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Wednesday, August 29, 1979

Rams' Steffan juggles hats



SIL STEFFAN
Buys Rams

By FRED SIMPSON
 Richmond Hill Provincial Junior A hockey Rams' general manager Sil Steffan has added another hat to his title. That of owner along with three or four other silent partners. "It hasn't exactly been a secret that the club has been in financial troubles for the past five years," Steffan told the Liberal. "Things just reached a head last year. And it hasn't been a secret that the Rams came perilously close to non-existence this season until Steffan's move in the 11th hour. The previously community-owned non-profit Rams are still a considerable distance away from that light at the end of the tunnel but Steffan is reasonably con-

fident that a light does exist. "I think a junior hockey club like the Rams has a lot to contribute to a community like Richmond Hill," said Steffan. "My attitude is the same as it always been. I want to keep the Rams in town and provide a spot for good local players who have come up through the minor hockey chain."

SIDE LOCALS
 Steffan maintains his object this year, as in other years, will be to "stock our line-up with as many local hockey players as possible and then flesh in a few

key areas with outside help as required." Steffan brought out yet another hat when he announced that he'd "do some of the coaching this season" although he'll share it with newcomer Ray Floyd. "Ray is a very knowledgeable hockey man," said Steffan, "and he has his Level 4 coaching certificate. He has agreed to help me coach."

NO ROSE GARDEN
 Steffan isn't promising anyone a rose-garden this season but he feels "we have enough talent around to be a very represen-

tative team in the Provincial A if we can fill some key positions." The Rams' have already invited some 20 local players to their regular camp which is being held every week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at the Hill Arena. One thing the club will be this season: **STRESS DISCIPLINE**. "We'll be a well-disciplined outfit," said Steffan, "and we'll stick to hockey. None of this fighting and brawling. We don't need any nuts on the club. "Win or lose I want the club to be a worthy representative of

Richmond Hill both on and off the ice. I'm not saying we'll be a panty-waist outfit. I want a tough club but one that sticks to playing hockey." Having said all this the one big problem remains. **NEED PEOPLE**. How to get people into the arena to watch the Rams. "Somehow we have to acquire a fan following of considerable proportions," admits Steffan. "You can't exist on empty seats. And the only way you do this is by providing interesting hockey. A hoped for competitive club, and by promotion. I'd like to see us

promote individual players and their skills more than just the club per se. We have to build up a following." The Rams' future is strictly in the hands of the hockey spectator. **LAST HURRAH!** If things go the way they have in the past few years 1979-80 could be the Rams' last hurrah. Steffan and Company hope not. The Rams open their exhibition schedule September 4 at North York and are at home September 7 and 8 to Markham and North York.



fred simpson

Pfft

It looks like I've blown another summer. Pfft. Gone with the wind. Labor Day Weekend is dead ahead and I've done absolutely nothing constructive with summer for what must be the 20th straight season.

I didn't even get to take my annual jaunt to Bobcaygeon this summer. No, no, I haven't got a summer home there or a yacht. I usually pack a couple Sandwich Spread sandwiches, a bottle of wine, and get there early so I can grab a public bench in the park by the river.

After awhile I get in the mood to start jeering and waving my fist at all those sleek, trim symbols of decadent society sailing by. They wave back thinking I'm a pleasant soul. I guess they're nice people.

Anyway, I hope the birds are looking after my bench like they usually do. I might even get there in September if we get a warm spell.

BLAH

Who knows? It's been that type of summer. Nothing much to cheer about what with our senior ball teams struggling along in somewhat futile efforts to make even the playoffs.

Whatever happened to those salad days of yesteryear when Labor Day Weekend invariably meant a trip to the Canadian fastball finals to watch the old Dynes Jewellers win another championship? Ah well, everything changes.

RAY OF HOPE

But there is one bright ray of hope coming up September 15 in Oak Ridges. They tell me they're going to have a big fun-day involving a T-Ball tournament, donkey baseball, a carnival, and a, uh, a beer garden.

Could be a great day. It's being put on by the Oak Ridges Minor Ball Association with all proceeds going toward payment of equipment needed for teams in the future.

I'm especially interested in that donkey baseball game that's going to be staged. I've never seen a donkey baseball game but I hear they're lots of fun. I can hardly wait. More on this next week.

Since there is nothing much to talk about summer, I'd better slip into a winter pastime which will be going on in Richmond Hill this year.

RINGETTE HOCKEY

It's none other than "Ringette Hockey" for the girls which will take place at the Richmond Hill Arena for a two-hour period every Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Arena Administrator Ed Sackfield and Darlene Harrison will be the moving forces behind Ringette hockey and they are enthusiastic about it to the verge of being fanatical.

LOVE IT

States Ed: "I just know the girls will love it if they come out and see what it's all about. It's the rage in many areas throughout the country."

I confess I still don't know what Ringette hockey is about except you play it on skates and they use hockey sticks with the blades sawed-off. The puck, or disk, is a doughnut-type thing with a hole in the centre of it. And there's no body contact. Something like floor hockey I guess.

"We registered 12 girls last year," said Ed, "and we need from 42 to 60 girls this season to make up a four-team house league. I don't think we'll have any problems getting them."

REGISTRATION

On that note, Ed announces there will be a registration day for Ringette hockey next Thursday in the old Hill Arena from 7 to 9 p.m. They want girls from 10 to 18 years of age. The cost is \$40 and that includes a free pass to all minor hockey games for the season as well as the opportunity to attend a Ringette hockey clinic.

The clinic will be held on the same day of the registration at the same times so drop around and see what it is all about.

