

# Quebec belongs to the Peewees

By KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

The Quebec Colisee erupted in a Stanley Cup frenzy Sunday morning. The Stouffville Peewee Clippers — undoubtedly the pet team of the Quebec International Hockey Tournament — won it all.

For the first time in Stouffville's hockey history, a native troupe of determined boys, under the coaching wizardry of Glenn Whitebread, captured the most coveted peewee championship this side of the nation.

In a 10-day do-or-die tourney, the Clippers won all five games against their Quebec foes — including the final — to clinch the C division Quebec City Cup. In Sunday's 7-2 championship against Ste. Foy Q' Bourgeois, 15,000 people packed the Colisee (home of the Quebec Nordiques).

"There wasn't a seat in the house for the final," recalled an elated Heather Campbell whose son Jamie is on the Stouffville squad. The temperature in the building must have reached 80-degrees, she figured.

"It was the most incredible experience those boys will have in their lives," exclaimed Barb Scaife, mother of peewee player Lee Scaife. "We made the front page of the Quebec newspaper when we arrived. We were the favorites and the only Ontario entrant."

She noted that Sunday's showdown was "anti-climatic" compared to the previous night's 3-2 semifinal overtime victory against Ste. Foy

Ouest. In retrospect, it proved the most intense and tumultuous contest Stouffville would have to play.

"When that red light came on only 23 seconds into overtime, it was pandemonium," explained Mrs Scaife. "Our section just went nuts. The boys paraded around the ice with their Stouffville banner. I know it's going to take weeks for the whole scope of this thing to sink in."

Centre Jason Underwood, who sunk the overtime marker Saturday night to end the sauna-bath and put his team in the final, almost gave his mother a heart-attack. Mrs Underwood reportedly left her seat and

**"It was the most incredible experience these boys will have in their lives"**

headed for the nearest corridor prior to the extra-minutes. She couldn't take the tension and wasn't aware her son had scored the winning goal after the crowd erupted into a roar.

Families of Clipper players had turned Stouffville into a junction terminal the past two weeks as they journeyed back-and-forth to Quebec. "People were flying, driving, and taking the train to watch their kids play," said Mrs Campbell. "Some people, who had no kids, drove all night to reach Quebec and catch the weekend finals."

Glenn Whitebread, players, and parents arrived home late Monday

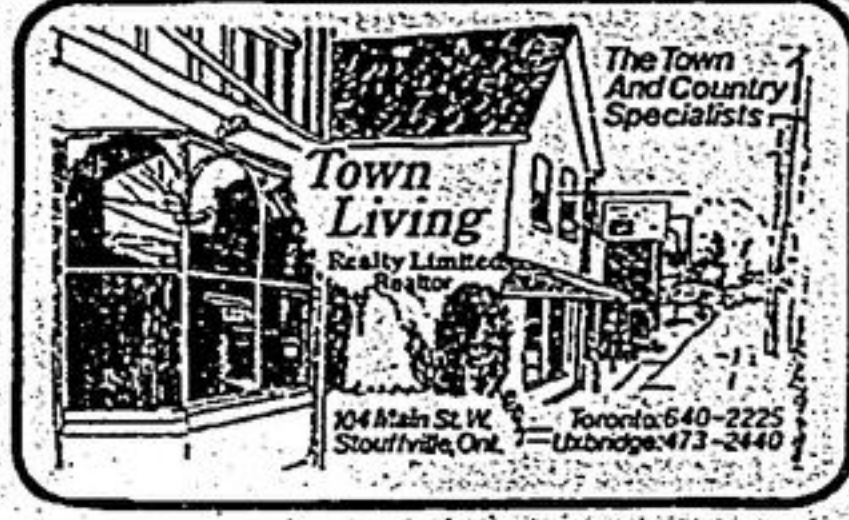
evening. "The way the team is feeling right now, the All-Ontario play-downs seem light years away," chuckled a proud parent.

Here are the scoring highlights from the final three games in Quebec:

**FRIDAY, 7-5 AGAINST QUEBEC CASTORS**—Underwood, Scott McKinley, and Guy Biadi popped two goals each. Jamie Campbell netted the winner. Goalies Basil Luciano and Danny Wilson shared pipe duty throughout the tourney.

**SATURDAY, 3-2 AGAINST STE. FOY OUEST**—Keith Piette opened the scoring from Scaife and Anand Date. Ste. Foy responded with two markers to take the lead. McKinley tied the game late in the second period. Underwood and Biadi set him up. Ste. Foy came out hitting in the opening frame, but started to tire late in the game. The sweltering arena temperature didn't help. Stouffville did everything but put the puck in the net in the final period. Contest went into overtime. Only 23 seconds into extra-minutes, Biadi takes a hard check but manages to swipe puck towards Quebec crease. Underwood tips it home.

