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Playoff champions

Novice

Schell Lumber, Novice A champs. From left to right: coach John Lorimer, Ian Simms, Tommy Lawson, Billy Buchanan, Roger McMann, Michael Lavell and coach Doug Gornall. Back row: David Ritchie, Micheal Underwood, Jeremy Lason, Paul Lorimer, Jesse Gornall and Eric Coates.

Atom

Farmer Jack's, Atom champs. Front row from left to right: Shayne Wilcox, Jody Infanari, Shawn Gilbert, Matthew Wall, Daniel Wall and David Robichaud. Back row: coach William Cargill, Peter Toms, Glen Hathaway, coach Doug Wall, Kevin Cargill, Dave Bull and coach Joe Infanari.

Peewee

Apache, peewee champs. Front row from left to right: Bryan Paterson, Shawn Beatty, Shawn Delorme, Garry McGorman, Rick Hainswang and Jeff Patterson. Back row: Jasen Hollin, Kelly McGinty, Mike Lattner, Brent Johnson and Jamie Forfar. Missing: Matt McKnight, coach Bill McKnight and manager Bernie McGinty.

Bantam

Betz Pools, bantam champs. Front row from left to right: Allen Napper Jr., Jason Stewart, Rob Steth, Simon Pockle. Back row: Coach Doug Blizzard, Travis Davis, Coach Rob McDonald, Derrick Ward, Bill Butler.

Minor ball associates itself with Claremont

By Brian Kirlik
Sports Editor

To overcome low registration levels in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor ball association, particularly in the bantam and peewee divisions, the association has affiliated itself with Claremont.

The result will see as many as seven teams added to the association's house league schedule, said Diane White, the club's registrar.

Claremont will add one team in the boys' and girls' squirts, peewees and bantam divisions. Because the mite level exists only for boys, one team will be added there.

It doesn't give us any more games, just more people to play," she said in a recent interview.

"I believe it's going to benefit Claremont and it's undoubtedly going to benefit Stouffville," said league president Eldon Wagg.

Without the help of Claremont, the association might have had to amalgamate the bantam boys with the peewee boys and the bantam girls with the peewee girls.

While the bantam boys' divisison remains a bit short with just three teams, other divisions will have a minimum of four teams.

But Wagg still remains optimistic about the bantam boys' division.

Word of mouth is a good advertiser," he says. "Something may develop where there could be another team. You never know."

"If there's a shortage in registration, you have to make the best with what you've got," said Wagg.

As far as the low registration levels go, "parents are on a hot spot trying to solve everybody's needs and wants," he said.

"As far as the Town of Stouffville is concerned, we have cut off the registration."

Novice Clippers lose

Despite the warm weather, the Neil Patrick Novice Clippers' hockey season continues.

Last weekend, they were in the Pickering tournament and if it weren't for a freak goal, they would have come home the consolation champions.

In final against the Oshawa Red Wings, the Clippers jumped into an early 2-0 lead. But by the third frame, the Red Wings had tied the score forcing the overtime period.

Brian Coughlin put Stouffville up by one when he took a Jason Reesor pass, slipped by the Red Wings' defence and beat the goaltender high to the corner. Colter Carcone was set up by Chad Dickenson for the second marker.

In the overtime, Stouffville's trio of Ryan Jefferson, Lindsay Laylow and Phillip Pridham did everything but split the pipes.

And with only 25 seconds left in the sudden-death period, a shot deflected off the Clippers' goalie into the net. Brian Coughlin was the team's MVP. Stouffville beat Toronto's Crestview 4-3 to qualify for the consolation title. Although they gave up the first goal, the Clippers bounced back with three unanswered goals.

Late in the middle period, Reesor's point-shot found the mark for the Clippers' first goal. And with just 23 seconds left in the period, Jefferson gave Stouffville the lead.

In the final frame, Geoff Smith put the Clippers up by two when he handcuffed Crestview's netminder with a high blast to the corner. Pridham put the Clippers up 4-2 with Coughlin's third assist of the game.

In their qualifying game, Stouffville was thumped by Coburg 5-0.

Acton shines in series

Stouffville's Keith Acton played a major role in the North Stars' three-game sweep of the St. Louis Blues scoring three goals.

In the series opener, Acton scored the winning goal in the Stars' 3-2 triumph. The following night, in a 4-3 win, Acton netted a pair of unassisted goals. They wrapped the series up at home blanking the befuddled Blues 2-0.

