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Wednesday, February 21, 1979

It's bye, bye Richmond Hill Rams

It was small consolation but the 1978-79 edition of the Richmond Hill Provincial Junior A Rams closed their regular schedule with a victory.

By 7-5 over the lowly, or lowlier, Mount Hamilton squad. The Rams had earlier eliminated themselves from the playoffs by losing 7-4 to North York Rangers in a "must" win Tuesday night of last week.

Ironically enough, the final schedule shows Aurora Tigers sneaking into the eighth and final playoff spot by a mere three points. In other words, if the Rams had won their final two games they'd be preparing for the playoffs today.

DISAPPOINTED
 "Sure I'm disappointed," said general manager Sil Steffan in a post-season postmortem, "but you have to be philosophical about these things."

"It kind of amuses me to see just what a goal here and not a goal there would have done for us this year," he said. "We tied seven games over the season and missed the playoffs by just three points. That tells the story."

Steffan came up with a much-used word to describe the Rams' plight this past season. "Inconsistency," he said, "That killed us along with, of course, our goals against average. We failed at the one thing we started out determined to do this season. Cut down on our goals against average."

Steffan also pointed to an inexperienced defence as another drawback. We just didn't have that big guy back there, a take-charge guy. We knew we needed him but we just couldn't come up with him."

NEXT YEAR
 Steffan assured he wasn't

knocking "the young guys we had out there like Mark Lang, Ed Gundert, Randy McDonald and Jeff Joslin. This was their first year in junior competition and it takes awhile to adjust."

"But I hope they'll be back next season and the experience should make quite a difference."

Steffan was also unhappy about "our goaltending situation

although we have a couple of promising kids like Rick Warren and Sean McGuirk. It was just too much to ask for them to play like veterans every game. Again, they did pick up valuable experience."

Another drawback was the changeover in coaches during the season.

The Rams started out with Ken Brookes, who resigned, added Bob Wall, who resigned, and finished the year out with Steffan and Doug Webster handling the reins.

"Undoubtedly all the changes in coaching didn't help the club," said Steffan. "It's something I'm hoping to avoid next season."

NEW RECORD

Perhaps the only real bright spot in the 1978-79 season was the establishing of a new club scoring record by Paul Gallagher who accumulated 101 points off 38 goals and 63 assists.

The old record was 99 points set a few seasons ago by Craig Terry. In second place was local product Phil Wood with 75 points

(41 goals, 34 assists), Bill Coville 70 points (26 and 44); and Danny Jones, 20 goals and 36 assists.

The final game goals by Gallagher, Bill Hanlon, Danny Jones, two, Dan Carlton, Dryl Marchant and Ken Elson.

In the previous game it was Mike Donnelly, Gallagher, Terry Thorsell, and Jones.



It's Milton against the world in this scene as the Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers swarm to the attack Monday night with Brent Dobson (7) about ready to take deadly aim for the open corner. The Jewellers won the game 8-5 to take a 2-1 lead in the series. (Photo by Hogg)

Gets crowded

Jeweller's lead series 2-1

The Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers were expected to win their best-of-seven Junior B playoff series with Milton.

They are winning but it hasn't been a walk-away.

The Jewellers downed Milton 8-5 Monday night at Bond Lake Arena to take a 2-1 lead in the series. They opened with a 7-2 victory in Milton last Friday night and then lost 8-7 at Bond Lake Saturday night in a basketball game.

"We've never taken Milton all that lightly," commented assistant coach Hal Murphy. "They finished down in the standings but they were coming on strong at the end. And they did beat us once during the season." Despite the respect, Murphy feels the Jewellers have the upper hand.

GOOD GOALIE

"Their goalie Rod Sachs has been super-spectacular. We've outshot them double in the games but he's been a major problem for us despite the number of goals we've been getting."

Perhaps "pests" is the best word to describe the spunky Milton team.

"We keep scoring and they keep coming back," said Murphy.

Monday night's encounter saw the Jeweller's spot Milton the lead twice in the first period but come back to lead 3-2 going into the second period on goals by Craig Halliday, Brent Dobson and Len Hachborn.

The Jewellers took control early in the second on goals by Dobson and Taylor only to have Milton bounce back with two of its own.

Blair Lewis got one of those

back at 18:06 from John Murphy to put Dynes in front 6-4 going into the final 20 minutes.

Milton tried to make the situation touchy on a goal by Eric Ellison early in the session but the Jewellers turned it on with Taylor scoring his second and third goals of the night to send the crowd home happy.

The line of Taylor-Glen Wright and Larry Beelik stood out for the Jewellers throughout the game

along with Dobson.

Saturday night's shootout saw Milton taking advantage of some shaky Oak Ridges netminding scoring eight goals on only 20 shots. Steve Lattimer and Al Heisey shared the twines.

The score was a rather mild 2-2 at the end of the first period but Milton popped in four goals to Dynes one to lead 6-3 going into the third.

Dynes fought back with four

goals in the third but Milton managed two to go home with the victory.

Cam Reston led the Jewellers' sharpshooters in this one with three goals with Dobson getting two and singles to Hachborn and Kevin Johnstone.

The 7-2 conquest saw the Jewellers in command most of the way outshooting the opposition 57-31. Hachborn led the assault with two goals, one a

shorthanded effort, along with Wright who popped two. Singles went to Dobson, Halliday and Earl Eamond.

NEXT

The Jewellers are in Milton Friday night and back home Saturday night for what they hope will be the wrap-up game.

If another game is required it will be Sunday night in Milton and, if another, Monday night at Bond Lake.

