

Road Runners Ontario champs

THORNHILL — Coach Al Morris seemed to be taking it all in his stride Thursday night of last week after his Thornhill Minor Bantam Road Runners had edged Oakridge of London 2-1 to win the All Ontario Double A championship.

Nothing to get excited about. It's all happened before. "I can't say the final outcome was really in doubt," said Morris, "despite the fact we won every game but one by the margin of one goal. We were pretty well in control although they did sur-

prise us by their determination." Morris and his Road Runner team's latest success story had the air of inevitability about it as his team continued to be just about the hottest, if not the hottest, minor hockey team around. The Road Runners' record this

season borders on the sensational as they completed a total of 37 games, tying just four and losing none. It was the second year in a row the team — last year playing under coach Morris as the Thornhill Peewee Road Runners — had skated off with All

Ontario honors. They downed the same Oakridge team in last year's series. The going was a trifle closer this season but the result was the same. **Open fast**

The Road Runners opened the series with 3-1 and 5-4 victories and then returned home to take a 4-3 game Tuesday night of last week before wrapping it up Thursday night. This game saw all the scoring confined to the middle period with Oakridge opening the scoring first with Thornhill's Rick Seeley firing home the tying goal from the slot after taking passes from Mark Wiltshire and John Rennicks.

Wiltshire gets winner
Then it was Wiltshire scoring the winner on a point shot from Paul Howson and Jim Jones.

There was no scoring in the third despite the fact Thornhill walked into 11 penalties to the visitor's three but were never in real difficulty.

On one occasion the Thornhill penalty killing team of Houson, Seeley, Wilt-

shire and Paul Myers, didn't give the puck up for the entire two minutes the Road Runners were a man short.

Praise for goalie
Coach Morris had praise for Oakridge goalie Tom Condon crediting his "outstanding effort for keeping London in every game."

Seeley the hero
The 4-3 win was achieved in over-time with Seeley coming up with the heroics as he fired his third goal of the game assisted by Paul Howson and Myers. It was Myers' third assist of the game.

Again it was Oakridge opening the scoring while Thornhill was a man short at 9:50 of the first period. Then it was Seeley tying the game at 5:51 of the second.

The determined Oakridge squad then scored two unanswered goals to lead 3-1 going into the final period.

Catch fire
That's when the Road Runners caught fire in the final period with Todd McKnight making it 3-2 with Paul Myers on a power play goal at 1:30.

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Photo by Doyle

They shall not pass

Goalie John Morris of the Thornhill Levesque Motors' Road Runners shows the style of a champion as he boots a shot out

during last Thursday's wind-up game against London Oakridge which saw the Road Runners winning 2-1 to wrap up the

series in four straight games. The end result? The Road Runners are All-Ontario Double 'A' winners for the second season in

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Sports

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Hill gals champs, too!

RICHMOND HILL — The Richmond Hill Junior W. A. Stephenson girls hockey team climaxed a drive from last place to down Alderwood in their best-of-three final series.

The girls started off in fine fashion blanking Alderwood 2-0 in the first game with goalie Allison Laing coming up with the shutout.

Both the Richmond Hill goals were scored by Joey Stephenson assisted on one by Kim Walter.

Richmond Hill received a letdown in the second game right on home ice as they lost a 2-1 game with Stephenson scoring the locals' lone goal in the first six seconds of the game.

The tables were turned in the deciding contest March 16 at Alderwood

with the girls winning by the same 2-1 score to take the championship.

Yea, Joey
Again it was Joey Stephenson doing the heroine bit as she again scored both goals. She was assisted on the first by Sarah Williamson and Janie Stephenson.

The Richmond Hill team will now participate in two upcoming tournaments.

Comprising the Richmond Hill Stephenson line-up this season were: Allison Laing, Sarah Williamson, Leona Penyige, Wendy Johnson, Susie Morrison, Jane Baddeley, Sandra Trumbull, Joey Stephenson, Wendy Palmer, Janie Stephenson, Kim Walter, Colleen Steenson, and Heather Moore.