**SUNDAY, 7-2 AGAINST STE. FOY Q'BOURGEOIS**—Stouffville jumps to early 2-0 lead. Campbell and Date set up Scaife, and Greg Frederick feeds Piette. McKinley (2) and Underwood (from Blacktopp and Campbell) bolster the spread. Stouffville fans and parents realize the game is a runaway. St. Foy scores two futile markers in the final period. Underwood nets his second of the day. Robbie Mountjoy sets up Piette for the final point.



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### Senior Spartans in York championships

The senior girls' volleyball squad from Stouffville Secondary capped an unblemished 13-0 season by winning the York North Championship last Thursday. Here, team member Liz Sled lurches forward to set up

a play during late season action. At press time, Sled and company will have tangled with Markham in the York Region finals at Thornlea.

—Kelly Connelly

## Tourney victory soothes playoff woes

The Neil Patrick Novice Clippers had their playoff win-streak halted by the Pickering Jets in back-to-back games last week.

The young Clippers battled to a 4-4 tie last Tuesday and succumbed to a tight 2-1 loss on Friday to taint their post-season record to 3-1-1.

Still, playoff paralysis was the last thing on their mind when they travelled to Uxbridge less than 24 hours later. The spirited squad whipped three teams to take home its second consecutive Uxbridge Novice Tournament Championship.

But first, a playoff update. Their backs against the wall now, Stouffville must beat Uxbridge this weekend if it wants to stay alive in OMHA playdowns. The Clippers would then advance to the semifinal (best-of-three) against Port Perry or Pickering.

In Tuesday's draw with the Jets, the locals found themselves trailing most of the game. Geoff Smith set up Roger McMann to tie the match 1-1. Ryan Jefferson fed Phil Pridham another tying marker.

With 54 seconds remaining in the first period, Pickering jumped ahead again — this time on a penalty shot. The Jets stretched the lead to 4-2 midway through the second frame.

Stouffville fought back in the final period to salvage the draw. Smith fired a high shot over the Pickering keeper to narrow the gap. A minute later, Lindsay Haylow and Pridham set up John McKinnon for the tie-goal.

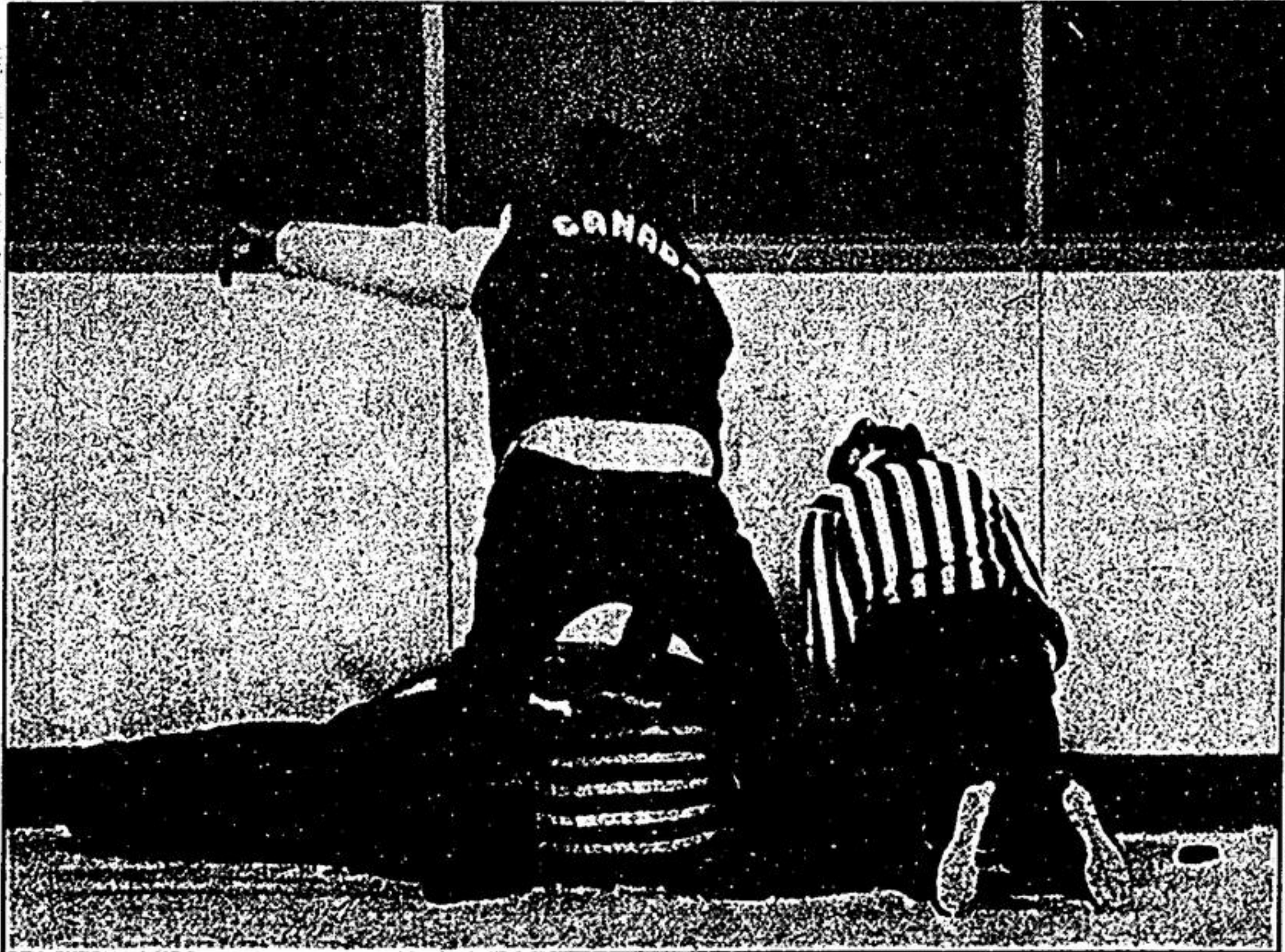
The local boys found themselves trailing the Jets 1-0 in Friday night's second encounter. McMann dissolved that deficit with a hard shot in the third period. However, Pickering slipped ahead 2-1, and fought off a strong comeback bid in the dying seconds to secure the victory. It was Stouffville's first playoff loss.

