

Sport Spots

By FRED SIMPSON

Don't Forget The Juveniles

I get the feeling that to play for a juvenile hockey team is tantamount to being banished to a leper colony. No one seems to really be interested in you any more. You're a hockey "has been" or "never was" at 17 or 18 years of age.

All the glory goes with being a midget, then a junior and then and then an NHL hockey star.

This might be something of an exaggeration but I don't think so. People aren't against you, they just aren't interested any more.

Of course it's not all as tragic as it may seem. Playing juvenile hockey can be the same as playing any other type of hockey. You can have fun doing it and maybe, just maybe even have more fun than all the pressure involved with being a midget player these days.

"I'm happy coaching the local juveniles. We've got a team and I guess there's not as much pressure on you as in midget hockey. I enjoy it anyway."

The speaker was Paul Ducharme who is in his first season of coaching the Richmond Hill Mister Transmission Juvenile Team which has a very enviable record for it at writing.

HEY, UNDEFEATED

"We haven't lost a league game yet despite a series of bad injuries which have left us short-handed," continued Ducharme.

That record in the York Simcoe loop is 15 wins, no losses and a tie. Against teams such as Orillia, Barrie, Aurora, and Thornhill.

In fact, Paul might be the only undefeated coach in minor hockey. That is, if you don't count the exhibition losses.

"This is my first year as coach of a team," states Ducharme. "I've got a lot to learn but I'm happy with the way things have gone so far. I managed the team the past two seasons and I didn't do a particularly good job at that. So I thought I might as well try my hand at coaching."

He hastens to add that he's really a co-coach along with Len Campbell. "We do it together."

As for juvenile hockey being a blind street as far as a hockey career is concerned?

"That doesn't concern me all that much," said Ducharme. "I suppose your chances are limited but there's always the exception in anything."

ENTER WOOLNOUGH

One of the exceptions has to be Gordie Woolnough of the Provincial Junior "A" Aurora Tigers and formerly of the Richmond Hill Rams.

"Gordie played with the juveniles," said Ducharme. "He was one of those players that just seemed to miss out for some reason although I knew he was good enough to play junior hockey. I don't even think he played OMHA hockey before joining the juveniles so you never know. There's always a chance."

Then there's another reason. There are actually some reasonably talented hockey players around who don't think professional hockey is the end of the rainbow.

"Some are more interested in education. They just want to continue to play hockey as a past-time after they get too old for midget. Hockey just isn't their life's ambition."

NOW THE TEAM

As for the make-up of Jim's team? He has a goalie by the name of Dave Addley who he says, somewhat unabashedly, "is the best goalie in juvenile hockey."

"A big thing going for Dave aside from ability," states Ducharme, "is his attitude to the game. He wants to play and he works hard at it. In fact, Dave would like to make it in hockey and you can't count anyone out if they are determined enough. He's determined."

Backing up Addley is last season's goalie for the Richmond Hill Legion Midgets, Bruce Hails, who does a fine job in his own behalf.

Ducharme has what he terms (right now anyway) an "aches and pains" defence. They are hurting with various, well, aches and pains.

His defence comprises Doug Lounsbury, Wes Berseth, Terry O'Brien, and George Lewandowski. "Lewandowski is a pleasant surprise this season," said Ducharme. "He came right out of the local house league and he's been one of our best defencemen. Unfortunately, he's been out with an injury."

"Berseth is also showing well and he's good at getting the puck while O'Brien is very steady at all times. It is a good combination."

His big line comprises Centreman Tom Sanlon with Mike Ball on left wing and Allan Pavio on the right side. Another line consists of Al Graham, Bill Dysart and Reg Armstrong; another of George Barr, Paul Bailie and Steve Brown.

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Edge Weston 4-3

Flu-Stricken Rams Tie Downsview

A flu-riddled Richmond Hill Rams Hockey Team got off the ice in the third period Sunday night to struggle to a 4-4 tie against the Downsview Beavers in Downsview.

Rookie Jim Clement popped the tying goal in at the 18:35 mark of the last period assisted by Craig Terry and Tony Bellavance.

Out of the line-up due to the flu bug were regulars Paul Terry, Jack Guest, and Mike Hartman. Glen Sharpley, also suffering from the malady, took a couple of shifts after getting out of return-bed but was forced to call it quits and return home.