The Stars' win is a bit of a shocker considering the Blues had won six of the eight regular season games.

Acton played in 78 games this year scoring 20 goals and 38 assists for 58 points. He also had 90 penalty minutes. The numbers were good for third spot on the team behind Dennis Maruk's 60 points and Brian Bellows' 62.

Brian's Banter

Too short to dunk

Some things never change.

My height for example.

Every year at this time, I head into my closet in search of my beloved basketball. I've always liked the game, but because of my lack of height, my basketball career consists of shooting baskets in my backyard hoop.

I could always hold my own in a hockey rink or baseball diamond, but on the basketball court, pardon the pun, I always came up short.

Anyway, once I find my ball, it's out to the driveway to find the touch. Quickly becoming tired of swishing shot after shot, I turn my attention to my life-long goal; a slam dunk.

Every spring since Grade 1 (that's when dad built the net), optimism runs rampant as hopefully I've grown enough to fly through the air like Michael Jordan and come thundering down on top of the net.

Well, no such luck.

Everybody insists that yes, I have grown since then. But I don't believe them. I mean, if I had, I should be able to dunk right?

There's something magical about watching someone slam. On one hand, it's an entertaining two points. On the other, it's a great form of humiliation for the opponent.

The homerun in baseball, the break-away goal in hockey or the long-bomb in football don't compare to the dunk. Each one is the work of its maker. No two are ever alike.

Whether it's the "in-your-face" kind of Patrick Ewing or the artful style of Jordan, it boggles my mind just how these guys do it. Although, being almost seven feet tall can't hurt.

As for my efforts, I have trouble just leaving the ground. And my arm reach is nothing to speak of either.

But this year, I think I've found the answer; repave the driveway.

You see, it was once flat. Today, it slopes down. Naturally, the down part is by the basket. How can I possibly dunk when the driveway keeps increasing the distance between me and the hoop.

If that doesn't work, I'll just lower the basket to a height more suited to mine.

Sports Shorts

The Boot 'n' Saddle Western Horse Club will start the 1985 show season with a spring dance on Saturday April 20 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Centre in Ballantrae. Tickets are $8 and are available through Al's Tack Shop. The buffet dinner and dance begin at 8 p.m. and non-members are welcome.

Wednesday April 17 is your chance to register for Spring Recreation Programs from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Recreation Office at 50 Main St. W. Also, registration continues Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Intermediate Girls' rep softball team needs players. Home nights are Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. and the team will play in the South Simco League. The coach is Dave Fockler 640-3914 and the manager is Ted Lowery 640-1505.

The bantam girls will play in the Scarborough League this year. The team has been practising indoors for the past six weeks. Home nights are Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

The Vandorf Park Tennis Club will hold its annual meeting Tuesday April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Vandorf Community Hall.

A new home for Joe Lewis

To most people, the Stouffville Arena was simply a place to play hockey. For Joe Lewis, the arena manager for the past 18 years, it was a second home.

But times are changing.

When Lewis pulled the switch to shut off the ice recently, he not only ended an era for the town, he started a new one. He insists no tears were shed, but there will be fond memories of the old arena.

In several weeks, Lewis will pack his bags for the trek to the new complex. And although he's stepping out of a dreary old arena into a bright new one, in some ways, he still likes things the way they are.

"I'd sooner stay," said Lewis recently. "It's home. You get used to it over the years because you get to know everything there is to know about the place."

When Lewis took the management reins in 1967, snack-bar coffee was a dime, chocolate bars were a nickel and an hour of ice went for $18.

"There was absolutely nothing in town except us," he says. "About 10 or 15 years ago, only kids were playing hockey. Now, there's more adults wanting to play.

For Lewis and his staff, the biggest change will be adapting to the larger facility. More space, more to clean, he says. "Hopefully, there won't be too much to get used to. Although, I might have to dress better."

For now, Lewis is waiting for the ice to melt. Ironically, "it's the slowest melt I've seen in 18 years," he says.

"This arena, for the age and amount of use it's had, is in extremely good shape," said Lewis.

Which proves the point breaking tradition is often harder than it appears.

Joe Lewis has made Stouffville's old arena his second home for 18 years. On May 15, that will all change because Lewis, the arena's manager, will move into the new complex.