



Sport Spots

By FRED SIMPSON



Veteran At 16
My philosophy in life is really quite simple. Every morning I wake up I figure I'm ahead of the game. It could have been much worse.

Which is why I didn't get too upset when I ambled over to the local arena Sunday night and suffered with the Richmond Hill Junior "A" Rams enroute to their 9-2 drubbing at the hockey sticks of Seneca. As one fellow put it to me as I stood dolefully looking at the scoreboard between periods. "How come you're always here when the Rams play good?" I think he was being cynical.

What rather upset me was the fact early Saturday morning I interviewed one of the Rams' young hockey players and I gushed about how well the team was doing. Naturally, the kiss of death. That night they lost 4-2 to Vaughan and, well, then came Sunday. I seem to be hanging from crepe here but I'm really not. The Rams have a fine, young team and they are well worth watching and certainly will be up there in the first four. They had a bad start and, let's face it, this Seneca looks like one of the better ones.

But to get back to that interview. One of the main reasons the Karl Brimblecombe coached Rams have had fine teams over the past seasons is a fellow by the name of Billy Stephenson. I keep referring to him as the "veteran" Ram Defenceman which is true but which also seems a trifle absurd. Billy, you see, is playing his third season on defence for the Rams and he's still only 16 years.

DEBUT AT 14
Which means he was a blushing 14-year-old Bantam three seasons ago when to everyone's surprise (quite a few, anyway) Coach Brimblecombe named him as one of his defence crew.

"I must admit I was surprised to make the team that season," said Billy. "After all, I was still a Bantam and that was something of a veteran team. I just went out for a workout because Karl called me. Then I stayed, then stayed some more."

He continued: "It's funny, everyone thought I was too young for junior hockey. They figured I'd get hurt. Do you know that of all the players on that team there were only two who played all 44 games."

"The one fellow was Wayne Stokes. I was the other one."

KIND OF DELICATE?
Which should be explanation enough. I must admit to being dubious about Billy out there myself. He looked, well, kind of delicate compared to such Rams as Bill and Dick Weber and the aforementioned "Muscles" Stokes.

I weighed about 145 pounds compared to 160 now," he continued, "and I got pushed off the puck a few times in those early days."

Times have changed. Billy has grown to 160 (he's aiming for 170) and suddenly he's doing the pushing as well as the hitting and skating out there.

"It's like everything else. Karl stuck with me and I got my confidence as well as experience. Now I carry the puck more and don't have as much difficulty getting out of my own end."

"I would say my game is a hitting one. I love to hit when the opportunity affords. Of course, you can't get caught out of position. But I also like to carry the puck more now. That comes with experience."

Billy, who (in case you didn't know) is a Richmond Hill product all the way, is teamed with Jack Guest on the left side and the latter fellow is also probably the most under-rated but also effective defenceman in junior hockey. Maybe under-rated is not the word. I think there are a lot of people observing him as well as Billy.

(Continued on Page 14)

Legion Midgets Take Three Making Four Straight Wins

Richmond Hill Legion Midgets extended their winning streak to four games with three successive victories last week as they defeated Aurora 2-1 and Newmarket 5-1 and 4-2.

Legion 2, Aurora 1
The Hillers defeated Aurora 2-1 in a lacklustre game October 18 in the Aurora Arena.

Legion had the game under control as they blasted 24 shots while allowing the Aurora shooters 12. Tony Robinson converted a Rob Wallingford pass for a score in the first period, and Jeff Miller netted the eventual winner from Mike Gallagher.

Legion 5, Newmarket 1
The Legion boys travelled to Newmarket the next night, skating away with a 5-1 victory in a contest that proved by far to be the most pleasing in the young hockey season.

So miserly was the Hiller defensive quartet of Berseth, Kellett, Gallagher and Minor that Newmarket could manage only one shot in the first two periods. It was Dave Berseth who forged the Legion into the lead at 4:59 of the first period as he picked up a stray pass, but Jeff Macour tied the game for Newmarket midway through the second period on a pass from Cliff Weddel.

Goalie Mike Doyle had to be extremely sharp in the third period as Newmarket came to life before the Hiller marksmen found the range. Bobby McCullough scored the winner from Wayne Court and Jeff Miller, and Tony Robinson was set up by Berseth minutes later. Newly acquired defenceman Minor added another goal from Court and in the dying seconds John Oakley fired home a slapshot from Mike Gallagher and Bobby Russell.

So effective was the Legion team that the Richmond Hill fans were buzzing; it would seem that the arduous practices each week engineered by Coach Peter Artemchuk is paying dividends!