Starts March 19

Big tourney on way

It'll be business as usual come March 19 when the Richmond Hill Annual International Midget Hockey Tournament opens shop for its 12th straight year.

A week later one of 32 competing teams will be crowned the grand champions of the double knockout tournament.

Teams competing will be the Richmond Hill Legion Midgets, Thornhill, Niagara Falls, Brampton, St. Catharines, Peterborough, Oakridge (London), Oakville, North York, Brantford, Barrie, St. Claire Shore, Fraser, Michigan, Owen Sound, Welland, Sudbury Lions, Cornwall, Sydney, N.S., Detroit Adray, Kingston, Ottawa, Valley East, Sarnia, Sudbury Police, Ottawa Canadians, Detroit Caesars, Gloucester, Chicago, Gatineau, Leveack, and Thunder Bay. Standby teams will be

Burlington and Toronto Marlies.

The tournament opens March 19 with a 9 a.m. game between Don Mills and Thornhill.

Richmond Hill plays Fraser, Michigan, at 7:30 on the same date.

The B championship will take

place the following Saturday at 6 p.m. and the A championship at 8:30 p.m.

Grand championship day will be Sunday with game time at 2 p.m.

An innovation this season will be the presentation of Bulova

watches to each member of the grand championship team.

The tournament will be operated by Tournaments Incorporated in co-operation with the Richmond Hill Legion, Branch 375.

President is Marsh Amos.

Hill bowler shines

Twelve-year-old Glenn Gadsby of Richmond Hill came up with one of his best 10-Pin bowling efforts ever last Saturday when he finished second in the YBC Four Steps to Stardom Eastern Ontario finals at Scarborough.

Gadsby, who bowls out of Pro Bowl of Richmond Hill, made his

fine showing in the Ontario Boys Division for youngsters 12 to 14 years.

Glenn, who lives at 10 Colesbrooke Road, finished second as he compiled 536 points (for three games) just 60 shy of the winner.

He bowled 154 in his first game, 191 in his second and 191 in this

third game. He was competing against 30 other competitors.

Gadsby will now join two other bowlers in the provincial finals March 10 at Brunswick Mississauga Bowl in Mississauga.

It was especially impressive for Pro Bowl which is only in its second year of operation.



fred simpson

Goodbye Rams

By the time February rolls around I usually start wailing about it being a long winter. I came through on schedule again this year except that I suddenly realized it could be a short one for our local hockey clubs.

As of writing, the Richmond Hill Provincial A hockey Rams have already made their contribution to the early arrival of Spring by bowing out of post-season playoffs for the second straight season.

And things don't look very promising for the Thornhill Central Ontario Junior B Thunderbirds who (again as of writing) are verging on playoff oblivion trailing Burlington three games to none.

Which, at the junior hockey level anyway, leaves us the Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers as our only hope. The Jewellers are currently locked in a playoff with Milton and should win that one. But don't quote me.

The problem, of course is, they probably will eventually have to meet either Burlington, Oakville or, horrors, the big bad team from Streetsville.

DREAMER

I'm daydreaming but it would be a dramatic way to end a hockey season if the Jewellers got to meet Streetsville in the finals and just managed to beat them. Slap, slap my face. Wake up, Fred.

Time to get back to reality. More on the Jewellers next week as their series gets really rolling with Milton and I hope it's good news.

Right now it's time to get caught up on some left-over notes and such and, heavens, even a mild correction.

CORRECTION

Last week's headline in "The Liberal" caused some consternation in Oak Ridges circles. It read something like "Lake Wilcox Public School" winning the Grade 6 Public School hockey championship.

Tsk, tsk. The story had it right in Oak Ridges Public School winning it. As for the headline? Blame it on February. It should have read Oak Ridges.

BROOMBALL

While we're at it, we also forgot to mention that the Richmond Hill Fire Fighters won the broomball championship at the annual Richmond Hill Winter Carnival. Sorry fellows. Now that I've made amends I wish you'd get a taller ladder. I live pretty high and you never know.

RAMS

What else have we here before we head for shelter. Back to the Richmond Hill Rams again.

I don't think it's any secret that the Rams are badly in need of finances this year (so am I, for that matter) so what follows is very important.

The Town of Richmond Hill Hockey League has put together an all star team and they'll be going against the Rams March 10 at the local arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

This should be a study in nostalgia because quite a number of the Town league players are ex-Rams themselves and that bodes for rivalry. They've got some top players in the town loop and it should be quite a battle. Get out and help the Rams. They need you.

Let's see, where are we now.

RINGETTE

Oh yes, it seems that Ringette hockey is never destined to get off the ground or on the ice in Richmond Hill. That exhibition game slated for March 17 at Richmond Hill has been cancelled. Oh well, maybe next season? It's a great game for girls and you girls should get with it.

Finally, a note re the Dynes hockey club. The Jewellers will be holding a dance next Saturday after the hockey game with Milton. They hope it will be a victory dance.

It gets underway after the game (which is at 8 p.m.) so come along, watch the game, and then do your thing at Bond Lake Arena. It's only \$1 per person and you're all welcome. Cheer the Jewellers on.

WAXERS

For you people who CAN'T bear to live without your accustomed diet of Provincial Junior A hockey:

Coach Carl Brimblecombe and his Markham Waxers will be playing off with Guelph in a best-of-seven series. Home games at Markham Centennial Arena will be next Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; and the following Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Waxers have well-known local players in their line-up such as Chris and Harold DeGeer and Dale Roffey.