"We were definitely ailing," agreed Richmond Hill Coach Karl Brimblecomb. "Between this and the fact that we are in a slump we were in tough shape."

"Everything seems to come at once. We keep outshooting the opposition but the puck just won't go in. I keep telling the guys that the only way to get out of the slump is by hard work. Sooner or later the goals will start coming."

The Rams were bolstered by two players from the Richmond Hill Legion Midgets in the persons of Steve Morrison and Kevin Brillinger.

Both took regular turns and fitted in very well on defence. Morrison also took a few shifts at centre ice in the third period when Coach Brimblecomb decided to go with five defencemen.

"I was happy we had them," said Brimblecomb. "They played very well."

The five-man defensive combination worked out well as it accounted for the Rams' second goal which started them on the comeback trail culminating in the final two tying goals.

Both Morrison and Brillinger are solidly built and strong on their skates and throw their weight around with abandon.

The Rams' goalkeepers were Dave Hill, Bellavance, Craig Terry and Jim Clement.

leading team in each division is automatically selected to coach in the All-Star game.

Heading the first team all stars will be Goalie Gary Carr, Defenceman Tony Bellavance, and Centreman Alex Pirus.

Dave "Digger" Dunkley was chosen left wing for the second squad with Dave Lumley picked up as a fill-out on the 19-man roster.

The Rams led all total selections with three players.

The All-Star game will be played at Nork York Centennial Centre January 17 at 8 pm. All proceeds from the contest will be split between the Ontario Sportswriters and Sportscaster Association for their work with crippled children and the Charlie Conacher Cancer Research Fund. Numerous lucky prizes will be awarded during the intermission between the second and third periods.

Comprising the eastern division will be the Rams, Wexford, Ajax, Kingston, North Bay and Seneca. The Western division is made up of players from Aurora, Weston, North York, Downsview, Dixie and Vaughan.

The Rams play host to Dixie Tuesday night at the local arena at 8 pm. They also play the same team this Sunday at Dixie.

Rams Down Weston 4-3

A still-shorthanded Richmond Hill Rams Team came up with an excellent effort Monday night to down Weston Dodgers 4-3 in Weston in a Provincial Junior "A" contest.

The Rams, led by the brilliant offensive and defensive play of Tony Bellavance, out-hustled the homesters to skate away with a win despite being outshot 42-30 on the game.

Goalie Gary Carr received good protection from his mates as well as coming up

with a number of excellent saves when the occasion demanded.

Richmond Hill opened the scoring at 10:13 of the first period on a goal by Tony Bellavance assisted by Dave "Digger" Dunkley and Pat Hughes.

Weston tied it at 18:45 on a score by Fred Prosser only to see the Rams move into a 3-1 lead early in the middle period.

Marked at the 32 second mark from Hugh Cutler and Craig Terry with Dave Lumley making blinking the light at 7:23 from Alex Pirus and Dunkley.

Jim Colville made it 3-2 at 13:14.

Richmond Hill got what turned out to be its winning goal at the 57 second mark of the final 20 minutes on Hughes' second goal of the night from Jim Clement and Craig Terry.

Weston's Tim Ampleford scored at 6:02 to wind up the night's goal total.

Bellavance, Hughes and Cutler played particularly well. Bellavance logged about 45 minutes of ice time while Hughes was flying and scored two brilliant goals as well as winning a number of important face-offs late in the game when the Dodgers were pressing for the tie.

Vaughan Nats Win 2 Of 3 Drop 4-3 Game To Lowly Ajax

Vaughan Nationals lost a 4-3 game to lowly Ajax Sunday night but two previous wins enabled them to stay close to the top in third place in the red-hot Provincial Junior "A" race.

The Rams still lead the pack followed by the dangerous Wexford Raiders in second place.

"It was a good game, we played well, but so did Ajax," was the way Nats' Coach George Storey summed the contest up.

He credited newly-acquired from Sudbury Wolves Goalie Mike Ryckman as being the major difference.

"He played phenomenally in the nets for the Ajax team and he made the difference. He seemed to pick the whole team up and they came on strong."

Ajax led the Nats 4-1 at one point before the Vaughan boys got to Ryckman for two goals in the last two minutes of the game.

