



write right on sports

by fred simpson

By Fred Simpson



Sport Spots

1 Poor Cousin

Someone mentions track and field and I start to stutter. Like too many other people I would imagine. Just never got around to knowing too much about it after high school. I've come to regret this.

Especially with the aura surrounding the upcoming Olympics in Montreal in 1976. Hopefully, very hopefully, it could be the start of something big in Canada as regards the poor cousin which is track and field.

It has just occurred to me that when someone mentions track and field the only names that immediately flash to my mind are Bill Crothers (Markham druggist) and Bruce Kidd (aspiring politician?). But that's a hundred years ago, isn't it?

That seems to be the nub of the whole problem. Crothers and Kidd managed to make a dent in international competition for a few halcyon days a few years ago. Glamor. It was great. Then it just faded away. It's taken the imminent arrival of the Olympics to stir the blood just a little.

MR. THOMPSON

Which brings me around to Richmond Hill and Robert Q. Thompson and Company who have been doing their best to roil the waters of track and field in the area for the past three years.

How did Bob get into the track and field bit?

"I don't really know," he was saying the other day. "About three years ago a few of us guys thought it might be a good idea to start a club." That "inspiration" triggered the present day Richmond Hill Athletic Club.

Bob's interest was stirred by the talk of having the Olympics in Canada because "I felt it would be a good time to start something like this. People would be thinking of track and field where they hadn't been for years."

Which is the problem with track and field. People, not enough people, just don't seem to think of it enough. I surmise the reasons are many but include the fact that we are too hockey, football and baseball-oriented. So be it.

"I think you have to approach track and field in a different way than say hockey or football," states Bob. "It's more of a solitary operation. The individual is on his own. If he fails the onus is on him. Not a teammate."

THRILL IS THERE

"People don't always realize how exciting a track meet can be. They just see people running. The thrill comes with realizing that someone has just shaved a few seconds off his previous best timing. Of seeing some unknown come out of nowhere and challenge a runner you thought had the field to himself."

Bob's club has, in his words, "50 registered members" but that doesn't mean he has 50 people at all times.

"They tend to come and go. Some might show up for two or three sessions and then drop out."

You have to be dedicated. Have to be determined as well as talented. If you finish in 99th spot in a field of 100 there's a strong temptation to forget about track and field.

"We're lucky in one way in Richmond Hill, unlucky in another," conceded Bob. "We're close to the action in Toronto which gives our athletes the strong competition they need. Then again, the competition means a lot of frustration because we're going against the best in Ontario. It can get discouraging."

LACK OF FACILITIES

There are other problems: "We had to turn down the opportunity to host the Ontario Midget outdoor championships this year because of a lack of all-weather track facilities," said Bob.

"It's a common plight all over the area. The high school final meet is held each year in Parry Sound because that's the only place where an all-weather track is available.

"It's ironic that the area in the Region of York which spawns the better track and field athletes, Richmond Hill, does not have a 400 metre track in good condition for use by local athletes."

This, of course, means that all the victories recorded by Richmond Hill and area athletes this summer will be away from home and draw only a passing interest from local citizens.

What's to be done about it?

MONEY, MONEY

Probably very little. A proper all-weather track facility would cost in the neighborhood of \$60,000 and there just ain't anyone around willing to come up with that kind of money.

Bob's club can't afford it. It operated on a \$500 budget last season which included a \$300 subsidy from the town to start a minor track and field club.

(Continued on Page 16)



MINOR BALL ERUPTION

Dear Mr. Sports Editor—

In 1973 Paul Black was appointed to coach the Richmond Hill Bantam Boys Town Representative Softball team. No other applications were submitted for the team and Mr. Black graciously consented to do the job. This team finished in third place in their league and went to the league playoff finals.

There were also OASA zone champions and provincial semi-finalists against the best bantam teams in Ontario. This is a better showing than any other Richmond Hill Bantam team has ever done.

During the season there appeared to be lack of communication both between the coaches and between the coach and the players. There was also substantial parent interference with Mr. Black's method of running the team. At one point during the season, Mr. Black offered to resign but was talked out of doing so by Sid Moreland, then president of the RHMB. In spite of these difficulties, the record of the team speaks for itself. Having had a successful finish to what began as a disappointing season, Mr. Black submitted an application to coach the bantam team again this year. Another application was also submitted, this one by Moreland.

After a lengthy debate of the pros and cons of last year's circumstances, it was decided by an executive vote of five to four that Mr. Black should be given the team again this year. (Mr. Moreland, a member of this year's minor ball executive, chose not to cast his vote). Five members of the executive felt that if Mr. Black was capable enough of coaching last year's team, worthy enough to have been talked out of resigning and interested enough to want to coach it again this season with a year's experience under his belt, then, as last year's coach, he definitely deserved the first consideration. A letter was sent to Mr. Black informing him of his acceptance.

Two weeks later at the next executive meeting the Paul Black situation was brought up again by minor ball chairman Bill Fox. According to Mr. Fox, five alleged letters had been signed by five parents requesting that Mr. Black be removed from his coaching position or they would take their boys off the team.

