

Mother blasts hockey group

By FRANCIS KING
Sports Editor

A member of Markham's provincial championship Bantam hockey club has been denied both his team jacket and championship medals — and his mother is hopping mad.

Fourteen-year-old Jeff Johnson played for Bob Miwa's club that won the 1984-85 Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) title, finished third at the Finair World tournament and won the provincial championship in Kirkland Lake.

However, Johnson missed part of the OMHA playoffs and the provincial tourney after an injury in a zone playoff contest. He didn't play again, and did not receive the OMHA trophy, the provincial championship medal, or the provincial championship jacket. All other team members did — including Steve Ryan, another in-

jured player who sat out the Ontario finals. Appeals to team manager Ron Pearce went nowhere, and Jeff's mother Eileen eventually went to the Markham Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) executive. She brought along the Bantam assistant coach Norm Shruiff, a letter explaining her point of view, and a petition with signatures of nine team parents.

In a recent interview, Johnson reported that several executive members (including past president Dave McVey and late treasurer Ian Stronach) supported her point of view.

But in late June a letter from the league, signed by president Bob McNair, indicated it would not act on the matter.

"The purchase of the jackets was a team matter involving the participants of the Bantam team in regards to the Kirkland Lake tournament only," the letter stated.

"For that reason there will be no decision rendered by the executive."

When contacted by the Economist and Sun, McNair refused to elaborate on the decision.

"The MMHA executive has nothing further to say on the matter," he stated.

According to the Johnson's letter, Jeff did not receive the jacket, trophy or medal because coach Miwa and Manager Pearce thought he had "abandoned" the team.

"(But) the manager was informed of Jeff's injury on two occasions and I feel they had no right to assume this," she wrote.

As well, the letter indicated Miwa and Pearce thought Jeff would be embarrassed to wear a jacket. This is a ridiculous statement, as Jeff has worn a hockey jacket for seven years.

The final reason was that only players participating in the provincial final were to receive those championship jackets.

But Johnson pointed out Ryan didn't play, but was listed on the team roster and did receive the jacket and medal.

When contacted, Pearce said the decision to withhold the jacket, trophy and medal from Jeff was carefully thought out, considering all the players on the team. In our judgement, it was a fair decision.

He refused to comment any further, noting "I don't want to get into the ins and outs of the decision. I don't feel it would serve any valid purpose."

Eileen Johnson said the gist of this problem came after her husband Dave resigned as team manager in 1981, after holding the post for three seasons.

From there a personality conflict developed between Miwa (who's now left the MMHA) and Johnson. Jeff did not go to many games after his injury because of several confrontations with the coach.

She pointed out one dressing-room incident where Jeff had been ridiculed in front of the team, but noted "we were not overly concerned, as similar incidents had occurred on previous occasions, and this seemed to be part of Mr. Miwa's dressing-room etiquette."

This entire affair has "soured" Jeff, Johnson said. "All he wanted to do was play hockey, not deal with all the crap that was going on. But he's been kicked around and I don't think it's fair."

Tennis final

Members of the Unionville Tennis Club will have their final opportunity to do some volleying this weekend at the club's annual year-end tournament.

Preliminary and playoff matches are being held today at the Carlton Park courts. Finals are set for tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spectators are welcome to attend, and a free barbecue will be held for them.



JEFF JOHNSON
One injury, no medal, trophy or jacket

Unionville triumphs

Just call them janitors.

The Unionville Merchants slowpitch girls must certainly have some janitorial skills, judging by the way they "cleaned up" at the York Durham league playoffs recently.

This makes it a "clean sweep" for the squad, which took the Ontario title last month and won the nine-team York Durham regular season with a 13-1-2 record.

The Merchants went into the best-of-three semi-finals, where they eliminated Unionville's A&A Thumpers with two straight victories.

Meanwhile, the Canada Homesponsored Milliken Goldiggers (who finished second in the league standings) met the Ajax Turtles in the semi-finals. After a loss in game one, Milliken rebounded to take the next two outings and move into the finals.

There, it could not stop the Merchants from taking the title with consecutive wins.

But there was an ironic twist about the victory.

"Milliken was the only team we had trouble with this year," said Vic Matthews, who coaches the club with Clint Fritzley. "Our one loss in the league and in the playoffs (during the preliminary round) was to them."

Both teams had strong defensive talents, but Matthews declared that "without a doubt I'd have to say we were the best defensive team in the league."

For Milliken skipper Paul Bisbee, the entire year (only the team's second in the

loop) was a pleasant surprise.

"My goal for this season was to finish third or fourth, so being in the league final was really a bonus," he pointed out. "Next year we intend to win it."

Members of the winning club are Sandy Ramer, Theresa Sheehan, Chris McMichael, Shanna Lyons, Andrea Tricker, Michelle Keith, Maureen Wideman, Diane Gillies, Maureen Cole, Carolyn Forde, Sharon Hollands, Kelly Reece, Joanne Papatheodourou, Leanna Campbell, Shirley Murphy and Ann Holden.

Making up the Milliken roster is Assistant coach Bill LaMantia, Carolyn Crowe, Susan Hardy, Linda Henry, Anne Hummell, Kathy LaPorte, Lorrie Lomax, Brenda McDonald, Penny McLean, Sheila McMurtre, Fran Robinson, Debbie Sanderson, Linda Watt, Marlene Smith, Scheryl Woods and statistician Jay Watt.

MARKHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION REFEREE CLINIC

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 1st - 7 P.M.
CENTENNIAL ARENA

This clinic is open to those 14 years and older who are interested in refereeing in Markham Minor Hockey during the 1985-86 season.

Attendance is a must for those individuals who have previously officiated in M.M.H.A. and want to continue for the upcoming year, as a review of the 1985-86 rule changes will be covered at this clinic.

This will be the only referee clinic for Markham Minor Hockey this year. EQUIPMENT required for clinic: Skates, Whistle, Helmet, Pen, Paper

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00
REGISTRATION 6:30 P.M.
CLINIC 7 P.M. SHARP



BUYING OR SELLING
TURN TO THE
CLASSIFIEDS
FOR FAST RESULTS

294-2200
640-2100



PARTS DEPT.
NOW OPEN
SAT. MORNING

MCARTHUR'S IN MARKHAM LTD.

PARTS DEPT.

OPEN SATURDAY MORNING
9 A.M. - 12 NOON

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR CASH AND CARRY SPECIALS

THIS SATURDAY
ANTI-FREEZE \$6.49 (4 L. JUG)

20 HERITAGE RD.
MARKHAM 294-5400

MARKHAM

TOWN OF MARKHAM

MILLIKEN MILLS ARENA

PUBLIC SKATING HOURS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

10 A.M. - 12 NOON, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M., 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

PRIME HOURS AVAILABLE TO RENT
THIS WEEKEND ONLY



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL

CROSBY ARENA

477-1542

Markham Softball

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

BOYS

T-Ball: Don Valley Insulation 31, Dixon/Garland 28
Mite: Music Stand 10, Seven-Up 4, Squirr: Unionville
Motors 13, Woodchester Building Corp. 7, Peewee
Bantam: Markham Honda 14, T&T Donuts 10

GIRLS

T-Ball: Ethier/Cribari 44, Chouinard Roofing 28, Mite:
Music Stand 8, Salton Appliance 4, Squirr: Speedy
Muffler 19, Chouinard Roofing 5, Novica/Bantams:
Salton Appliance 31, TD Bank 8