"I'd like to see the girls just drop around and see what Ringette hockey is all about on that day," states Ed. "Even if they're not interested now I'm sure they will be after."

Miss Harrison will handle the hockey end of it and she's well-qualified having attended several clinics and courses and so on.

She's enthusiastic too:

FOR GIRLS

"This is a game designed strictly for the girls who enjoy physically demanding sports but don't want to get into rough stuff that sometimes goes with hockey."

Sackfield, incidentally, is looking for sponsors for the four teams. Anyone interested is asked to call the arena at 884-1368, or Darlene at 884-5139.



Happiness is Mister Eat-Well's Jeremy Friedberg who has just hit a bases-loaded homerun in championship T-Ball tournament at Richvale Saturday afternoon. Alas, Jeremy's team went on to lose the final against Richvale Block 33-28. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

Wilson's lose out in Bulova

The Richmond Hill Wilson Niblett fastball team bowed out of the annual CNE Bulova Watch Tournament last week on a somewhat milk note.

They dropped a 4-0 game to the Hamilton Waxers who went on to win the gold watches.

Ed Neudorf was just too hot to handle for the Niblett squad as he set them down with just one hit while striking out 11 batters and walking none.

In the meanwhile, Hamilton was pecking at loser Paul Wannamaker for six hits. Wannamaker walked one batter and struck out two.

The Hill team was victim of a somewhat unlikely stroke of misfortune in the third inning when Bob Christie singled with one out and was sacrificed to second.

Wannamaker tried to deliberately walk Neudorf but one of his pitches was too close to the plate and the batter reached out and slapped a double to score Christie.

Wannamaker then walked Brian Ostrosser and Ab Henshaw followed with a homerun.

Colin Wood got Richmond Hill's only hit in the second inning. Terry O'Krafnka was the only other Wilson batter to reach first. He was hit by a pitch.

The Niblett team has already been eliminated from the Ontario Fastball League playoffs but still has to play out at least some of their schedule with those teams still in contention of a playoff berth.

They will be competing in a Labor Day tournament in Barrie and that will likely end their season.

Soccer skills at Hillcrest

The Richmond Hill Minor Mosquitoes' soccer team will be helping Hillcrest Mall celebrate its fifth anniversary tomorrow (Thursday).

They will be presenting 'Mini-Soccer' in company with Canadian Soccer Skills champions' Tom Foy of Oakville (under 14 division), and Don Morrison from Brampton (under 16 division). The latter two will be displaying their remarkable skills.

This will be the final appearance of the twosome before they leave for the world championships in Japan and the Richmond Hill Minor Soccer Club wishes the Canadian champions the best of luck in their quest for world honors.

Also, their thanks and appreciation to Gord Barry, Jim Hubay and Coca Cola for making the soccer demonstrations possible.

Playoff time in Men's fastball

By DAVE BARBOUR

The Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League playoffs begin tonight (Wednesday) with first place Town Auto Body going against Kinnear Leasing at Crosby Park at 7 p.m. A second game follows with Hill Auto Body meeting Barrow's Insurance. Another doubleheader will go Friday night at Crosby and then the following Wednesday.

Town Auto Body clinched first place as they flattened Barrow's Insurance 5-0, as Wilf Diceman tossed another two-hit shutout.

Offensively, doubles by Steve Black and Rob Hartnett accounted for two runs. Cliff Hartnett banged in brother Barry and the others resulted from Barrow errors.

Luke Lefevre was the losing pitcher, with relief from Al Underhill.

Kinnear Leasing and Jack Blyth Real Estate, the two fourth place candidates, met in a head-on clash which ended in a scoreless tie.

This pitcher's duel saw Jim Cook of Blyth, throw a three-hitter, and Kinnear's Dave Berseht yielding just five hits.

In the second game of a doubleheader for Blyth the team from Lake Wilcox, drew within a point of Kinnear with a 6-5 win over Linear Sound and Video.

Doug Farrell blasted a three-run homer in the third erasing a Linear lead, and Gary Russell singled in two runs including the winner. For Linear, Phil Skinner walked twice, had an rbi and scored twice, once, as Rob Mitchell singled and scored on a three-base boot.

On the rubber, Lenny Hughes bested Brian Madeley.

Linear Sound slammed shut the last place door on Pizza Press with a 5-3 victory.

Phil Bellavance knocked in a pair of runs for the winners, Steve Cyr and Craig Shuttleworth each had an rbi. Terry Haviland slammed a pair of solo home run shots in a losing cause. Gerry Caume banged home the other.

Craig Shuttleworth tossed a three-hitter at Town Auto Body in the final scheduled game for both clubs, enroute to a 3-2 Linear win.

Phil Skinner doubled in manager Dave Barbour, who was pressed into action as the team was short-handed, and Dave Walker. Shuttleworth banged in the first run. For Town, it was Jim Henderson homering with Rod Chapman on base. Rob Clephan the losing pitcher.

History notes: Barrow's Insurance dates back to St. Mary's Anglican Church, and Kinnear Leasing to the Thornhill Presbyterian Church team, which was founded by Bruce Stevens, presently with the Jack Blyth team. See standings.

	W	L	T	PS
Town Auto Body	17	7	0	34
Barrow's Insurance	14	6	2	30-
Richmond Hill Auto Body	14	8	2	30++
Kinnear Leasing	10	9	4	24
Jack Blyth Real Estate	11	11	1	23
Linear Sound and Video	6	16	2	14++
Pizza Press	3	18	3	9++

++ final standing and final position. + final position.



"..... if he can do it, so can I," might be what Lorrie Ball is thinking as she prepares to take a mighty whack at the poor unsuspecting ball in Richvale T-Ball tournament Saturday. See B-2 (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).