Mr. Fox wanted to have the entire situation discussed again. When the executive appeared to be stalemated over the issue, Mr. Fox telephoned Skip DeGeer who immediately came over to the meeting as a representative of the five parents. Mr. DeGeer informed the executive that the five parents would (1) attempt to go over our heads to the ball association and (2) play their boys on a team outside of Richmond Hill—if Mr. Black was not removed as Bantam coach.

Mr. Black was then asked to come over to the meeting. For over an hour he faced the humiliation of having to defend his ability as a coach.

After Mr. Black had left, the matter was further discussed for another hour after which time Mr. Fox put a motion on the floor "that Paul Black be relieved of his duties as coach." One executive member who had previously supported Mr. Black was absent from this meeting. Since Mr. Moreland decided to vote this time, the motion was carried five to four and Mr. Black was removed from his coaching duties.

We, the undersigned members of the Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association executive, find that we cannot in our minds accept this decision for the following reasons:

1. We feel that to be credible an executive must support its decisions. This executive has shown itself to be less than credible by calling for a second vote on a decided issue when one of its members was absent.

2. Mr. Black has suffered considerable personal embarrassment because of this situation. We feel that a man who has given freely of his time should not have to be subjected to this kind of treatment.

3. It has always been an accepted fact in Richmond Hill that a town representative coach should have the first opportunity to coach the team in the following year unless there is some major reason why this should not be so. We feel that Mr. Black deserved to coach this team but the undesirable precedent has now been established that little consideration need be given to any previous coach.

4. We feel that another bad precedent has also been established; namely that parents can dictate to the executive who should coach any team. If they want that privilege let them become elected executive members.

In view of the above circumstances, we feel that we can no longer, in good faith, serve the people who elected us. We hereby submit our resignations. Perhaps the five concerned parents will take our positions.

MARG HOWORTH, (Secretary), RONALD MacINNIS (Registrations), ALLAN HOWARD, (Publicity), BRUCE HOWORTH, (Equipment), DON DOYLE, (Diamond Controller).

Display Endurance Hill Swimathon

The second leg of the Richmond Hill Swimathon was completed Sunday with some surprising examples of endurance from the younger swimmers.

Senior Swimmer Gary Gentry, who was fourth in Canada last year in his age group back-crawl, swam the 200 length course in an easy crawl in a little over an hour.

The event was staged in two legs because some swimmers were competing in events which clashed with the Swim-a-thon. Seventy percent of the proceeds go to Richmond Hill Aquatic Club, 20 percent to the Ontario Section and the final 10 percent to the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association.

The amount raised has not yet been calculated but those participating will be calling on their sponsors to authenticate their scores.

At least two Richmond Hill swimmers, Bonnie Branch and Neil Miller, have qualified for the age group finals in Kitchener next weekend.



(Photo by Susan Samila)

They're The Champs

It's the sweet smell of victory for the above members of the Richmond Hill Tournaments Incorporated Minor Bantams Hockey Team. They're fresh from downing Chatham 6-3 in the fourth game of their best-of-five OMHA Championship Finals in Chatham. Front row (left to right) are: Steve Madden, Jamie Gropp, Warren Nye (kneeling) stick-boy; Dino Capotosto, Steven Bowers; Steve Price, Frank Nigro, Chris Nye, Danny Girard, Rick Donnelly, manager. Back row, Mike Muirhead, coach, Blair Lewis, Phil Wood,

Jerry Legere, Stan Norman, Gary Gentry, Tom Peden, and Peter Halliday.

Richmond Hill opened the series with a win in Chatham, dropped the next game 4-2 in Richmond Hill, and then won a 5-2 contest in Chatham. They took a 5-4 loss in Richmond Hill before going back to Chatham and winning all the laurels. The jubilant boys took time out for the above photo enroute to Winnipeg and a hockey tournament in that city.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

In the matter of the estate of Emerson Pickering McQuarrie.

All persons having claims against the estate of Emerson Pickering McQuarrie, deceased, late of the Town of Richmond Hill, in the Regional Municipality of York, who died on or about the 5th day of April, 1974, are hereby notified to send them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before the 21st day of May, 1974.

After which date, the assets of the above-mentioned estate will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to claims of which the executors shall then have notice.

Dated this 19th day of April, 1974.

William H. C. Bailey, 33 Victoria Street, Aurora, Ontario, Solicitor for the Executors.

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RICHMOND HILL MINOR BALL

TOWN Representative TEAM TRY-OUTS



BOYS

- SQUIRTS — Age 9 and 10 years as of January 1, 1974 — Saturday, April 27th, 10 am, at Crosby Park — Coach - Mr Bob Davies - 884-7888 PEEWEE — Age 11 and 12 years as of January 1, 1974 — Saturday, April 27th, 12 noon at Crosby Park — Coach Mr. P. Tipold - 884-6910 BANTAM — Age 13 and 14 years, as of January 1, 1974 — Saturday, April 27th, 2 pm, at Crosby Park — Coach - Mr. Con Thompson - 884-5003 MIDGETS — Age 15 and 16 years as of January 1, 1974 — Saturday, April 27th, 4 pm, at Crosby Park — Coach - Mr. Karl Brimblecombe - 884-8087

OAK RIDGES MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION DAY

FOR BOYS & GIRLS SATURDAY APRIL 27th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SATURDAY MAY 4th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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