

# Rams nip Tigers but slip to second

RICHMOND HILL — "It's pretty close," observed Richmond Hill Rams' mentor Carl Brimblecombe as his team

slipped into second place behind front-running North York Rangers despite nipping Aurora Tigers Tuesday night of last week by 3-2.

remainder of the initial period and stalwart goaltending by Brian Stankiewicz and Drewery, plus some

missed opportunities by both sides, saw the score remain unchanged.

**Outshot Rams**  
The Tigers outshot the Rams 39-32 on the game. Coach Brimblecombe will find himself wealthy in defence when Bill Stephenson returns from finishing exams in Windsor. A nice spot to be in for a change. The Rams are relatively injury free.

**All star game**  
On Jan. 21 five Rams performed for the victorious East All Stars in the annual all star game played at Lakeshore arena. The final score was 5-2.

Goalkeeper Brian Stankiewicz, defenseman Belzun, Joe Greentree and forward Myles McCauley were the Rams' participants.

All performed well and Stankiewicz was chosen as the game's third star. He made many brilliant saves during his tenure in the net in the first half of the game.

**Crucial games**  
Tomorrow (Thursday) they travel to North Bay for a game there and Tuesday they take on the front-running North York Rangers, in a crucial contest.

Early in the second, Mark Connelly managed to get the disk past Stankiewicz with John Martini and Larry Greenslade drawing assists on the play.

Connelly was sent in alone from centre ice and flipped the puck high into the top right hand corner.

No further scoring occurred during the period, again, despite a number of good chances.

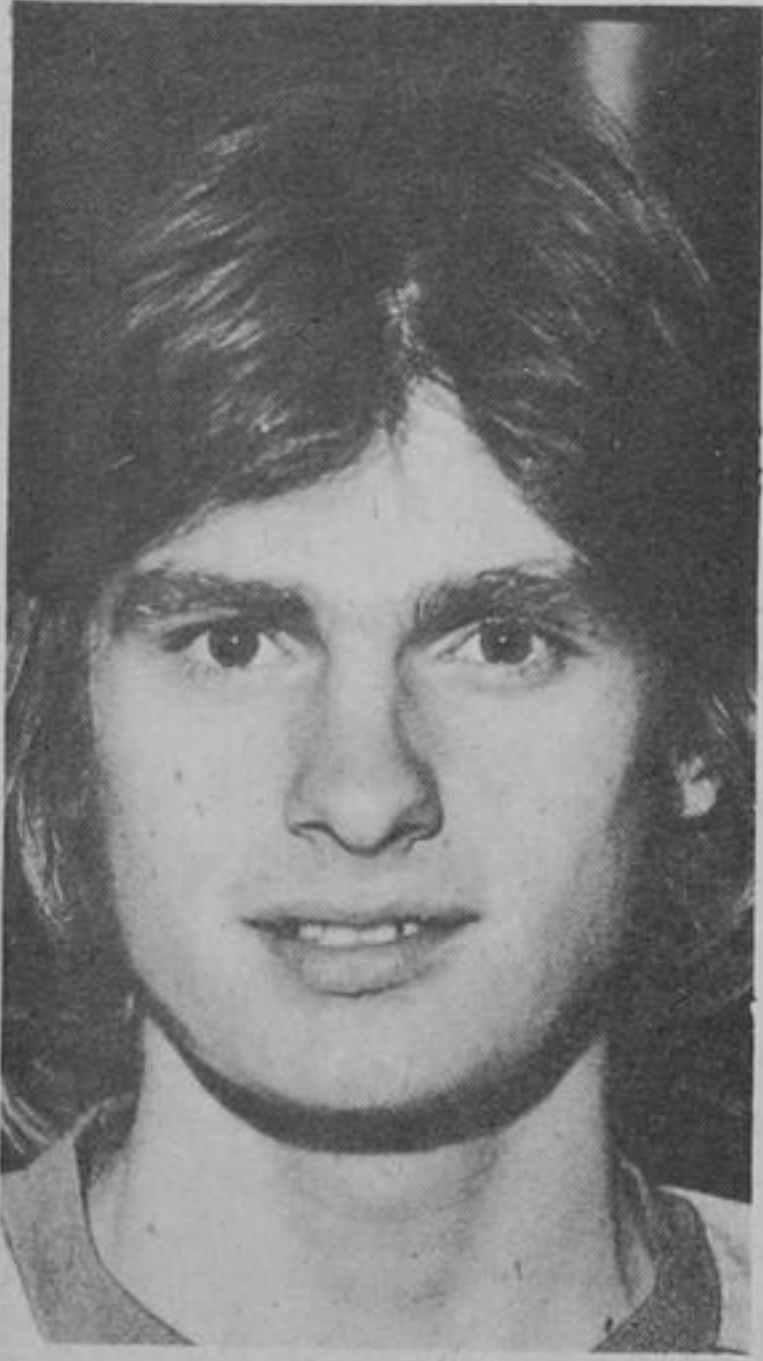
**Big break**  
The break of the game came at the 10:13 mark of the final when Nigro and Rowley handled the puck in the Tiger zone and managed to get it free to Bill Belzun charging up the slot.

