



St. Robert's Catholic High School hockey coach Mike Burkart (left) gives some early season pointers to members of his team which is the only high school hockey squad in the region. Left to right are Mike Darby and Kevin O'Brien of Thornhill; Ken Main and Randy DePiero of Richmond Hill; Steve Tschipper and Ed Freibauer of Thornhill.

# High school hockey is tops at St. Robert's High School

It's easy to be the best high school hockey team in the Region of York when you're the only one. But St. Robert's High School's squad could very well be the best no matter how many teams were operating in the area. "It's almost like we have an all-star hockey team," comments Mike Burkart as he readies to enter his team's second year of operation in the prestigious Toronto and District Catholic School league. "We draw minor league players from Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Unionville and Markham," said Burkart, "and most of them are top quality stars in their leagues."

Returning for his second year will be goalie Tonko Ilnat of Thornhill who, says Burkart, is "one of the best young goalies around. He's excellent and we expect a lot from him this season." Also lining up with the team when it opens its season November 13 will be centremen Steve Tschipper, Thornhill; wingers Edward Freibauer, Richmond Hill; Jim Gourlay, Thornhill; and Randy DePiero of Richmond Hill.

Defencemen will include Ken Main and Mike Hegenaur of Richmond Hill, and Mike Darby of Thornhill. Burkart "because it was our first year and we didn't expect too much. Now the youngsters are a year older and we've also added some other top-flight members."

OPTIMISTIC "I'm very optimistic about our chances this year," said Burkart. "I figure we'll be in the top three." Burkart added that he was surprised by the general calibre of hockey at the high school level although "I realize I shouldn't have been."

"I think hockey is a great game for a youngster and I'd like to do my part in its gaining popularity," said Burkart. "There's nothing I'd like better to see other high schools in the area get into hockey." In the meanwhile, St. Robert's will be going against such Toronto teams as DaLaSalle, Neil McNeil, Father Henry Carr, Cardinal Newman, Brebeuf, and Don Bosco. And going very well, hopes Burkart. St. Robert's will play its home games again this season at the Thornhill Community Centre rink on Mondays from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

## Some pointers

### Win, tie for juves but also lose three

The Richmond Hill Epic Realty Juveniles have managed a win, a tie and three losses to date in their York Simcoe hockey schedule. They opened their season losing 2-1 to Newmarket and then outscored Barrie 4-3 in a penalty-filled game with Epic scoring three goals while playing shorthanded.

Reeves from Majury; and Pleischberger from Terry Thorsell and Majury. Epic came from behind to tie Newmarket 2-2. Richmond Hill's goals came in the third with three minutes left in the game courtesy of Steve Bowers. Assists went to Gossman and Buchan.

The Barrie game saw Jim Majury getting the first goal in the first period. The middle session saw Al Clark making it 2-0 with Joel Reeves assisting on the shorthanded goal.

With one minute to go in the game it was Reeves getting the big goal from Thorsell and Majury.

Barrie scored two fast goals to tie the game but Joel Reeves put Epic ahead 3-2 with another shorthanded goal with Reiner Pleischberger and Al Clark assisting. Mark Gossman made it 4-2 when he also scored while playing shorthanded with Bruce Buchan and goalie Ted Inch getting assists. Barrie scored the only goal in the third period. The Orillia encounter saw a Richmond Hill team, weakened through injuries, lose 6-2. Mark Gossman was out with sore ribs, R. Hughes with a separated shoulder and G. Bubeloff with a broken thumb. Scoring for Epic was Joel Reeves from Tom Stubbs; and Stubbs from Reeves. Epic lost a 4-2 game to Aurora as the winners moved into a 4-0 lead before the Hill could get on the board with goals by