Photo by Doyle

Something to shout about

What are we? We're All Ontario champs. Whooping it up are Glenn Shaw, Mark Wiltshire, Paul Myers, Rick Seeley, Steve

Mallett, Kuri Pearson, John Rennicks, Dan Anderson, Paul Howson, Todd McKnight, Steve Sim, Jim Jones, Rob Bagg, Duhee

Lee, John Morris, Al Morris, coach, Yvon Laforge, assistant coach, Ron McKnight, manager . . . just after ousting Oakridge.

Win at badminton

Thornlea's top 'bird'

THORNHILL — Thornlea Secondary School swept to its third straight York County Badminton title last Friday at Seneca College and it was, well, sort of a breeze.

The Thornlea students compiled a total of 34 points to lead second place Langstaff Secondary School of Rich-

mond Hill and third place Markham with 24 and 21 points respectively.

It was the second straight week in a row that Thornlea came up with an impressive showing having won the Southern Region York County Badminton finals the week previously.

In Friday's finals it was Thornlea's

Brock Evans and Wayne Stiver placing first and second respectively in the men's senior singles.

Then it was Gail German placing second in the senior girl's singles behind Beckett of Markham; Christy Lee and Craig Evans second in the senior mixed doubles.

Junior action saw Marc Whitehead finishing first in boy's singles; Ed Pryzdail and Bill Bascom third in the junior boys doubles.

Also Impressive
The previous week's Southern Region finals also saw Thornlea piling up an impressive record taking three titles and finishing second on three more occasions.

Christy Lee and Craig Evans won the Senior Mixed Doubles crown with an unbeaten record; Marc Whitehead took the Junior Men's single title; and Brock Evans finished first in the senior boy singles.

In Second
Second place finishers for Thornlea were Bill Bascom and Pryzdail in the junior men's doubles; Gail German in the senior girls' doubles; and Wayne Stiver in the senior boys' singles.

Third place finishers for Thornlea were Don Dederick and Marty Chinyre in the senior boys' doubles and Sue MacKay in the junior ladies' singles event.

Bayview Impressive
Also coming up with impressive individual efforts on both weekends were members of the Bayview Secondary School badminton team of

Richmond Hill. Winning the York County junior girls singles was Carol Hunsdale with Marguerite Dowdall of Langstaff in second place.

In the Southern Region finals it was Bayview picking up three first place honors.

It was Katie MacNamara and Patti Barclay winning the senior women's doubles; Allison Mansbridge and Denyse Gravelle the junior women's doubles; and Carol Hunsdale the junior women's singles.

Also Langstaff
The junior girls doubles winners were a pair of Langstaff girls by name of Karen Nelson and Sue Gibbs who downed Mansbridge and Gravelle in the York County finals last Friday.

Ron Guidolin and Alan Fransden managed a second place in the senior boys doubles for Langstaff.

Plenty of Strength
Thornhill Secondary School had plenty of strength going for in the junior division at the York County finals with Peter Malcomson grabbing top spot in the singles.

In the Southern Region finals it was Thornhill's Beth McKenzie and Doug Brown taking first in the mixed doubles competition and Neil Howard and Malcomson heading the junior men's tilt.

The badmintoners now move on to the Georgian Bay finals slated for Thornlea Secondary School on April 20.



Fred Simpson

What to do, what to do

You can't win in this business. Just a few short weeks ago I had hockey coming out of my ears (all three of them) and now it's almost all gone.

I sit here abjectly sneaking looks at my unputting typewriter wondering if it will ever speak to me again. Just to hear it click out a story, any old story would be sweet music to my soul. Help.

I feel like I've just arrived home from a hard day's work and all the furniture is gone. And the dog and the cat, even the canary.

Not yet

For one breathless moment I considered ending it all by downing four cups of office coffee in succession. I quickly recovered telling myself that no situation can be all that desperate. Better the hemlock in the ear.

Soon after comes the bitter recriminations, the soul-searching. Oh the stories I could have if I just had the gumption to go out into the world.

Why don't I do something worthwhile? Like breaking a world record by sitting on a garage roof for over 24 hours. Alas, I tried that once and the results were quite predictable. Fell off.

Or road hockey

Or playing road hockey with the kids and reaping the sweet smell of glory that must come with playing 24 hours and 21 minutes like the guys did the other day. Breaking a world record.