The gigantic Rams' defenceman slid a low shot into the corner of the net past a partially screened Drewery.

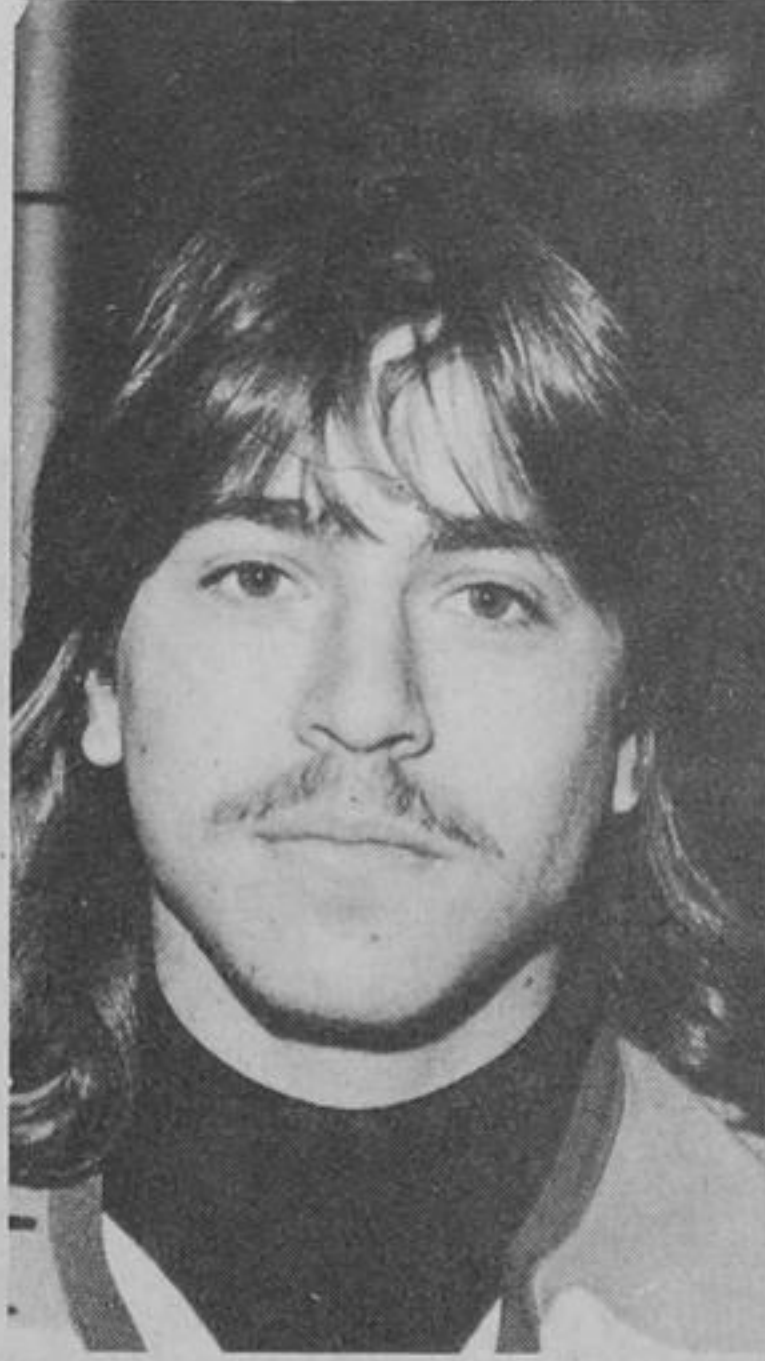
**Nickleson gets winner**  
John Nickleson scored what proved to be the winner at 15:14.