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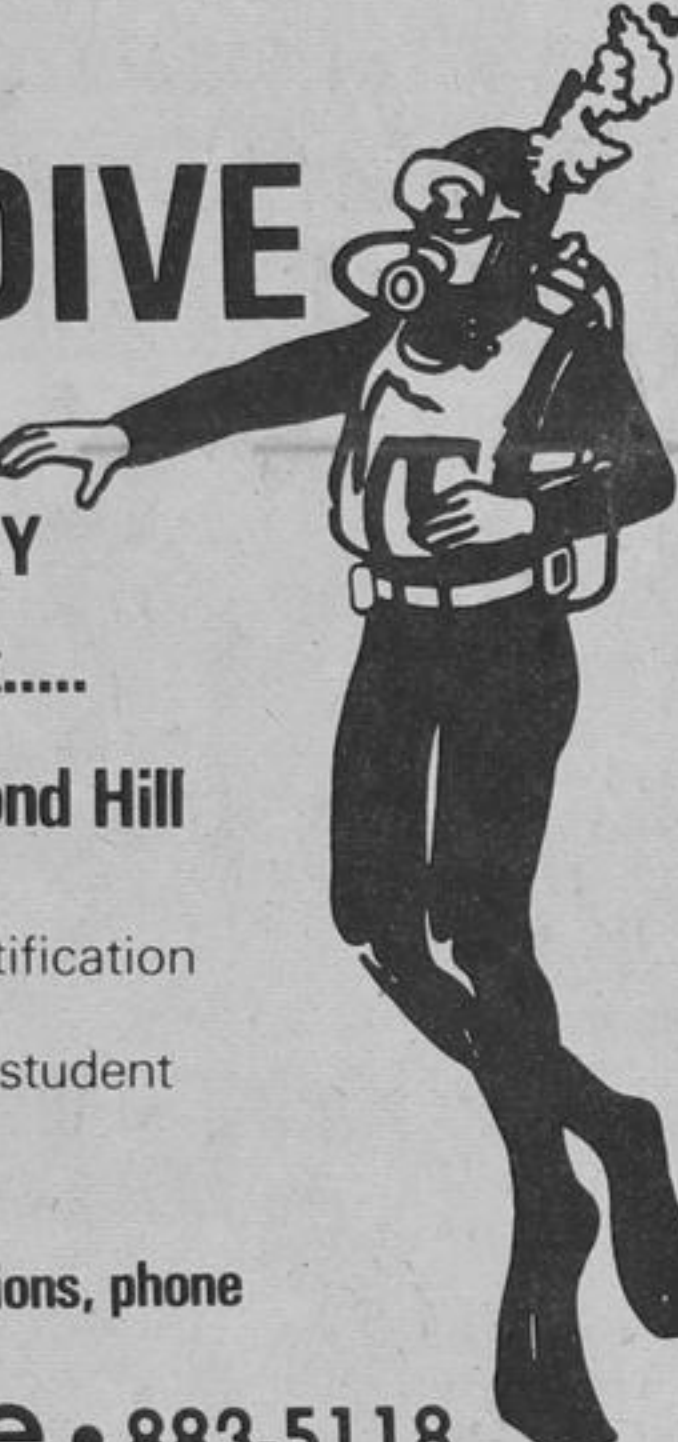
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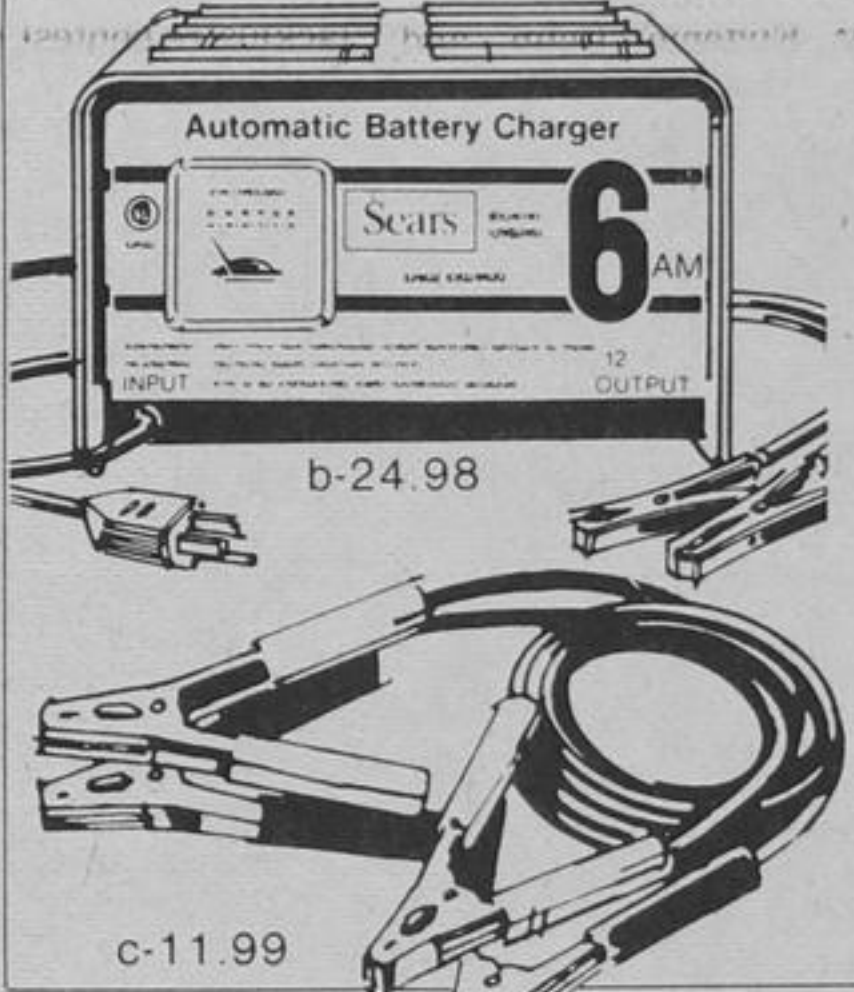
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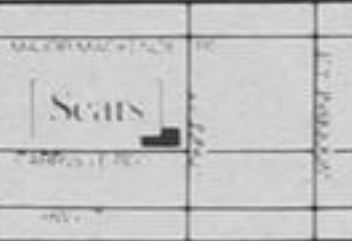
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