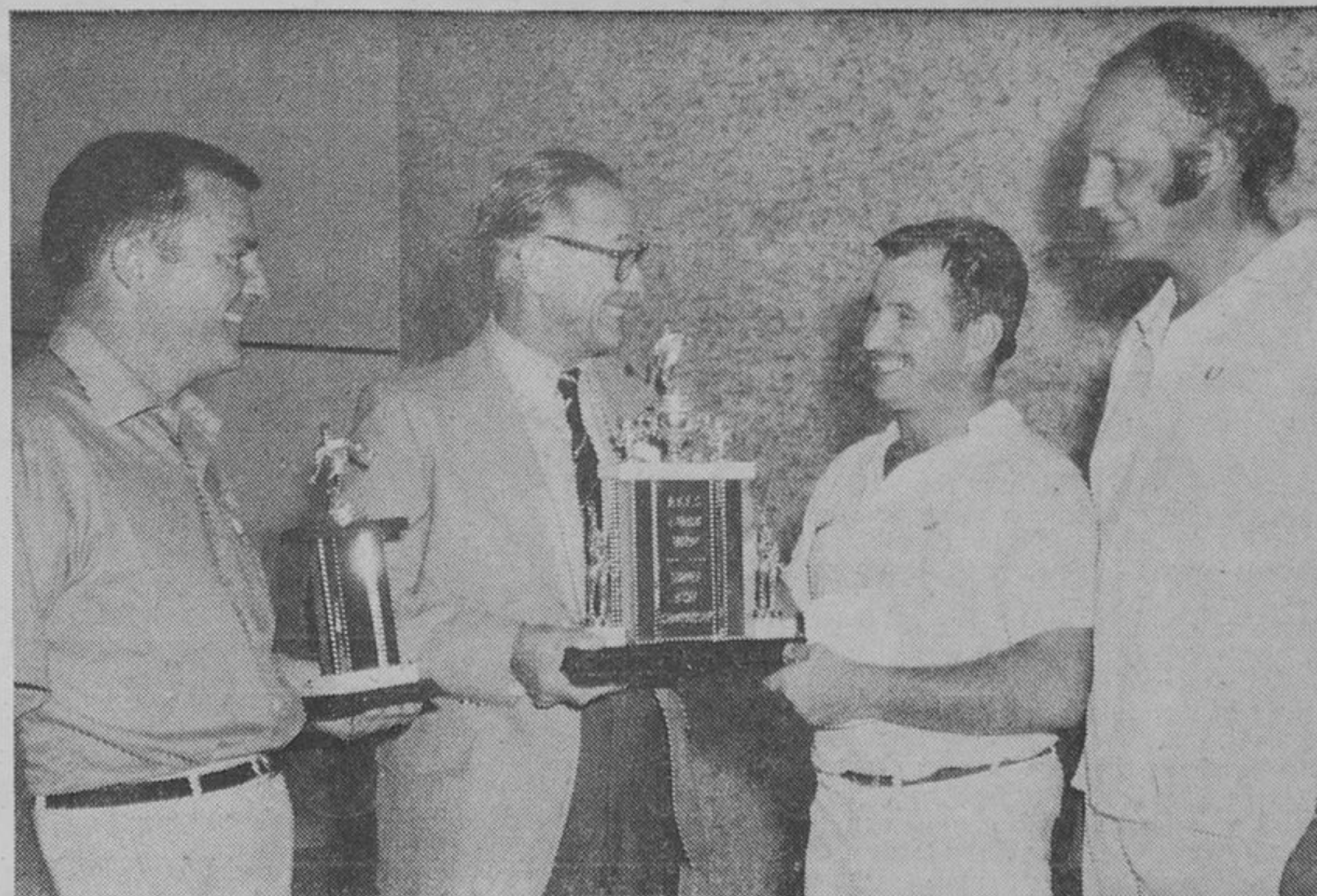
They went out in a blaze of glory as they bombed Thornhill 35-3.

Ace Pitcher Donna Quercennesser picked up her 30th victory of the year against only three defeats.