On Saturday, the Clippers fired 22 goals and allowed only two in a three-game tourney sweep in Uxbridge. Stouffville defeated Uxbridge 11-0, Markham 7-0, and Port Perry 4-2 in the final.

Scorers in game one included: McMann (3,0), Reesor (1,1), Carcone (1,0), Smith (4,1), Jefferson (1,2), and Haylow (1,2).

In the Markham massacre, snipers included: Smith (4,2); Reesor

(1,0), McKinnon (1,0), and Jefferson (1,0). In the championship, Smith, Haylow, McKinnon and Carcone (empty-netter) did the damage. Goalie Greg Sanford recorded two shutouts for the day.



### Slapshot hits referee in face

Last Friday's Bantam Clipper-Owen Sound game was marred by a near tragic accident in the first period. Referee Jimmy Walker collapsed on the ice after taking a slapshot in the face. Stouffville's assistant coach,

Gary Blacktopp, is seen here yelling for assistance. The puck hit the bridge of Walker's nose, but didn't break his glasses. He's recovering.

—Kelly Connelly

## Peewee Clipper heroes experience price of fame

The absentee list at Stouffville elementary schools looked suspicious Tuesday morning. A group of boys who play a keen brand of hockey didn't make the 9 a.m. roll call.

It was no coincidence. These youngsters play for the Stouffville District Credit Union Peewee Clippers — and they arrived home late Monday night from 10-day Quebec International Hockey Tournament.

The players, along with coaching guru Glenn Whitebread, were a little tired. After all, they won the whole thing — the Quebec City Cup. They were the C division champs! Nobody in Quebec knew where

Stouffville was until the Clippers arrived almost two weeks ago. Five victories later, 15,000 fans in the Quebec Colisee (home to the Nordiques) couldn't collect enough Stouffville souvenirs.

When the buzzer sounded to end Sunday's championship game, people were reportedly offering \$500 for a Stouffville gold pin. As the Clipper boys paraded around the rink, zealous spectators leaned over the boards begging for their sticks.

The Clippers were hoarded by autograph seekers. Team pamphlets with pictures and write-ups of each athlete were a hot item —

only 2,000 had been printed prior to the tournament.

The boys' billeted families were overcome with emotion. The Quebec guardians had never shared their lodgings with tournament champions. They too wanted hockey sticks from their Clipper heroes.

The Stouffville players won Timex watches, Sherwood hockey sticks, CCM shirts, tourney crests, and prestigious championship gold pins. Their trophy — the Quebec City Cup — contained five pucks representing every game they won. Parents also bought video tapes of the matches.

