

# Wagg most deserving of honor

The town's Sports Personality of the Year award was made for the likes of Jim Wagg.

Unlike some towns which honor their absolute top dog, highest achieving athlete every year - always a risky business in light of the different playing fields involved - this Stouffville Sun-sponsored award is meant to recognize individuals who make the largest overall contribution to the sports scene in town.

For Jim Wagg, his approach to sports involvement is the same as his approach to life.

Talking to him about his 30 years of coaching, managing, sitting on team and league executives, and playing in his beloved Monday Night Men's Lob Ball League, you'll hear him offer up the old standard clichés about playing for fun, enjoying the people, and getting out of life what you invest into it.

But for Jim, these aren't just empty platitudes.

He simply refuses to allow life to become complicated, despite a couple of personal setbacks through the years that might have kayoed a lesser man.

You won't hear Jim whining, whether it's over a questionable call by a game official or the cancer which currently threatens his life.

He has mastered the ultimate philosophy as outlined in the prayer asking God to give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

For Jim, it's all about attitude, and he could write a book on the subject. Jim is the kind of guy sports was made for. For him, the arena isn't the place to go out and make up for your deficiencies in other areas of life, or to try to annihilate the other guy.

"For me it's always been the game, not to win," he told me the other day. Winning is nice, but it's not everything. I'd be a fool to say I don't like to win.

"But as long as we have a good time, that's all that matters. There are a lot of coaches and parents who should learn that."

Contrast that with the pressure-



## Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

filled, winner takes all mega-world that pro sport has become.

Jim's feeling is that wherever you find an overly competitive kid or adult athlete, you'll invariably find a little family dysfunction lurking in the past.

"They were probably driven by a parent," he suggests.

Jim has certainly experienced his share of winning as a coach and manager.

When I asked him to recall the sweetest triumph of all, he thought for a while, then suggested it would have to be his first championship, "because it was the first".

That was back in 1971-71 when he managed the Stouffville Midget B hockey team that won the Lakeshore Division title.

He remembers it like it was yesterday, partly because of the familiar names of the company with which he was surrounded.

"The coach was Jim Wagg - no relation to me, and the assistant coach was his brother Eldon Wagg."

In Jim's case, his own childhood in Toronto's west end in the 1940's was marked by an absence of sport. "I didn't play as a kid," he acknowledged.

"There were no organized sports for kids then."

And that probably explains his ongoing willingness to be there for the kids of Stouffville, as well as the adults looking for a little athletic diversion, for three decades.

The most fun he has had coaching, managing, etc.?

"That would have to be my involvement in the Tuesday Night Ladies softball league," he recalls, ever the ladies man.

His proudest involvements? "Monday Night Men's Ball and the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League.

Because they involve everybody, and they are mainly for fun.

In that way they are like Music Mania, it allows you to get out and meet people."

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## Correction

An ad that ran in the June 26th edition for Aurora Collectables should have read:  
**"Four Day Clearance Sale June 27, 28, 29 & 30th."**  
 We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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