

Rams rally nips Markham Waxers

The Richmond Hill Rams were good teachers Tuesday night of last week and the Markham Waxers learned their lessons well, or maybe un-well.

That was the story as the Rams ran into a disastrous string of penalties in the opening period, fell behind 3-1, and then came roaring back to win the game 6-5 on Mike Ham's heroics at 16:47 of the final period.

It was Markham walking into the penalties in the latter half of the game and they also paid the ultimate price.

HAM THE HERO

The aforementioned Ham won the day with his goal which culminated a Rams' comeback after trailing 4-2 going into the third period.

It was Bill Colville starting the rally with a goal from John Hogarth.

The Waxers' Rob McGinnigle got that one back but it was Richmond Hill pressing the rest of the way with goalie Harold DeGeer, of Oak Ridges, forced to come up with some good saves.

DeGeer finally started to give way as Phil Wood got his second goal of the game at 4:47 from Tom Peden and Hogarth on a beautiful two-way passing play with Peden; and then got his hat-trick at 9:36 on a pass-out from Danny Jones.

This set the scene for Ham who broke up a play at the Markham blueline, got the puck from Colville, and sifted in to score on a high shot. Colville, incidentally, had three assists to go along with his goal.

PENALTY TROUBLE

The Rams ran into penalty trouble in the final minutes but goalie Mitch Lovelock rose to the occasion with two great glove grabs. Markham outshot

the Rams 15-5 in that final period.

It looked like a disastrous evening for the Rams in the early going as they spent most of the first 20 minutes in the penalty-box.

The Rams' Jones opened the scoring from Hogarth and Colville but Markham's Keith Bernier roared back with two consecutive goals and Steve Ludzik got the other one.

All were power play efforts with Lovelock helpless on each one after holding the Rams in with two and three saves off the same sequence in the early going.

DeGeer also looked sharp in the first half of the contest.

HECTIC PERIOD

That opening period saw Markham outshooting the Rams 16-9 as Richmond Hill picked up 41 minutes in penalties to Markham's 20. That was the story.

Richmond Hill's Ken Elson picked up the heavy action with a penalty for fighting, a misconduct, and a game misconduct for being the aggressor. Colville also was nailed for a fighting penalty and a 10-minute misconduct.

Richmond Hill fell behind 4-1 on a goal by Brian Carroll in the middle period but started to turn the heat on as Markham took up the penalty-habit and DeGeer had to be good on several shots.

Then it was Wood scoring his first goal from Jones with Markham two men short.

The third period saw the Rams do their thing and avert what might have been yet another horrible tie, one of many so far this season.

Richmond Hill outshot Markham 40 to 26 on the game.



Stranger at the door

Richmond Hill Rams' goalie Mitch Lovelock has that "helpless" feeling here as Markham Waxer's Steve Ludzik swoops in from the side and is about to deposit the puck in the net. All this occurred during the

Rams' down point in Tuesday night of last week's game in Richmond Hill. But the Rams rallied to pull out their first win of the season 6-5.

The Liberal Section B sports

Classified

Wednesday, October 19, 1977

R



fred simpson

Down with slapshots

I've been turned off slapshots in hockey for quite a few seasons now. That tragic incident on the weekend involving a 15-year-old Newmarket youth only served to strengthen my resolve.

As you probably read or heard, the youngster was hit on the side of the head by a slapshot during a midweek hockey game in Sharon and later died.

I realize it was just one of those crazy coincidences which, unfortunately, do happen in any walk of endeavour. It doesn't mean you rush out and ban everything.

Except that it wouldn't be a bad idea in this case. I'd be for doing away with slap shots period. Whether it be amateur hockey or professional.

NEW RULING

But especially minor hockey, all classifications. I'm informed that a new ruling does just this up to and including pee-wee. Not enough as that fatality on the weekend would indicate.

As for the pros and junior hockey players? I suppose it's up to them but I always shudder when I see some of those howitzer-like drives from the blueline that shave, and in some cases, clip defenders who for the most part still play without helmets. I suppose a tragedy is a tragedy no matter what age.

I don't believe in being over-protective to adults so it's up to them to get the message themselves. But minor hockey players should be where it all starts. Cut it out there, at all levels, and it'll soon die out in the pro ranks.

LOUSY SHOOTERS

Besides, how many good slapshooters are there around? For every half-decent one there are dozens who are as likely to ring the puck off the end wall, the rafters, or even themselves.

How many times in your average junior hockey game have you seen a defenceman get a puck at the blueline and go through his act. First he closes his eyes, lifts his stick toward the rafters and, finally, takes a mighty swing.

