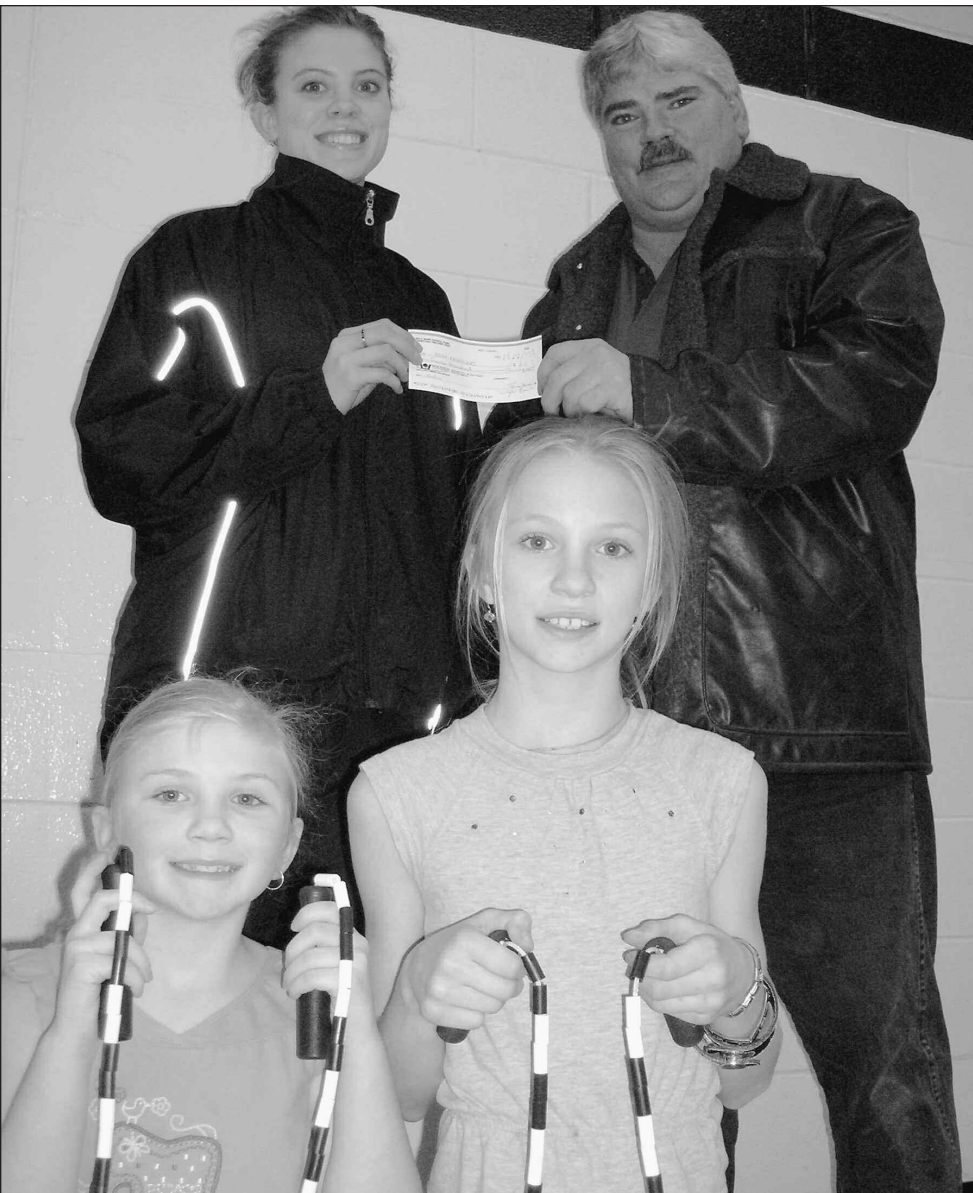


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CASH FOR SKIPPERS – Essex Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Terry Ducharme, top right, donates a cheque for \$700 last week to Essex Energizers coach Melissa Allsop, top left. The money was raised in December during the K of C's fish fry event at Holy Name Parish Hall. The Energizers, a skipping group for youngsters from all across Essex County, have about 30 members ages eight to 25. Members Abby Erwied, 8, and Emile Erwied, 11, are pictured below.



**Midget Major
CAW Club 200**

On January 26 game three against LaSalle was anything but easy. The boys knew they had to come out with a bang and take control. In the first period they did just that with two goals by Brad Quinlan and one each from Spencer Woltz and Paul Cote. Assists going to Spencer Woltz, Tyler Montcolm and Tyler Campbell. Essex completely dominated the first period, shutting out LaSalle. Then the parade to the penalty box began. As tough as it was to stay out of the box Brad Quinlan made it look easy to score a “hat

trick” with one more goal. LaSalle answered back with one goal. The second period ended 5-1 for Essex and LaSalle did not like that. LaSalle came out in the third with a vengeance and had something to prove. They took advantage of our penalties and racked up three goals bringing what Essex thought an easy win to a struggle to keep the lead. But with steady Chris Zelko in net you could see he did not want to lose. Essex eliminated LaSalle after three games. Final score 5-4 Essex. Good job guys!

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1-year suspensions upheld for 73's coaches

By DANIEL SCHWAB

An Ontario Hockey Association appeals committee upheld its decision Friday to suspend Essex 73's head coach and general manager Tony Piroski and assistant coach Lee Jones for one year following an appeal Jan. 17.

The decision was based on an incident that took place Nov. 14 after a 73's overtime loss to the Wallaceburg Lakers, where Piroski and Jones were involved in a verbal confrontation with referee Ryan Renaud.

After the game, the coaches were each given seven game suspensions. On Jan. 5, the OHA handed down a supplementary suspension to both coaches, charging them with gross misconduct and abuse of an official.

Piroski and Jones both promptly filed appeals.

Essex lawyer Joe Byrne was hired to represent Piroski, who has maintained since the incident that he did

not verbally or physically threaten or attack Renaud.

In an e-mail statement issued Monday, Piroski expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision of the appeals committee.

“The length of the suspension is, in my opinion, unduly harsh given that I was involved in a verbal disagreement that was not physical in nature,” Piroski said. “Verbal disagreements, while regrettable, do not merit one-year suspensions.”

Piroski went on to say he is uncertain about whether or not he will file another appeal.

Jones also said he is unsure about a second appeal at this time, but said he felt the decision was “too harsh.”

“I'm disappointed,” Jones said. “I was planning on coaching my two kids playing travel hockey next year. But you've got to go with the decision. It's out of my hands, I guess.”

In another media release from the 73's executive

board signed by secretary Don Fuerth, the hockey club expressed its disapproval with both the decision and the length of time it took the OHA to hand down the original decision and the amount of time before Piroski was given the chance to file an appeal.

OHA president Brent Ladds said similar incidents in the past have resulted in coaches being banned from behind the player's bench.

“It's not without precedent,” Ladds said. “For an altercation with a ref or general inappropriate behaviour some suspensions have been handed out that are even a bit longer than that.”

With the suspensions, Piroski and Jones will be banned from all Hockey Canada related programs until Nov. 14, 2007.

Byrne said the appeals committee understood that Piroski was not involved in any physical contact with the referee.

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