The puck squirted out from behind the Aurora net and Nickleson took a couple of whacks at it before it finally eluded Drewery.

Gord Barkley made it close in the last minute of play on a goal similar to Nickleson's.



John Nickleson gets winner



Brian Stankiewicz star All-Star

The Rangers, who have the edge in games on the Rams, just keep on winning.

"We have five games left and it's still anyone's ball game," said Brimblecombe. "It's between us, the Rangers and North Bay."

**Still optimistic**  
Brimblecombe is still optimistic about "taking it all" although he still worries a trifle about the fact "we still haven't really hit our stride."

"We seem to do good against the strong clubs but we let down against the weaker ones and that has hurt us all season. I just hope we come up 'gung ho' for the playoffs."

**Lead early**  
The Aurora encounter at Richmond Hill arena saw the Rams take a 1-0 lead on their first sortie up the ice.

Joe Greentree sent Mike Rowley down the left wing and his shot rebounded in front of the net.

Frank Nigro blasted it past Aurora goaltender Bill Drewery before he could recover from the initial drive. Play see-sawed back and forth for the

The Liberal Section B

# sports

Classified

---

Wednesday, January 28, 1976

# Olympics or bust for Hill wrestler

By Fred Simpson

RICHMOND HILL — Olympic wrestling hopeful Gary Dunford probably hopes his favorite rival from Scarborough gets tired of beating him and leaves the country.

That rival, George Gunowski, is the one main obstacle between Dunford and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent his country in world competition at the Olympics this summer in Montreal.

Dunford has met and defeated every other top contender in Canada in his weight division including seven last summer in Winnipeg to win the Canadian Junior championship in the 105-pound free style wrestling class.

Some of the lustre of this triumph was lost because he didn't get a chance to meet Gunowski who was injured at the time and didn't compete.

**10 times a loser**  
"I've met him 10 times," said Dunford with a shake-of-the-head philosophy.

"I've lost 10 times. The first couple of times were close but after that he trained more often than me and that

was the big difference. But I think I can beat him."

Up until a few weeks ago Dunford wasn't even thinking too much about wrestling let alone a shot at the Olympics.

**Disappointed**  
"I was disappointed after winning the Canadian in Winnipeg because I didn't get the chance to compete in the Junior World's in Bulgaria. They obviously didn't think I was good enough."

The "they" were Western wrestling officials who watched the Canadian championships won by Dunford which qualified him for the World's.

**Was good enough**  
"I guess they figured the competition wasn't that tough. They didn't know that the best wrestlers are in Ontario and I beat a lot of them to get there. I was good enough to go."

That's why Dunford tended to relax a trifle in his training and that's what the situation was until a recent phone call by Canadian Olympic officials sent the adrenalin flowing again.

**Train for Olympics**  
"They called me and invited me to train for the Olympic trials in Thunder Bay for the next six months. That's a

break because I'll be handled by top wrestling coaches in the best of conditions.

"That's what I need to get by that guy from Scarborough who has had all that from the beginning. You need that little extra experience to reach the top."

**Learned a lot**  
Dunford wasn't minimizing the training assistance he has received during the past six years as a member of the Bayview Secondary School wrestling team under coach Larry Johnson.

"I've learned a lot," he said, "it's just a matter of going on."

**Head coach Johnson**  
Head coach Johnson agrees.

"I've done all I can," he said, "now it's up to Gary to complete his education under the tutelage of our top coaches. He's very good and aggressive and I think he can make it."

**Kinda small, eh?**  
Wrestling was the last thing on Dunford's mind when he first attended Bayview Secondary six years ago.

At that time he weighed in at 72 pounds and reached the towering height of 4' 2". But he definitely wasn't a weakling.

"I guess I had something to prove

because I was so small," he said, "so I tried out for the wrestling team." He's now 5' 5" and weighs 115 pounds.

No need to say that Dunford turned out to be one of the best in his weight class to come out of Bayview on a team that won the York County championships last year and sent seven members to the Ontario championships.

**That guy, again**  
"I lost out to that guy in Scarborough again," said Dunford.

Dunford who lives at 338 Neal Drive, will leave post-haste for Thunder Bay with another area wrestling aspirant,

John Gnap of Bradford, who wrestles in the 180 pound category.