She allowed only two singles over the six innings as she recorded 14 strikeouts. Home runs were hit by Carol Hunsdale with two and Sue Charbonneau, Les McLeave and Kirsten Bruhn who had one apiece.

In the last inning of the game the Richmond Hill team scored its 100th run of the year.

Susan O'Connell blasted a bases-loaded triple to score Vicky Robinson with the magic run.



Richmond Hill Racquet Club President Chris Hart (left) looks on as Member James Mason presents his own Jim Mason Trophy to Ed Surowiec who won the club's Summer Handicap Tournament September 15. Looking on far right

is runner-up Roger Jowett. A dance was held following the finals between Surowiec and Jowett and was attended by 60 members and their friends.

He's A Squash Winner

Ed Surowiec outbattled Roger Jowett in an exciting Squash match September 15 to win the Richmond Hill Racquet Club's Summer Handicap Tournament.

A total of 60 members and their friends viewed the sizzling final match between the two top players held on the courts of the local club.

Winner Surowiec received the

new Jim Mason Tournament Trophy from Member Mason himself.

He was in trouble most of the way as Jowett unleashed some classic shots only to have Surowiec field them in brilliant fashion.

The contest between Surowiec and Jowett was a see-saw affair all the way with Jowett winning the first set 15-9 and Surowiec taking the next one 15-6. Then Surowiec had defeated Doug Harris in the semi-finals and Surowiec 15-5 in the third set. Surowiec fought back to win in order to qualify for the

fourth one 15-0 and then he won the final one by 18-16.

The handicap tournament ran for approximately six weeks under the supervision of Chris Hopson.

A party was held following the finals which was organized by Bev and Jack Major, Blanche and Al Smith, Bruce Humphreys, Club President Chris Hart, and many others.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Auction Sale Of Sporting Equipment

An Auction Sale of confiscated firearms, fishing equipment and other articles will be held at the Maple District Office, Ministry of Natural Resources on Saturday, October 7th, 1972 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Prospective buyers may view the items at the District Office on Thursday, October 5th and Friday, October 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on October 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Maple District Office is located 1/2 mile north of the Major Mackenzie Drive (formerly Maple Sideroad) on the east side of Dufferin Street.

Car Talk

By IAN NEILL



Truck time. As the desire for big, flashy cars declined steadily through the 60s and people concentrated more and more on practical and recreational vehicles, the rise of the mini-truck began. It is still going strong, with, of course, the Japanese imports leading the field. The American car manufacturers were still grinding out the monsters.

Why mini-trucks? Well, people began to buy motorcycles, boats, trail bikes, campers and snowmobiles and needed trucks to either carry or haul with. And the mini-trucks are capable of carrying nearly the same loads as an American half-ton, are easier to manoeuvre in traffic, cost less to operate and are about half the price.

This year, the major American companies introduced mini-trucks into their domestic lines as well. Interestingly enough, they aren't doing this with American products but by importing more Japanese-made trucks under familiar domestic names.

Still leading the mini-truck war is the Datsun pickup, North America's most popular import truck. And Nissan, the makers of Datsun, have just announced a new model going on sale now in North America, the Datsun PL620 TU pickup. Like its predecessor, the Datsun 1600 pickup, it's a tough little truck that can haul half a ton of anything and run all day at freeway speeds without getting out of breath. It has sedan-like appearance, handling and colour selection, and greater interior comfort with seat adjustment, flow-through ventilation and bigger heater and defroster.

The new Datsun pickup goes beautifully with the Sun-Seeker camper, the most ingeniously designed unit of its size on the road, making the combination a comfortable, fully equipped home on wheels. The roomy camper features full headroom, two double berths, built-in wardrobe and cabinets, dinette, stove, all you really need to get away from it all. We also have various canopies which are very popular with recreational users. Come down and see the new Datsun pickup soon.

Watch for our next Car Talk column October 12th.

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WHERE WERE THE PARENTS?

