

SAHL season opens

Four players came up with two goal efforts as the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League kicked off its 1992-93 season Sunday at the Rec Centre.

The league's perennial scoring ace Doug Todd netted a pair of markers, with Sandy McKenzie adding a third, as the Village Landscaping Capitals downed the Green's Restaurant North Stars 3-1 in a 30 and Over division game.

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Naz Nicastro clicked twice, and Dave McVicar had a solo, to lift the Stomark Rental Kings past the A&S Construction Flames 3-2. Rick Glen and Bob Barber scored for the Flames.

In the other 30 and Over loop contest, Darcy Milligan scored for the G&R Flooring Jets, and Mike Jones replied for the Boyd's Sports Sharks as the teams tied 1-1.

In 40 and Over division play, Bruce Mehaffey was a two goal man, with Wayne McMann firing a singleton, to lead the Occasions Catering Blues to a 3-1 win over the Spring Lakes Golf Nordiques. John Davis scored for the Nords.

Vern Thompson lit the lamp twice to help power the Smurthwaite Heating Bruins to a 5-3 victory over the Gallo Real Estate Red Wings. Don Lloyd, Ralph Cain, and Damian Comito also scored for the Bruins.

Andy Perley, Ron Martyn, and Chris Tancock had the Wings markers.

Gary Fraser and Pat McPherson found the target for the Stouffville Travel Whalers as they edged the Rand Pools Maple Leafs 2-1. Bob Nichols scored for the Leafs.

And it was Wayne Harris and Gene Ballanger looking after the offence in the Canadian Tire Black Hawks' 2-1 win over the Villeneuve Heating Flyers. Bill Anderson scored for the Flyers.

UMHA raided by (AAA) Wolves

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Uxbridge Minor Hockey Association (UMHA) has been raided by Wolves - the Central Ontario AAA Wolves.

The fledgling Wolves, an upper level rep hockey program which debuts this year with players from 22 centres including Uxbridge, has signed seven former UMHA players, according to UMHA president Barry Ferguson.

"We're hurting, that's for sure," said Ferguson, who added that his association's Pee Wee outfit would be the most seriously affected. "Our Pee Wees have lost four players (to the Wolves). The Bantams have lost two and the Atoms one for sure. Other than that, we don't know yet."

The UMHA Pee Wees were OMHA B finalists in the 1991-92 season, losing to Petrolia in their March championship series.

But with the mass exodus of Pee Wee players to the Wolves, Ferguson fears the 1992-93 Pee Wees could be heavily out-gunned. "Port Hope, as an example, hasn't lost any players to the Wolves. They'll kill us."

But Ferguson said he was hopeful the OMHA would make good on a promise to allow teams hit hardest by the Wolves program to be reclassified downwards.

"They said they'd look into it, and hopefully they will."

The UMHA is currently a B rated centre.

Apart from the Wolves situation, Ferguson reported the UMHA would be fielding a strong lineup for the upcoming season. There will be first and second level rep squads in Novice, Atom, Pee Wee and Bantam categories. At least one Midget team will take to the ice, and the 1991-92 International Silver Stick finalist will be back as well.

Ferguson suggested the Juveniles could be strengthened by the return of several players who played with the Uxbridge Bruins Junior-C club last year.

Rep tryouts were to begin September 14 at the Uxbridge

"We're hurting, that's for sure."
(Ferguson)

Arena. Ferguson said all rep coaching positions have been filled.

The town's meager annual subsidization of the UMHA program will continue to be a bone of contention, said Ferguson, who added that towns such as Stouffville, Port Perry, and Sutton are contributing a much greater amount of money to their minor hockey programs than is Uxbridge.

"Last year, our ice bill was \$62,000, and the town gave us \$4,500," said Ferguson. "That makes for a high registration fee. In Uxbridge, the registration fee is \$300 for rep hockey. In Port Perry and Stouffville, I think it's around \$185 because those towns give around \$24,000 to minor hockey."

"We fight every year with the town to try to get a grant. But since we've been forced to run such good fund raising programs, the town tells us to keep on as we are. They fight and kick and scream, then give us \$4,500."

Ferguson said three former UMHA players have gone on to bigger and better things. Greg Ferraro, who was the Central Ontario Hockey League's Rookie of the Year with the Bruins last season, is heading down east on a hockey scholarship.

Ryan Harnett, who played with the Uxbridge Bantams two seasons ago, has been signed by a Detroit Junior A outfit. Harnett played with the Junior B Lindsay Bears last year.

And Brett Myers, who was with the 1990-91 Uxbridge Midgets, then played for the Newmarket 87's (Junior B) last season, has signed with the Muskoka Bears, which will

become a Junior A rated club due to a restructuring of minor hockey in Ontario.

Under the new arrangement, the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) will give up its control over minor hockey up to and including Junior B level. A new federation comprised of the OMHA, MTHL, NOHA (Northern Ontario Hockey Association) and an Ottawa area association will take over control of minor hockey for the 1993-94 season.

The change will supposedly see many Junior B teams reclassified as Junior A to avoid coming under the jurisdiction of the new federation.

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Miss Canada, Nicole Dunsdon, signs her photos for sisters Lisa and Jennifer Gonsalves-Telxela at Sunkist Food Market Saturday, Sept. 12. The 21-year-old from Summerland, British Columbia was representing Old South at the Markham store.

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