

Bruce Hood book launching is this Sunday

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emotion carried the day, which was noble, but it may have clouded the real lesson.
The Russians were more skillful. A loss in the series, he argues in his book — called *The Good of the Game: Recapturing Hockey's Greatness* — would have led to much more soul searching over our national pastime.
"We would have discovered," he writes, "that we needed to emphasize skating, stickhandling, and playmaking, rather than allowing our players to simply employ the bullying tactics that have become such a predominant part

of our game."
It's Hood's second book, his first one — called *Calling the Shots* — was a national bestseller, selling more than 40,000 copies, both with Murray Townsend.
Hood believes a turn-around in our level of excellence must begin with minor hockey.
"We're being left behind because of our emphasis on tough, physical play. What we're producing primarily are third and fourth line checkers, and enforcers."
"By the time kids graduate to junior hockey, the sport only gets more violent. Skating and play making take

back seat to slashing, holding and brawling."
Hood draws upon his lengthy career as one of the top NHL refs. The first to handle more than 1,000 games, Hood took part in the 'glory years' of the Original Six and was there when the league expanded in what he calls "the goon" years of hockey.
The book also provides a prescription for making the game great again.
The public is invited to the official book launching this Sunday (Dec. 12), 2:30-4 p.m. at the Chapters in the Erin Mills Power Centre at 3050 Vega Boulevard (north of Hwy. 5 at the 403).

Q.E. Park cross country season gearing up - again

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the Olympics.
Most of the countries who do participate fall into three categories, said Camani. At the one extreme, he said, are those that make it the cornerstone of their high school sports programs. At the other extreme are those who view it as more of a cultural experience.
Canada, said Camani, falls in the middle category, trying to take advantage of both the competitive and cultural aspects of the multi-national competition.
He firmly believes in the ideals of the organization — bringing the world's youth together in the hopes of one day forging a more harmonious world.
At the same time, it's also a prestigious, international competition.
And his team will be working hard all winter, he said, with the goal of having each one of them achieve in Morocco, an emphatic personal best time.
Where their personal best times will ultimately fit in, in terms of international standings, is secondary.
Traditionally strong in cross country, Q.E. Park expressed an interest to take on the international assignment and were selected by OFSAA.
Camani's toughest task may well come on January 1st. That's when he has to declare his six-man team. Trouble is, he has seven good people.
In a way, though, it will make the job easier, because he can base the decision "strictly on performance — they're all great kids."
The competitors include James Kozak, Richard Garton, Paul Reynard and Bob McDonald from the junior boys team and Kyle Jones, Cam Shepherd and Filip Prostran from the midget team.
Included, here, are their results from both the recent G-HAC and OFSAA meets.
The boys midget and boys team finished 14th and 16th, respectively at OFSAA.
The best result at OFSAA — and the only top-10 finish by an Oakville athlete — was Kyle Jones in ninth place. At the G-HAC meet he was fourth.

Of interest, Kyle Jones had previously beaten OFSAA champion Pete Thorson at an Octoberfest run on a much hillier course (than OFSAA), noted coach Camani.
"He's quite capable."
This year's surprise, he said, had to be James Kozak "who came out of the blue" to finish second at the G-HAC meet.
The others have a lot of potential, too, noted coach Camani, especially considering that many had much more on their plate than cross country. To prepare for the upcoming prestigious international competition, the team members are basically dedicating themselves (or in some cases re-dedicating themselves), over the next several months to focus primarily on cross country training.
Here's the line on the athletes.
MIDGET
KYLE JONES ... 9th at OFSAA (18:35) ... 4th at G-HAC (17:18)
CAM SHEPHERD ... 90th at OFSAA (20:20) ... 19th at G-HAC (19:13)
FILIP PROSTRAN ... 149th at OFSAA (21:17) ... 26th at G-HAC (19:27)
JUNIOR
RICHARD GARTON ... 61st at OFSAA (22:53) ... 8th at G-HAC (21:35)
BOB MCDONALD ... 97th at OFSAA (23:27) ... 21st at G-HAC (22:50)
JAMES KOZAK ... 113th at OFSAA (23:41) ... 2nd at G-HAC (20:35)
PAUL REYNARD ... 119th at OFSAA (23:49) ... 13th at G-HAC (22:06)

Blades host Mississauga Friday

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second periods, respectively.
UPCOMING
The Oakville Blades are at home on Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., against the Mississauga Chargers and it's their last home game until the New Year.
They remain busy on the road, however, in Georgetown on Saturday, in Milton next Friday (Dec. 17) and in Hamilton on Monday, Dec. 20.

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