During the six months he'll be competing in the Canadian championships in Montreal in March where'll he'll be meeting "that guy from Scarborough."

Only one member in each category will be allowed to compete in the Olympics so it's definitely a do-or-die proposition.

**Go first class**  
"If I finish second I get a chance to go to Montreal as a sparing partner," said Dunford.

"But that's not the way I want to go."



(Photo by Hogg)

## Relax it's all in fun, right now

He's only fooling here but 20-year-old Gary Dunford of Richmond Hill will be deadly serious for the next six months as he trains

in Thunder Bay in hopes of a shot at the Olympics in Montreal. Gary hoists John Cook of 402 Markham Road, Richmond

Hill. Gary is currently Canadian junior champion and will be going all out to win the senior title next March.

# Thunderbirds are out!

By Robert Hughey

THORNHILL — The Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers breezed past the Thornhill Thunderbirds 8-1 Monday night in Thornhill a game described by Dynes coach Peter Artemechuk as being "a bit of a yawner".

The Thunderbirds, suffering a let-down after losing a must game 3-1, which doused any hope of reaching the final playoff berth, to the same Dynes Sunday night at Bond Lake Arena, never unleashed their scoring power.

Part of the reason for this was the strong play of Dynes goalie Harold DeGeer who turned aside 31 shots in his first game back after suffering strained ligaments in his ankle.

Dale Roffey started the scoring at 2:08 of the first period on a pass from Steve Sherman.

**Celebrates birthday**  
Dale Roffey, who is 18-years-old today, celebrated early by adding three assists to give him five points in his last two games.

Less than three minutes later Randy Humphries intercepted a stray pass in

the Thornhill zone and fired home an unassisted goal his first of two unassisted goals.

Steve Sherman was sent in alone on passes from Dale Roffey and Kirk Stover and he made no mistake to give the Dynes a 3-0 lead at 11:52 of the first frame.

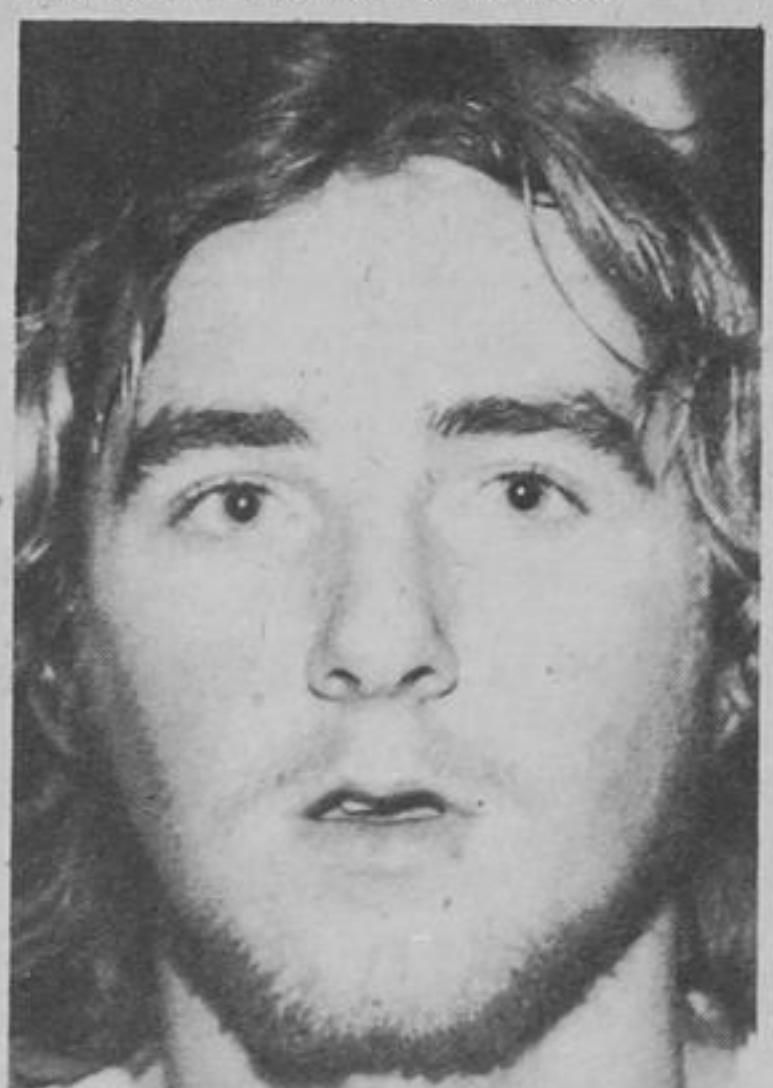
**Dynes strike again**  
The period ended without further scoring, but the Dynes started the second period with a goal off the stick of Cam Reston from Steve Sherman and Dale Roffey at 2:31.