Out of my world

I soon wearied of this idea especially after hearing about those other youngsters who told me without a quaver in their voice that they were going out and do the same thing.

They would troop into my world, state that were even going to play road hockey for 30 hours, and then march proudly out of my life. Leaving me very morose. Then I'd never hear from them again and it bothered me.

Now I ask you

So I tracked down one of the fellows and asked, how cum?? You tell me these things and I never hear from you again. Give me a story, something.

Ah, the truth will out. "We went 16 hours last weekend but we didn't make it."

But why?
"I don't know," commented Carlo Slocco who was one of the valiant types that was going to do it at the Hillcrest Mall on the weekend. Carlo

lives at 156 Garden Avenue and is all of 13 years.

Too tired

"I guess we just got too tired. Some of the guys just kept falling asleep, others just went home. We gave it up after 16 hours. It's not as easy as you think."

Carlo added that "some other guys tried it at McConaghy School the same weekend and they only lasted seven hours. See. It's not easy."

Never easy

I agreed. Too true. Nothing is ever that easy.

Tried to buoy him up by saying that you always bounce back when you're young, you always come back stronger than ever. The click from the telephone being banged down deadened my hearing for quite some time.

Oh well, so much for breaking world records. The closest I ever came to it was three years or so ago when I walked 22 miles for a good cause. Not my good cause. Some else's.

Never saw so much country road in my life. Oh I started out with a steady, unwavering gait which lasted all of the first three miles.

Always ready

I was brave in those days. Ready for anything. Carried an umbrella in case it rained, packed a compass in case I wandered away from the main pack, and even passed a few six year olds early in the walk.

Then, as usual, tragedy set in. Shortly after I lost my umbrella it started to rain and never stopped the rest of the day. But I kept going, waving off first aid people, ambulances, doctors and everything.

A cow passed by

The last three miles were the roughest. I was going so fast that cows in the fields kept passing me. Perhaps the cruelest blow came in the last mile when an eight year old kid passed me as I lay by the side of the road.

This didn't upset me so much. But I didn't think it was necessary to put the boots to me.

But I finally made it and that's why I'm a wreck today.

It's also why I would rather sit and have a story come to me instead of me going to it.

And that's why in a week or so or more I'll sit here chortling at my typewriter.

I'll be writing about minor soccer, softball, the Dynes Jewellers, this and that. Back to normal again. It'll be beautiful.

In the meanwhile. Help.

Steelers 'hot'

TORONTO — Bond Steel Minor Midgets opened the King Clancy series in a rush, winning their first two games. The Steelers upended Clairlea 5-3 and edged Wexford 4-3 in overtime to open the tournament.

Greg Walton scored the first Richmond Hill goal from Blair Lewis to give the Steelers a 1-0 lead over Clairlea Minor Midgets.

After Clairlea tied the score, Jamie Gropp netted one with an assist going to Steve Bowers.

Clairlea tied the score again in the second period at 2-2.

In the third period, Reiner Pleschberger gave Richmond Hill a 3-2 lead on a pass Alan Clark.

Greg Walton upped the score to 4-2 on passes from Lewis and Clark.

Steve Bowers closed out the scoring at 18:25 with a marker with assists going to Roberts and Walton.

Final score was 5-3 in favor of the Bond Steel club.

Steve Shadoff turned in a steady performance in the Steelers' net.

Beat Wexford

On April 9 the Richmond Hill squad battled Wexford Minor Midgets and skated off with a 4-3 win in overtime.

Wexford opened the scoring, but Ray Roberts evened the count from Scott Taylor and Reiner Pleschberger.

Wexford pushed the score to 2-1, but Roberts struck again from Pleschberger.

In the third Wexford again went ahead 3-2, until Steve Bowers knotted the score with less than three minutes remaining. Danny Girard drew the assist.

Blistering Goal

Blair Lewis' blistering shot found the twine at the 3:58 mark of overtime to give the win to the Steelers.

But the real story was Dino Capotosto in the net who made key stops to keep the Bond Steelers in the hunt until the forwards found the mark.

The Steelers continue play this week.