Paul Clark scored twice for Vaughan with Ron Bobbette getting the other one. For Ajax it was Calvin Pettit scoring twice with Jim Heslin and John Fielding getting the others.

"I'm particularly happy with the way the Bobbette, John Cook and Clark line is going," stated Storey. "The problem at the moment is that the other lines aren't going as well as earlier."

He considers that Bobbette line as "one of the best in the league right now."

Storey is also satisfied with his defence which has been bolstered by the return from Bowling Green of Glen Barnett who was an All-Star defender for the Nats last season.

"Glen gives us good puck control, he can get it out of his end and that has made a tremendous difference for us."

Goalie Ray Hough has also been playing well for the Nats in the absence of injured John Volpe but "he lacks a little experience. But he's been making some good saves for us."

Friday night of last week the Nats walloped North York Rangers 9-2 at North York led by the two-goal performances of Ron Bobbette and Ron Harris. Other goals went to Ray Koozman, Bob Osborne, Paul Clark, John Cook, and Al Love.

Saturday night in Maple they whipped North Bay Trappers 6-3 with Mike Hammond leading the way with two goals with singles going to Bob Osborne, Rob Harris, Gary Gill and John Winder.

NAT NOTES

The Nats didn't fare very well at all in the All-Star Voting. In fact, they didn't fare at all as far as the players were concerned. None made the west team despite leading that particular division in every category.

Coach Storey was the only one to make the hallowed circle and he will lead the West against the East team.

Kings Win Back To Back Games Over Markham, Drub Penetang

The Oak Ridges Kings fought from behind to a 2-0 deficit Monday night to down Markham 4-2 at the Bond Lake Arena for their second straight back-to-back win over the visitors.

They edged the same team 2-1 Saturday night in Markham.

Monday night's actioner saw a total of 29 penalties meted out including a game misconduct to Kings' Coach Dan Madaleno and player Dave Van Nostrand.

Van Nostrand got the thumb at the 18:39 mark of the first period after taking a tripping penalty and disputing the call too vociferously. He initially received a 10-minute misconduct and then a game one when he slammed his stick against the boards in disgust.

Coach Madaleno followed seconds later as he also protested too vociferously.

The game itself provided more than enough thrills as the Oak Ridges squad trailed 2-0 at the end of the first period on Markham goals by Mike Splonick and Dunc MacDonald.

Oak Ridges came out flying in the second period and broke through at 3:10 as Robbie Sackfield hit paydirt on a pass from Richvale newcomer Barry May.

The roof lifted a little at 19:23 of the same period when Bill Gunaine popped the puck home assisted by Terry Rice and Bruce Hipkiss.

The third period saw a scoreless duel until 18:34 when Robbie Sackfield broke up ice, carried over the blue-line. He neatly flipped the puck between a defender's legs to Greg Woloski who hit the webbing from 15 feet out on a hard drive. Jim Roffey also assisted.

Thirteen seconds later the Kings struck again as Bill Gundine took a pass from John Ranieri and the puck was in the net again and it was all over.

It was a come-from-behind victory Saturday night as well as Markham's Tom Claridge opened the scoring at 13:10 of the first period.



See Siberian Huskies In Action At Cold Creek

The excitement of the classic sled-dog in action will be a major attraction at Metro Conservation's Cold Creek Area when powerful Siberian Huskies and their masters pit muscle, stamina and skill against each other in team competition.

The tests of endurance over snow covered courses, ranging from two to five miles, will be held January 14, February 3 and 4, February 18 and March 3 and 4. Cold Creek Area is located two miles north of King Sideroad on Concession 10 of King Township, mid-way

between Nobleton and Bolton.

Open to purebred Siberian Husky Dog teams, the races have been organized by the Siberian Husky Club of Canada. The majority of the dogs entered are of show-breed calibre and will include several blue-ribbon and pointed dogs. The races will be in three classes: five and three dog teams and an unofficial puppy class.

Driver Sue Bain of Clarkson in the above photo puts her three dog team through its paces in preparation for race day.

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Time: 8:00 p.m.

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Town Hall, Richmond Hill, Ont.

**JANUARY 19 th. 8:00 P.M.**

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R. L. Trotman,  
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