Sixteen seconds later Larry Gueran notched the fifth Richmond Hill goal on a pass from Brian Carruthers.

Finally at 4:03 of the second period, Kim Mabley found the mark for Thornhill as he took passes from Barry Howson and Steve Cromb.

**Power play goal**  
Dave Stuart notched a power play goal in the final frame to push the

score to 7-1. Assists went to John Lenneville and Ian Crockford.



Dale Roffey he's hot

Randy Humphries rounded out the scoring on a power play as he intercepted a desperation clearing attempt and slapped the puck high into the net his second unassisted goal of the game. The final score was Richmond Hill 7 and Thornhill 1.

**Near playoff**  
Richmond Hill Dynes coach Peter Artemechuk said, "it's nice to be on a five game winning streak heading into the playoffs."

**Top line**  
Artemechuk praised the line of Roffey, Reston and Sherman, who picked up 10 scoring points among them, by saying, "they gave a good show every time on the ice."

He also praised Thornhill for playing a "good clean game."

Both Dynes goalie Harold DeGeer and Thunderbird goalie Danny Hildebrand faced 32 shots in this virtually penalty-free match.

**The cruncher**  
Sunday night's game was the cruncher for the Thunderbirds who fought to

(continued on B-2)



Fred Simpson

## Beautiful summer

This mid-winter depression really saps my soul. I had a dream about summer last night. Beautiful. Just imagine my mood when I woke up in a snowbank.

But all was not lost because it served to get me musing about the vagaries of life especially as it relates to the softball wars in the area. Anything, really.

What a difference a year can make. This time in 1975 (give or take a few months) the Newmarket Rays of the Ontario Fastball League were riding high with a powerhouse (comprising such ex-Dynesmen as Bob Domik, Les Downing, Derek Kinnersley) expected to carry them to the World championship in New Zealand now about to get under way.



Barry Timbers new Dynes pitcher

At the same time the Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers, still world champions, were floundering in a backwash of indecision as to whether they would even have a team. They didn't.

That's all history now, so I'll just get down to the matters at hand.

**Jewellers in business**  
The story now is that the Jewellers are back in business and the Newmarket Rays are out of business.

Simple as that.

Rays' owner Ray Twinney announced to a breathless world last week the club was folding and was

**Lively discussion**  
That generated rather a lively discussion for a while which I won't get into too much because I don't think it matters to the average softball watcher. He just wants to know the end result.

It seems the only night open at either Pearson or the town park was a Sunday.

No one wanted anything to do with Sunday but I doubt if it had anything to do with a wave of religious fervor.

Tuesday night, at the time, had been reserved for a new junior softball team (yes) which apparently is having trouble getting off the ground simply because the manager pulled out of the line-up.

So the Jewellers, as of writing, look like good bets for Tuesday nights one way or another. So there you have it.

**Take your choice**  
I'm getting pretty wordy so I'll end it all for now by saying that it all means some good news for softball fans in the town . . . as of right now, anyway.

They'll have their choice of a variety of ball right along the line with, of course, the local industrial league back and looking stronger than ever.

As for the Jewellers? There's no doubt in my mind a top-flight senior team will be welcomed back in the town. I for one like to watch the best in action.

It's the same old story. You like to watch the best in any walk of life. Strictly human nature.

**Very interesting**  
And with the signing of Timbers, plus the presence of young Doug Webster of Richmond Hill, and the likely return of such former Dynesman as Les Downing, it bids fair to be an interesting summer.

Now all we have to do is get through the winter.

As for Timbers? I'll dwell at greater lengths on Barry at a later date. He's a good one and you can bet on that.

Suffice to say that 26-year-old Barry has been looked enviously at by Dynes' manager Russell

"Casey" Cripps ever since he helped Casey to the Canadian in Hull a few seasons ago.

Barry was a pick-up from Oshawa and was a dominant factor in the Jewellers' winning it all that year.

More on it all later. . .

(continued on B-2)