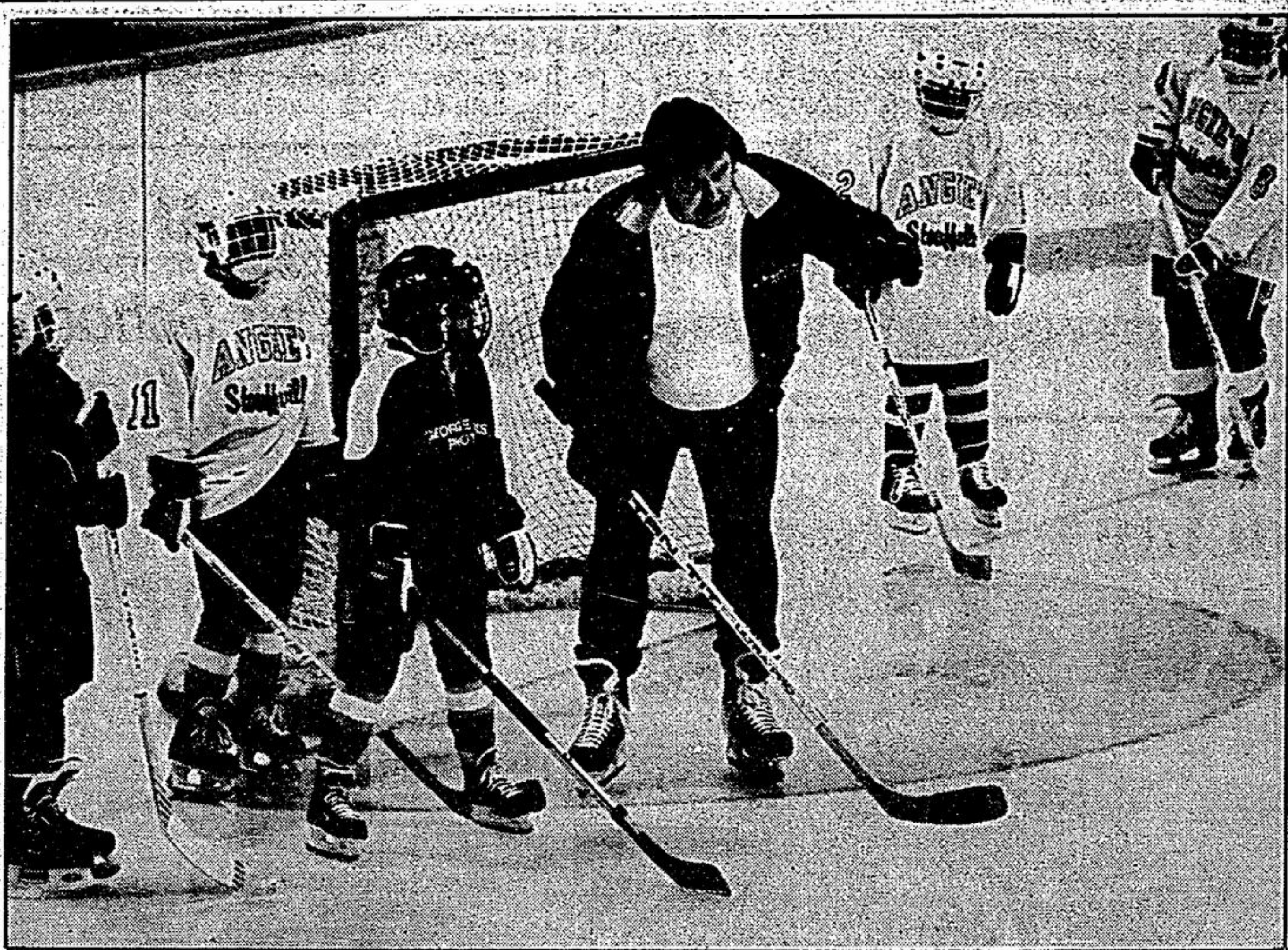


stouffville sports



Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

Practice makes perfect

Coach Doug Pattimore (centre) offers a few valuable pointers to members of Angie's and George Ross Photo teams at a recent

Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls' Junior Houseleague hockey practice at the Rec Centre.

Some changes in store as minor hockey scene unfolds

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Eight Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) rep teams take to the ice this fall, sporting new logos while trying to stick handle through the same ice shortage crunch that is affecting all town hockey groups.

In all, 126 players comprise the all star squads, which include minor and major teams at the novice, atom, and pee wee levels, along with major bantam and midget outfits.

The uniforms have changed this season, with the old stylized "S" having been replaced by an italicized "Stouffville" on the front of the Clippers' sweaters. The WSMHA houseleague program has adopted the old uniforms.

But while the look may be intact, the problem of finding enough ice time to allow the eight teams to properly hone their skills is looming larger than ever. WSMHA rep convenor Gary Hutchison said each rep outfit is being restricted to practices of no more than 45 minutes in duration.

The future could mean even greater sacrifices for the rep program, with certain teams being cancelled altogether unless more ice can be found.

Hutchison said the WSMHA couldn't allow its house league program to suffer at the hands of the rep operation.

"Unless something happens next year, we'll have to drop the minor (novice, atom, and pee wee) rep teams in order to allow enough ice time for the house league," said Hutchison. "I'd drop rep first before houseleague. We need to add a few hockey school and novice teams to the houseleague because of the increasing enrollment at the lower levels."