If he's lucky he might hit the endboards or the end-stands. He might even get it past the leg of a defenceman who, by this time, is practically on top of him.

GOALIE'S SAFE

The most relaxed guy in the rink is the goalie who knows the only likely thing he'll get is a cold from the passing breeze if the shooter manages to get it through a forest of heads.

Strictly a dumb shot in most cases and ineffective unless you're a Bobby Hull or Bobby Orr. No further

explanation needed.

The weekend incident reminded me of a conversation I had the other night with Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association president Jim Cade.

LIKES NEW RULE

Cade termed the new slapshot rule as a "tremendous and very welcome change for hockey at this level although most of our coaches have been applying the rule themselves for the past two seasons."

The new rule forbids a player raising his stick above the waist when shooting at the cost of being penalized.

"It's been very interesting during the exhibition games," said Cade, "what with all the wrist shots you see out there. It gives a player a lot more control with his shooting and that should mean more interesting hockey."

"It will also cut down on injuries due to high sticks," he said.

NOW MASKS

Another major rule in minor hockey this season is the mandatory use of full face-masks.

"This will also cut down the incidence of injuries to the facial area," he said.

Finally, tragedies aside, the average slapshot is mostly ineffective. And, like I said before, mostly dumb. What about it, coaches?

JUST NOTES

I'm happy to announce I didn't win the recent draw for a lifetime supply of heating insulation. If I had, I'd probably ended up stuffing it in my car to replace my non-functioning heater. Only kidding.

It says here that the Rosetown Insulation prize, as donated by Jim Stockall, was won by Valerie Hartnett of 420 Wenlock Road in Richmond Hill.

Congratulations Valerie. Sleep warm.

DANCE

A note from the Maple Minor Hockey Association regarding its Fall Face-off Dance on Friday, Nov. 4, at the Maple Community Hall on Keele Street in Maple.

Music will be supplied by "The Madhatters" with admission \$8 per couple plus bar, prizes, coffee (for the faint of heart). Proceeds will go to girls and boys hockey.

Tickets are available from Art Hills at 832-1057 or Bill Lawson, Ian West, John Plunkett, Gary Strangways, Frank Steele, Fred Cook, Jack Cober, Don West, Marg Legere, Linda Hudson, Doug Bice, Maple B.P., European Delicatessen.

And if someone asks me after this who you buy tickets from for the dance, well, I'll just scream. Finally, Yea Argos!

Late goal foils Rams

The struggling Richmond Hill Provincial Junior A Rams were 51 seconds away from their second straight win last Friday night against North York Rangers when the fates intervened.

North York scored and the Rams had to settle for yet another tie, their third in the first six games against one win. Final score, 6-6.

The same Rams had staged a magnificent comeback Tuesday night of last week to edge Markham Waxers 6-5 on their home lot.

TOUGH BREAK

It was a tough break Sunday night for Rams' goalie Mitch Lovelock who was putting together his second straight impressive showing.

"Just one of those things," said coach Ken "Satch" Brookes. "I thought we were in when a 40-foot shot in front of Mitch took a bad hop and that was it. Another tie."

The goal was fired by Don Rehill.

The Rams led 6-3 at one point in the final 20 minutes but a three-goal splurge by the Rangers ruined the evening.

2 FOR COLVILLE

Leading the offensive way for the Rams was Bill Colville who popped in his fourth and fifth goals of the season. The others went to Danny Jones (his

eighth), Mike Ham (his fourth), Phil Wood (his eighth), and Ken Elson (his second).

John Olds and Bill Stephenson picked up three assists each with the extras going to Paul Gallagher, two, newcomer Jeff Allan, Wood, and Garry Kruze.

For North York it was Scott Howson, Paul Coffey, Bob Millard, two, Dave

Wilson, and Rehill.

FAST START

The Rams were off to a fast start in the first period on goals by Jones and Ham only to have the Rangers tie it before the final buzzer.

It was the same fast start in the second with Rams scoring twice on goals by Colville, North York replying once, before Wood sailed one home.

Stanky, Mike Hartman on Bowling Green team

Two former stalwarts with the Provincial A Richmond Hill hockey Rams are expected to be mainstays with the Bowling Green State University team this season.

These are veteran Mike Hartman and rookie Brian Stankiewicz.

Hartman was an all-star centre with the Rams a few seasons ago while

goalie Stankiewicz will be fourth in goal-scoring trying to break into the with 73.

Stankiewicz is in a regular line-up after three-way battle with another ex-Provincial A

Hartman had 12 goals and 18 assists in half as a Bowling Green season last year before losing his eligibility.