## Uxbridge Tigers pursue title

Uxbridge Secondary coach Jim Schwan continues his swift and clean mastery under the hoop. His senior boys' squad — the Tigers — toyed with Anderson in first half basketball action last Thursday before administering the fatal bite for a 62-46 victory.

So the Lake Ontario Secondary School (LOSSA) semi-final belonged to Schwan and his zoo once again. No real surprise. He's guided the senior male team to 12 league titles and two Central Ontario crowns during his 18-year tenure at Uxbridge.

Impressive stuff, but then Schwan has some stirring Tigers in his lineup. Veteran Rob Atkinson and Scott McGowan netted 18 and 15 points respectively. Then there's Carl Orr, another veteran, who puts the opposition in fits with his defensive steals.

The first half of Thursday's contest saw the Tigers sacrifice a 15-point lead in order to play the entire bench. Only a club of Uxbridge's calibre could afford to do that.

It almost "backfired," recalled Schwan. "We did a lot of line juggling in the first half. We let Anderson off the hook...they picked up their play a little bit and it surprised me," he admitted.

By halftime, Anderson came within one point of tying the game. After a 10-minute intermission, the Tigers abandoned the musical play-ers routine and applied their first-string press. Anderson collapsed.

At press time yesterday, the Tigers will have played Ajax or Port Perry for the league title.

Uxbridge hosts the Central Ontario championships for midgets,

juniors and seniors all day Saturday. Assuming Schwan's crew cleans up in Tuesday's LOSSA showdown, it will compete against Belleville and Peterborough area teams.

The midget, junior and senior finals start at 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. respectively. The Central Ontario senior champion qualifies for the All-Ontario finals at Kingston, March 6 to 8.

### Sideline Comment

## Team calibre-rating Who says it's fair?

BY KELLY CONNELLY

Team strength — that much-debated barometer of player ability — gets much attention when provincial hockey championships roll around.

Coach Ted Lowery and his Stouffville Midgets were eliminated in the provincial "B" final last year by the dark forces of team strength wearing the guise of Orangeville sweaters. The mismatch sparked criticism from other teams, including Stouffville, who felt Orangeville should have been classified as A-calibre rather than B.

Recalled Lowery: "Orangeville can shut out virtually any team... If a club is honest and fair, it will give somebody else a chance (to win the crown). We're competitive, but you can't compete against them."

The Stouffville skipper added he would hesitate to enter his squad in this year's provincials if Orangeville stays B. Presto! You've got a team calibre debate. Is a season-record — in most cases, early season — adequate representation of a club's strength before it enters the post-Christmas provincials? What if that club adds stronger players or loses valuable skaters before the Ontario playdowns?

Part of the problem is the OWH (Ontario Women's Hockey Association) doesn't have a rigid or absolute calibre-regulating system. Teams register for the provincials no later than Nov. 1. At that time they submit what division they feel suited to play.

Fair enough, at first glance. But look a little deeper. Such an "honor-system" — based on a skipper's honest and fair assessment of his players' abilities — inevitably lies vulnerable to one or two coaches who want to better the odds for their squads.

Presto! You've got an Orangeville-Stouffville pair-up with one team playing down — maybe deliberately — to scoop the title.

Fortunately, if complaints warrant an investigation, the OWH can override what it perceives as an unfair self-assessment by a club. Teams can be bumped to a higher provincial class, said OWH president Fran Rider.

However, those grievances must reach the executive committee by Jan. 1.

"It's hard for the women's hockey association to see all the games, make a list of all the teams and their stats and say 'O.K., you're going to be this calibre or that,'" said Lowery.

Fred Mantle, president of the OMHA (Ontario Minor Hockey Association), agreed that categorizing every provincial entrant is a challenging, time-consuming task.

Women's hockey doesn't have the executive numbers — unlike the OMHA — to scrutinize every team's bench-power after the Jan. 1 deadline.

And bench strength can change dramatically during a season. How dramatically? That too is negotiable.

"The OWH is a small executive still trying to feel its way in," Mantle reasoned. He suggested an increase in registration fees for the provincials might prompt more teams to demand fairer matches for their money. It might eliminate Orangeville situations.

Lowery summed up the calibrating issue best when he quipped: "There's always going to be one nigger in the woodpile."

Alas, word is out, Orangeville has moved up to A. Finally.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Beginning this week, the Tribune Sports section will run a quote-of-the-week. Whether it's provocative, absurd, humorous, abrasive, or just plain original — that's up to you. We'll be listening. "The Belleville coach told me 'you've got a chippy team...but I'll take your players anytime.' Of course I took it as a compliment." Stouffville hockey skipper Barry England recalls a Belleville coach's assessment of his intermediate girls after a heated game in the recent Picton Senior Invitational.