Hutchison figures it would take an additional four to five hours of ice time a week to allow things to continue as they are now.

He said the WSMHA was looking to rent ice at Pickering College in Newmarket for the second straight year, as well as in Oak Ridges, but doubted those rinks would be able to accommodate his shopping list.

"We're hoping for three hours a week from Pickering College. We're also asking for three hours in Oak Ridges, but it doesn't look good."

On the plus side, Hutchison said the association has fulfilled a goal it set three years ago to have each rep team host a tournament during the season.

The minor atoms, bantams, and midgets will hold a joint tournament Dec. 3-5; Feb. 11-13 is the date of the major atom, minor and major pee wee competition; and the minor and major novice crews stage their event during the week of the March Break.

The arena itself will also sport a new addition as a huge sign has been installed near the players' benches to allow the 42 sponsors' names to be displayed. Houseleague and rep team sponsors have each been assigned a sliding sign which can be replaced as sponsorships change. Hutchison said the WSMHA is still a few sponsors short for the 1993-94 season. There are also coaches needed at the bantam and pee wee houseleague levels.

Rep games at the Rec Centre will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights this season. The minor novice, major atom, and midget teams take to the ice Friday from 7-11 p.m.; Saturday from 8-11 p.m.; and Sunday from 5:10 through 9:30 p.m. will see an alternating schedule. The major novices, minor peewees and minor atoms will take one slot one week, while the minor atoms and major peewees take the other. The Sunday night program will also include upper level houseleague action.

The Stouffville minor novice Clippers failed to find the winner's circle in two recent exhibition games.

The Clippers, who won their first preseason match, dropped a 5-1 decision to East Gwillimbury Thursday. James Guinane netted the lone Stouffville marker, with Bradley Johnston assisting.

The Stouffville outfit were shutout 2-0 by Uxbridge in a game played at the Rec Centre Friday night. The Clippers moved the puck well against Uxbridge, but couldn't quite finish off their scoring chances.

The minor novices play their home games Friday nights at 7 p.m.

Adult sport leagues continue to grow

SPORT NOTES



option of the Stouffville Intermediate Hockey League.

Alfons Rubbens and John Klein of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club have been working towards the establishment of a strong adult program the past few seasons, and the results are starting to show.

For skaters, there's the Stouffville Adult Skating Club. The club, which gets together at the Rec Centre Tuesday nights beginning in October, is headed up by former Senior Olympics gold medalist skater Betty Acton, along with Earl Crowder.

Of course as anyone who knows the Acton family is aware, it was Acton who taught son Keith - now a Washington Capital - all he knows about skating when he was a kid.

There is also the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club, adult bowling leagues, tennis clubs, badminton clubs, and even a trail riders association in town.

Another well established, but extremely casual, organization is the adult volleyball group, which has been meeting Tuesday nights at the Orchard Park P.S. gymnasium from October through spring for almost 15 years.

The volleyballers, who range in age from 20 through their 60's, are headed up by that champion of adult good time sporting opportunities, Jim Brazier, along with his sidekick Bob Lewis.

Brazier said they have more players than they can handle - from 35-40 depending on the night.

Brazier then adds, tongue in cheek, that newcomers will only be accepted if they have the right qualifications - ie, they must be gorgeous females who agree not to make the old guys like himself look too bad on the court.

Ever the kidder, Brazier explained that players who take the game too seriously are told, and told rudely, to leave and never come back. Brazier is a firm believer that sport, humor, and a session at the local pub afterwards are inseparable.

Funny thing, adult sport. There was once a time that adults, particularly those approaching their senior years, would head down to the lawn bowling green if they wanted to experience a little recreational competition.

Today, the middle aged and early seniors' set is taking to ball and hockey like never before, while the lawn bowling folks go after the young adults.

Go figure.

It's been said the baby boomers have redefined each generation they have passed through. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of adult sports, and in no town is this more visible than Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The past two decades have seen the emergence of an endless assortment of adult leagues in this town.

They are not restricted to young adults, nor are they necessarily fiercely competitive.

The key is participation, and a chance to exercise in a fun, athletic environment.

The Monday Night Men's Lob Ball League is a prime example. The 10-team, 150-player loop is a model of sportsmanship, good humour, and the efficient use of diamond time.

The league, which was to wrap up the season with a friendly but competitive tournament this past Sunday, takes over the main diamond summer Monday nights at Memorial Park from 6:30 til 11 p.m. - or whenever the automatic timer sees fit to suddenly plunge the diamond into darkness.

For ladies who still want to get in their swings, there's the Tuesday Night Ladies Fun Softball League over on diamond two. Other leagues which have sprung up through the years have included a mixed adult fun softball league, as well as other ladies leagues.

Of course, the slow pitch aficionados have the York-Durham Men's Slow Pitch League, but it is a more competitive operation with a certain level of talent a basic prerequisite.

Male adults from the age of 30 and up flock to the Rec Centre Sunday mornings, oftentimes at ungodly hours, to play in the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League.

This organization took some hard work to establish, but now comprises an essential part of the town's overall hockey program.

Several league members also play with oldtimers teams which are entered in recognized leagues in Pickering and elsewhere, with regular tournaments a highlight of the season.

The younger, more competitive adult pucksters are offered the