Legion 4, Newmarket 2
The Legion won the return game Sunday afternoon in the new arena 4-2 over Newmarket.

Mike Gallagher opened the scoring as he combined with Rob Wallingford and Tony Robinson, but the persistent Newmarket club tied the score in the middle frame. Goalie Gerry Tipold had to come up with key saves in the first period to keep the Legion in the game.

With the Hillers short-handed, Bobby Russell picked up an errant Newmarket pass, flipped the puck to Jeff Miller, who in one motion rifled the puck into the top right-hand corner to give the Legion a 2-1 lead. Tony Robinson potted the winner in the third period but again Newmarket bounced back with a tally. Gallagher, who had opened the scoring, concluded it as he was sent into the clear on passes from Robinson and Russell.

If schedules can be drawn up, there is a good chance the Legion will open up league play Sunday at 1 pm in the new arena.

Hunter Safety Course Cold Creek Area
Metro Conservation offers a hunter safety training course at Cold Creek Conservation Area.

The two-part course, lectures and practical demonstrations, is scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 10 am.

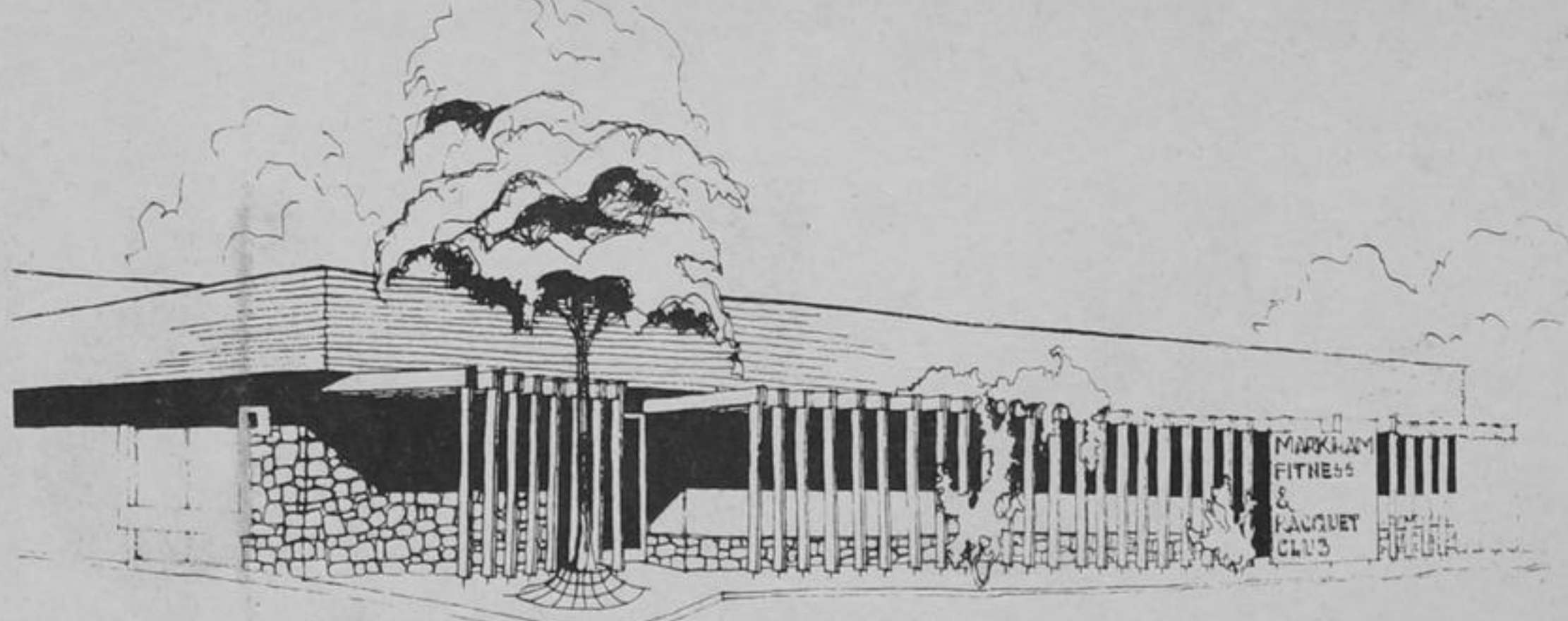
Under Chief Instructor Lou Romhanyi, participants will cover all aspects of hunter safety training — proper gun handling, maintenance, new developments in firearms, new regulations, sportsmanship and ballistics.

