

# Bruins are making progress as season unfolds

By **BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

The Uxbridge Bruins' faithful, who are just happy to have some real live hockey to watch this season with the drying up of the big league product, might be alarmed to hear the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League regular season is a full two thirds done.

And with the Bruins persevering to finally get back over the 500 mark after enduring a crippling rash of injuries to key players to date, it's understandable that team GM Bruce Colwell is optimistic as his team sets to prepare for the home stretch and then the playoffs.

Colwell said he was looking forward to the Bruins next big test, another showdown with the runaway league leading Bowmanville Eagles, which was played on Friday.

He's still smarting from the outcome of the last game between the two teams Dec. 4 in Bowmanville when the Eagles parlayed a phantom goal and a trio of power play markers into a 6-4 victory. Chatting with Eagles management people after the game, Colwell was told the Bowmanville bunch weren't anxious to get in the rink with the Uxbridge club once the last of the walking wounded have healed.

Colwell, who said he's never seen such an exhaustive injury list in the season's first half in all his years in junior hockey, feels the rookie-laden Bruins have come together.

He said at least the injuries came in the first half of the season, allowing the team to get back to full strength in time for the playoffs.

"Our boys are starting to jell now," said Colwell. "We're a rookie team with no

large influx of veterans, so it takes time."

Colwell points to the affiliation with the Pickering Panthers Jr. A outfit as the reason why the Bruins are sitting pretty going into the most important part of the season.



With so many quality players having been dispatched to Uxbridge for a year of seasoning before moving up to the Panthers, it's just a matter of giving these players time to get to know each other.

Add to the Pickering connection some pleasant surprises like Oshawa's Paul Charbonneau, Rob Cox and Stuart Vandergeest, who were scouted by the Bruins when they were with the Central Ontario Wolves AAA midgets last year and goalkeeper Chris Carter (Pefferlaw) and you understand why Colwell is smiling.

Colwell said many Junior C teams are going the affilia-

tion route, which has advantages for the Junior A team as well.

"Next year, Pickering will almost have a ready made team with the kids coming up from the Bruins."

In a nutshell, the Panthers will call the loaned players back and give the Bruins another batch for the 1995-96 season. Colwell praised this year's Bruins, calling them a young, eager, gung ho bunch with good attitudes.

Many are top OAC students who he thinks will be in the running for hockey scholarships in the United States as they pursue their education.

Colwell related that at the Central League managers' meeting last Thursday in Peterborough, the other GMs were all talking to him as if

the Bruins were the team to be afraid of, after the Eagles. Looking ahead to next year, the Uxbridge GM said the Eagles will have to endure the loss of 14 overaged players, as this year's veteran crew breaks up.

As for the 1994-95 Bruins, Colwell is looking to give his goaltending tandem of Mike Moscardiello and Chris Carter a boost by having New York Rangers goalie and old buddy Glen Healy drop in at a Bruins practice to give the pair some pointers.

Colwell concluded by expressing his delight in the size of the crowds who are regularly coming out to watch the Bruins in Uxbridge. Families are coming together to see the games, and fans who have

been staying away in recent years are returning as the brand of hockey goes from the old goon style to a more sensible approach to the game.

And if things go Colwell's way, those fans will be coming to watch the Bruins well after the Central League regular season ends Jan. 28.

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Jennifer had a golden day at the recent Elite Canada Gymnastics meet in Montreal.

The Winstonettes Gymnastic Association performer topped the 80 plus performer field by winning the gold medal in the overall portion of the event.

In individual events, Exaltacion, 15, won gold on the bars and floor exercise and was second on the vault and beam.

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FAMILY TWOSOME TOURNAMENT  
RESULTS DEC. 10**

Peewees - 1st Melissa Brooks/father, 2nd Michael Jeffrey/father  
Bantam - 1st Justin Snow/father, 2nd Paul Surge/father, 1st Scott Mackenzie/mother  
Senior - 1st Ryan Couperthwaite/father, 2nd Kathy Tait/mother  
Juniors - 1st Matthew Dart/mother, 1st Adma Dewey/father, 2nd Jason Lindsay/mother, 2nd Nicholas Smimov/father, 1st Holley Smimov/mother, 1st Crystal Snow/father, 2nd Alaina Couperthwaite/mother, 2nd Lisa Dyball/father.

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE  
GIRLS HOCKEY  
RESULTS DEC. 11 - 14**

Senior Houseleague  
Angie's Eatery 1 - Stouffville VIPs 7 - Angie's - Karl Sandiford, assists - Kate Robson, Stouffville - Kristen James (6), Krista Dudley, assists - Gillian Apps (2), Francesca Milliscamp (2), Dudley, Lori Ann Haraldsen, Melissa Theoret.  
Pizza Pizza 1 - Stouffville Photographic 9

Junior Houseleague  
Smalley's Xmas Trees 4 - Moller Smalley's - Sarah Smalley, Jillian Morrison, Jen Shaban, Melanie Patterson, assists - Smalley (2), Shaban, Nicole D., Patterson, Moller - Stephanie Oult, assists - Christine Upton.  
Beaver Gas 0 - Play-It-Again Sports 2  
Play It - Jayme-Lyn Gledard (unassisted), Lindsey Flochart, assists - Lisa Robinson, Melanie Rooney

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