Dear Mr. Sports Editor:

May I sound off to parents of baseball players wherever they were? Thornhill Baseball Association signed up more than 100 boys to play hardball this summer. Sponsors were generous. Coaches came out, often right from work, sometimes without dinner — but where were the parents? Every game the same two or three parents showed. I feel sorry for the absent parents. Whatever they were doing couldn't have been more rewarding than watching these boys. They are great kids!

In closing I would like to say we hear so many parents expressing concern about their children. Is it real concern or just polite noises to sound as if they think parents should sound? I want to meet any person who is coaching or in any way having influence on my

son's character. He is too precious to us to turn over to an unknown person.

I hope I've stepped on some toes. I meant to!!!

MRS. ROSALIND PALMER,  
6 Delair Crescent,  
South Thornhill.

O.H.A. Junior "A"

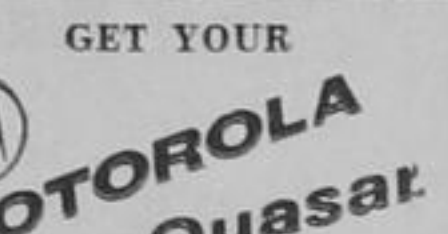
RAMS LEAGUE OPENER HOCKEY

Vaughan Nationals vs. Rams

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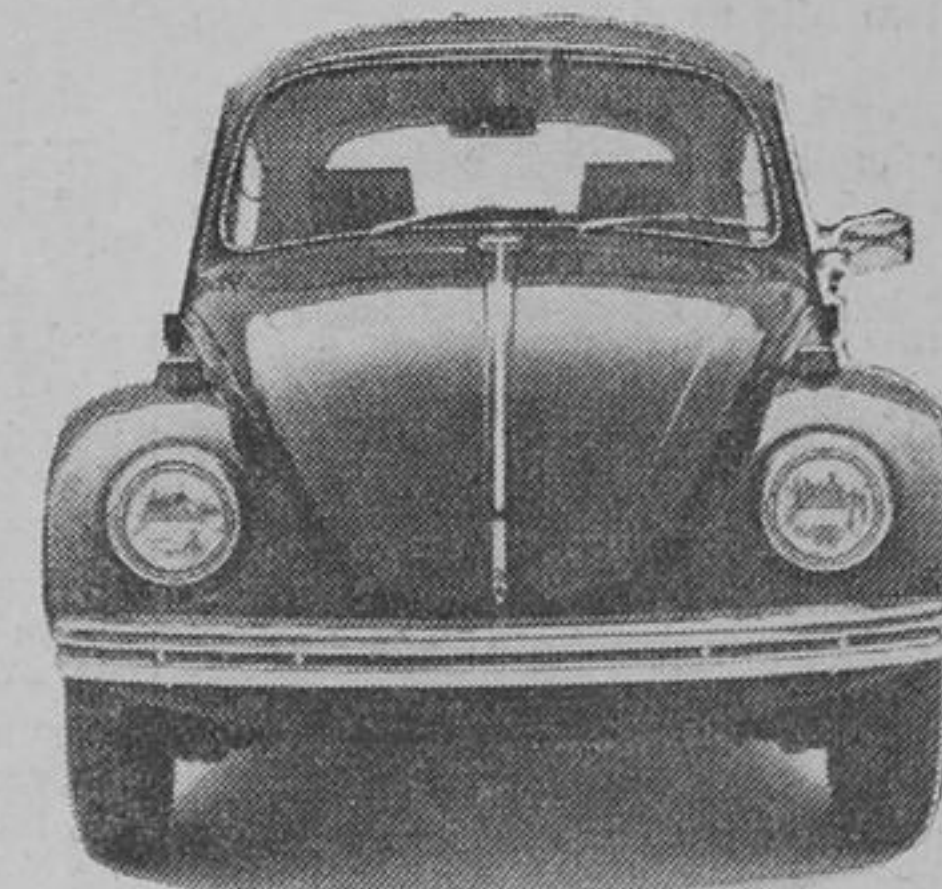
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