Those attending both sessions will be eligible to take the Ministry of Natural Resources Hunters License Examination.

The course is particularly worthwhile for novice hunters who are required to pass the government examination before they can obtain their first hunting license.

Fee for the course is \$5.00. Those interested can register by contacting Mr. Romhanyi at 749-0747 or George Calver at Cold Creek 857-1176.

Cold Creek Conservation Area is located midway between Bolton and Nobleton, two miles north of King Sideroad on Concession 11. It is one of a number of conservation areas operated by the Metro Conservation Authority.



MARKHAM FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB
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New Squash Club In Markham

Plans for a Fitness and Racquet Club on Laidlaw Boulevard, Markham are well underway with opening date slated for early December. Architect Douglas Allen of Allen / Brown / Sheriff of Richmond Hill, said the cost of the project will be \$522,000. The facilities for both men and women will include gymnasium, fitness testing, squash courts, including

a doubles court, whirlpool, saunas, sun room and swimming pool. The facilities will be extensive enough to accommodate both men and women without alternating programs. There will also be a lounge. Mr. Allen was the designer of the Richmond Hill Racquet Club.

Rams Run Into Double Loss By 4-2 Vaughan, 9-2 Seneca

There are some weekends that make you wonder what it's all about.

The Richmond Hill Junior Rams went through one of those weekends Saturday and Sunday as they dropped a 4-2 game to the league leading Vaughan Nationals and then were severely drubbed 9-2 at the hands of a powerful looking Seneca squad.

That latter game was played Sunday at the local arena and was probably one of Rams' Coach Karl Brimblecombe's more frustrating moments since taking over as a coach of the Rams three years ago.

Nothing, but nothing worked for the Rams this time out.

The only bright moment was the 6:13 mark when Richmond Hill opened the scoring as Jim Clement took passes from Mike Hartman and Dave Stuart. It was all downhill after that.

It took just 16 seconds from there for Seneca to tie the game up as Danny Shearer, a one-man wrecking crew, beat Doug Brumwell in the Richmond Hill twine for the first of his five goals of the night.

That started the parade as three more followed in reasonably rapid fashion before that first 20 minutes ended with Seneca ahead by 4-1.

Seneca kept on rolling then as Shearer scored a fifth goal.

The Rams looked like they might rally at one juncture as Hartman scored on a power play from Bob Bangay and Jack Guest but it was no go.

Seneca came right back to make it 6-2 as that man Shearer picked up a rebound all alone and whipped it home.

Shearer made it 7-2 and John Butt wheeled home another one to make it 8-2 with Jim Cowley rounding out the scoring at 15:20 of the final period with yet another one.

Brumwell played a good game in the Rams' net but was unable to stop the sharp-shooting Seneca boys who were always on the loose when they broke in for scoring.

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	G	W	L	T	P
Vaughan	9	6	1	2	14
North York	9	6	1	1	13
Wexford	8	5	2	1	11
Aurora	9	5	3	1	11
Richmond Hill	8	4	3	1	9
Dixie	6	4	2	0	8
Seneca	7	3	2	2	8
North Bay	8	3	4	1	7
Markham	9	2	6	1	5
Whitby	6	1	4	1	3
Weston	7	0	6	1	1
Downsview	5	0	5	0	0

Provincial O.H.A. Junior "A" Hockey
DIXIE vs. RAMS
TUESDAY, OCT. 30th
Time: 8 p.m.
RICHMOND HILL NEW ARENA
Adults \$1.50, Students 75¢

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Vaughan Nats Weekend Wins

The Vaughan Nationals took over first place in the Provincial Junior "A" hockey race on the weekend picking up a total of five points out of a possible six.

They started off Friday night of last week by scoring a late goal to tie the North York 1-1 and then downed Richmond Hill 4-2 in Maple Saturday night and bombed Downsview 8-4 Sunday night in Maple.

That game saw Scott Densen open the scoring for the Beavers but the Nats come back with four in a row on goals by Jim Tyrrell, Al Love, Kent Jackson and Tyrrell again. Downsview tied the game on goals by Densen, Rick Jodzio and Paul Titanic.

The Nats went ahead again in the second on goals by Alf Lamoureux and Kent Jackson.

They wrapped the game up in the third as Brent Bowen and Paul Stanley scored in the final three minutes.

Friday night's tie with North York saw Brian Burtch scoring with a minute and four seconds left with North York a man short at the time.

Ken Jackson, Doug Sellars, Brent Bowen and Bob Osborne scored for the Nats against the Rams.

Vaughan hosts Whitby this Sunday at Maple at 7:30 pm.

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