

Sports

Bruins pay tribute to Underwood

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Uxbridge Bruins said goodbye to veteran captain Jason Underwood at their annual banquet last Saturday night at the Uxbridge Legion Hall.



JASON UNDERWOOD

Underwood, the Stouffville resident who completed his seventh season with the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League team this past February, became the first player in Bruins history to have his sweater number retired.

Underwood was toasted by team officials before being presented with a soapstone Eskimo carving and a Bruins hockey stick by long-time team executive Marion Grey.

Former Bruins general manager Chuck Phillips joked about Underwood's tenure with the Bruins, then paid tribute to the centre-defenceman.

"The only one who has been here longer than me is Jason," he quipped. "I can't think of anyone who deserves an evening more

than you do. You're a class guy."

Bruins coach Trevor Clarke recalled how Underwood helped the Bruins win eight of their last 10 games to make the playoffs in his rookie season in 1988-89. Clarke, who was a Bruins player that year, said Underwood was instrumental in stretching the opening round playoff series with the first-place Wellington Dukes to seven games that season.

Underwood thanked Phillips for first signing him to the team as a 14-year-old bantam in 1988.

"I'd like to thank Chuck for giving me a chance to play. I guess I liked it so much I never left," he said.

Underwood led the Bruins in total points in his second season in 1989-90, and was fifth in 1992-93. He played rep level hockey in Stouffville from the age of six through 14, playing on an atom team which won a district championship. He was with the Stouffville peewee team which won the Quebec Peewee Tournament in 1986, and was on an OMHA finalist bantam team.

Now that his junior career is finished, Underwood will try out for the Scarborough Major Hockey League next season.

The Bruins also handed out their annual awards at the banquet. Brandon

Pridham was given the Hal Murphy Trophy as the team's most valuable player. The Coach's Trophy went to John Liriano; Stuart VanderGeest took the Roy Cordingly Trophy for most gentlemanly player; Dan Holmes was named most improved player, Matt Muir was rookie of the year.

Bruins' general manager Bruce Colwell pointed to Stouffville's bid for an OHA Provincial Junior A League team, saying the Bruins have indicated they would be interested in talking about a possible affiliation with the new team.

"Affiliation worked well for us this year," said Colwell, pointing to the team's working arrangement with the Pickering Panthers tier two Junior A team this past season. He said several Junior teams have shown interest on young players developed by the Bruins this season.

Bruins president Paul Harris said it looked like there would be change in the future for the Bruins and the Central Ontario league.

He said the league was considering an interlocking schedule with the Eastern Ontario Junior C Hockey League, and that the 1994-95 league champion Bowmanville Eagles would likely be granted a Junior A franchise for the 1996-97 season.



The Goodwood Public School senior boys' wrestling team ruled the mats at the recent Durham Elementary Wrestling Championships in Oshawa by winning the gold medal. Team members include (front row from far left): Dave Schlorff, Dave Williams, Chad Norton, Corey Weldon, Dan Clubine, Gus Norton, Josh Maynard and Mike Caputo. (Top row, far left): Ben Wideman, Ryan MacIver, Todd Stiner, Brett Jackson, Shawn Maynard, Matt MacInnis and John Rice.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Goodwood grapplers rule the squared circle

The Goodwood Public School senior boys' team fought their way to a gold-medal finish at the recent Durham Elementary Wrestling Championships in Oshawa.

Corey Weldon, 14, placed first in the 57.0-kilogram weight class.

Other Goodwood wrestlers who brought home gold medals included: Dave Schlorff in the 84.2-kg. class and Jeff Swart at 42.1 kg.

Other team members contributed to the team's first-place finish of 30 points.

In the 55.4-kg. class, Dan Clubine placed second. Todd Stiner earned a silver in the 35.0-kg. class, as did Matt MacInnis at 44.7 kg. Brad Ballinger and Jeff Swart placed second in the 38.9 and 42.1-kg. categories respectively. In the 73.6-kg. class, Gus Norton was second and Dave Williams, third.

"This was the senior boys' first

ever victory," said coach Chris Fockler.

Ryan MacIver earned a bronze in the 44.7-kg. class.

Goodwood's junior team also fared well at the meet, finishing fourth overall.

Silvers were picked up by Eric Reid, in the 33.5-kg. class and Dan MacInnis at 34.9 kg. Grant Crust earned the bronze in that weight class.

Shawn Maynard was third in the 35.4-kg. class, and Kyle Martin, third at 39.5 kg.

Spartans set to play ball on Wednesday

As major league baseball's regular season gets under way, it's also beginning in Stouffville.

The Stouffville District Secondary School boys' fastball team has started practicing for the upcoming season, which starts Wednesday.

The Spartans will be hosting a tournament on May 17, and will be attending the Bradford Tournament on May 27.

Last year the season was cancelled due to a teacher's work-to-rule campaign. But in past years the Spartans have done extremely well, and are the reigning champions of their league.

Coach Brian McKnight is optimistic about this season, and reports the team is in fine condition as the season approaches.



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For your pet grooming needs Ruff Cuts is a local solution for your pet's care needs. Owner Laura Lefler (pictured above), specializes in grooming dogs but also provides brush outs and baths for felines.

"Ruff Cuts is really like a hair salon for animals," says Laura with a smile. "They get their nails trimmed, their ears cleaned, they're brushed and combed out, given a bath as well as a hair cut."

Laura pampers her furry clients and clearly enjoys her job. "I started grooming through a co-op program in school and continued from there," she says. "I've always loved animals and I treat all the ones I see as though they were my own."

Laura has over seven years experience grooming and opened her Ruff Cuts location last November. Hours are flexible and presently she's offering a 15 per cent discount to new clients. Ruff Cuts is located at 227 Main St, Mkhm.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JENNIFER SKINNER

Jennifer Skinner ruled the waves at this year's Markham Aquatic Club's annual Invitational Swim Meet.

The 10-year old Markham resident, who swims for the Markham Aquatic Club, outscored all 385 competitors ranging in ages from 10 to 19. Skinner swam her way to four gold medals, three silvers and two bronzes.

When she's not swimming, Skinner also takes to the ice where she performs for the Markham Thunder minor atom select hockey team.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA
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