After leading the team spots vacated by last-in scoring as a freshman and sophomore, he will enter the season ranked Jack Laine of Thornhill fifth in career-scoring who scored 20 goals last with 148 points. He is year.

The Rams even opened the scoring in the final 20 minutes on Elson's goal only to have the downfall follow.

IMPROVING

"We're starting to come around," said coach Brookes, "but we've still got some distance to go yet. At least we're tightening up defensively. You can't score five goals a game when you're getting seven against you."

Brookes was pleased with the solid play of goaltender Lovelock in the last two games.

"Mike's played well in the game Friday night except for being outlucked in that final one."

Also a pleasant surprise, a continuing one, is the play of Colville who has been setting up goals in fine fashion.

INJURIES

Injuries still continue to plague the Rams with Larry Kimble, Dave Campbell and Keith Yorke still out.

A plus was the addition of defenceman Jeff Allan who is en route to the Cincinnati pro camp.

"Jeff will only be with us for five games," said Brookes, "while he gets in shape after a knee injury. But he's here at the right time for us." Allan played with the Hull Major A's last season and was drafted by Cincinnati. The Rams are in Hamilton next Monday night.

32-team tourney

Oldtimers still perky

The Richmond Hill Oldtimers hockey team came up with an impressive albeit losing showing on the weekend in the 32-team Oldtimers Invitational hockey tournament at Thornhill Community Centre.

Richmond Hill, playing in the strong "B" division, downed Val Cartier 5-1 in the first game, lost the second one 2-0 to Gatineau, beat Balmy Beach 1-0, and then lost 6-2 to a powerful Burlington team in the semi-finals.

Burlington went on to edge Peterboro 3-2 to win the division championship.

CLOSE GAME

"We were close to Burlington most of the way," said Richmond Hill manager Merv Dunnett. "It was 3-2 until the last three minutes of the game when we collapsed. They poured in three goals." The game was tied 1-1 at the end of the first period.

Julian Cengarle and Larry Bray scored the Richmond Hill goals.

They opened their tournament play with a 5-1 win over Val Cartier.

Goal scorers were: Matt Kinarrri from Jim Barry; Guy Olmstead unassisted; Barry from Merv Dunnett on a shorthanded goal; and Eric McKee unassisted, another shorthanded goal; and Cengarle from Paul Carruthers on yet another shorthanded effort.

LOSE 2-0

They lost their second game to Gatineau 2-0 although they held a wide margin in the play.

"We just couldn't beat the Gatineau goalie," said Dunnett. "He was the best I've ever played against."

Richmond Hill bounced back from

that losing effort to blank Balmy Beach 1-0 on Cengarle's unassisted goal. Shutout went to goalie Jim Rich.

"That was actually our worst game of the tournament," said Dunnett. "When you play seven minutes with a man advantage, as we did, and don't score... well."

The win tied them with Val Cartier. Richmond Hill, as a result of earlier defeating the same team, moved into the semi-finals against Burlington.

GREAT TOURNEY

Dunnett, as did most other club members, enthused about the "terrific way the tournament was run. It was good, clean hockey all the way. Tough, but clean".

"We honestly felt we were just a trifle out of our calibre in the B division," he said, "but we were happy the way it went."

Big winners of the tournament were: Division A:

The semi-finals saw Agincourt edging Pickering 2-1 and Huntsville doing the same to the Italian A's. Huntsville then downed Agincourt 4-1 to skate off with the Carling O'Keefe trophy.

Division B:

Peterboro Purvey Petes downed CFB Valcartier, Que., 3-2 and Burlington, after downing Richmond Hill, won the championship over Peterboro.

Division C:

The semi-finals saw the Italian Old Romans edging Port Colborne 2-1; and Markham doing the same to Dorval. The Old Romans then edged Markham 4-3 in the finals.

Division D:

Wallaceburg blanked East Gwillimbury 2-0 in the semi-finals and Buckhorn edged St. Mike's 3-2. Wallaceburg won the championship with a 3-2 win over Buckhorn.

Some of the better-known oldtimers

on hand included Dick Duff (who appeared for the first game with Kirkland Lake), Jack Bionda and Randy Ellis (Ron Ellis's father) who scored two goals in one game with Huntsville.

Move over, Ron.



Ugh!

Ugh. Looks like it might be close. Richmond Hill Oldtimer's goalie Jim Rich has that uncertain look as the puck sails ominously toward the goal during last weekend's Oldtimers tournament at Thornhill. Oh well, it's all in the game.