

SPORTS

MINOR HOCKEY: *New program hopes to reduce hitting-from-behind injuries on the ice*

Local minor teams STOP for safety

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

Stop signs are located on city streets.

In hockey arenas this season stop signs will also be prevalent.

The signs won't be anchored into the ice. But a red stop sign patch, measuring 2 and 7/8 inches, will be displayed on the backs of player's uniforms.

In an effort to curb what appears to be an escalating growth of hitting from behind, Campbell's Chunky Soup and the Ontario Minor Hockey Association have instituted an education program called The Safety Towards Other Players.

Known as STOP, the program, which was devised by Kevin Stubbington, encourages safe, clean hockey among today's young players.

A Windsor resident, Stubbington was spurred into creating the program after one of his players in 1995 was the recipient of a hit from behind that left him unconscious. Going to work later that evening as a security guard, Stubbington replayed the incident in his mind throughout the evening. And while looking at a STOP sign in the gatehouse, he got the idea to devise his program.

Stubbington noted that during the 1995-96 campaign, more than 1,600 injuries were reported in Ontario minor and tier two junior hockey. Of that number, 129 of those were directly caused by hits from behind.

What began as a small grassroots initiative, the program is expected to reach some 110,000 young hockey players this season.

Included in this group of participants are the Markham Waxers and the Stouffville Clippers minor hockey organizations.

Waxers president Bill Jefferson welcomes the program, which he became aware of this past spring and applauds the



Former National Hockey League players Jeff Beukeboom (far left) and Red Kelly (far right) demonstrated some puck handling tricks recently at St. Michael's College School Arena in Toronto with novice AA players Blair McIntyre of the Markham Islanders and Michael Griffin of the Richmond Hill Stars. Sponsored by Chunky Soup, Beukeboom and Kelly were on hand to help launch S.T.O.P. (Safety Towards Other Players), a new education program encouraging safe hockey.

efforts of Campbell's and the OMHA. Jefferson feels the program will act as a deterrent and should pay off in the long run.

"I think this program will make everybody aware. People will look at it and be a lot more conscious. That stuff (hitting from behind) has to be taken out."

"It (the program) might not stop (hitting from behind). But it will cut it down," he predicted.

Jefferson pointed out the minor teams, select and rep, representing the Waxers will have the stop sign logo placed on the home and road uniforms.

Hockey teams representing the Greater Toronto Hockey League, including the Markham Islanders, are not yet on board with the program.

However, the Islanders AA novice club were invited to a recent program seminar put on

by former National Hockey League players Jeff Beukeboom and Red Kelly at St. Michael's College School Arena and enjoyed the experience.

Islanders coach Davio Demonte hopes that at some point the powers that be within the GTHL will become involved.

"I was gung ho when I first heard of it. Hopefully, with us being there it's the first step. It's one of the best things you can do for Canadian hockey. If it saves one kid... We were doing this (taking part in the program) for the kids."

For now, Demonte said his club will don the signs on their practice uniforms. At the same time, he is negotiating with a potential sponsor to have logos shaped like red stop signs and could have them placed on their game shirts.

Midget Waxers ice tourney title

The Markham Waxers AA midgets got its season off on a strong note by capturing their division title of the Stouffville Clippers early bird tournament with a 2-0 win over Richmond Hill in Sunday's title game at York University.

The Waxers won its first game over Pickering West 3-1 and then battled Pickering East to a 1-1 draw. The Waxers then blanked Amherst, New York, 4-0, and Pickering West 4-2 to qualify for the final.

Scoring for the Waxers were: Chris Federchuk, John Paul Giliberto, Jason Power, Drew Webb, Rob Hope, Dan Millett, Travis Jones, O'Rourke, Andrew Regan and Dan Definney. Caleo Gauley, Andrew Regan, Paul Webb, Graham Edward, Andrew Leigh, Chris McGinnes, Garrett McCrea, Millett, Definney, and Hope earned assists. Graham Jeffery and Mark



Searle split goaltending duties.

Clippers win two, lose two in tourney

The Stouffville minor atom Clippers skated away with two wins and two losses during its participation last weekend's fourth annual Stouffville Clippers early bird hockey tournament.

The Clippers recorded wins over Vaughan 6-1 and Malton 6-0 while losing to Keswick 2-0 and Flamboro 5-3.

Scoring for the Clippers were: Evan Tsiopoulos, four goals and one assist; Nathan James, two goals, two assists; Wes Wittenbols, two goals, one assist; Landon Heise, two goals and Liam McNeely, three assists. Jason Vooy and Tyler Lorenzen were between the pipes.



Pleasure Valley to host mountain bike event on Sunday

SPORTS DIGEST

The fifth annual 8Hr Downs Mountain Bike team relay will take place at Pleasure Valley on Sunday at 9 a.m.

Those interested in participating can enter one of nine categories including junior average age to 19 years, senior average age 20 to 29 years, veterans average age 30 to 39 years, masters average age 40 plus years, women's open class, corporate five to eight person teams, mixed with a minimum of two female riders, two person team or solo.

The team events must have anywhere from three to five persons.

Entry fees are \$25 per person until Aug. 30 or \$30 per person after Aug. 30.

Application forms can be picked up at Boyd's Source for Sports, 5402 Main St. in Stouffville.

Pleasure Valley is located 15 minutes north of Hwy. 401 off Brock Road.

For further information, call Boyd's Source for Sports at 472-9854.

Strikers kick up a storm

The Unionville-Milliken Strikers under-12 girls captured the Central Girls Soccer League Cup Tournament title on Saturday with a 1-0

decision over Newmarket at Darlington Park.

Clancy Tredway scored the game's lone goal and Patricia Lamanna recorded the shutout.

For the Strikers, the win over Newmarket atoned for a loss they experienced a week ago in the CGSL final in which they came out on the short end of a 2-1 decision.

Marie Lynn Birks scored the lone goal for the Strikers.

Under-11s win division title

The Unionville-Milliken Big G Strikers under-11 girls concluded its Central Soccer League regular season on a positive note recently by clinching first place in the west division with a 7-



0 win over Glen Shields.

Laura Colangelo scored three goals and added an assist while Julie Giantsopoulos, Julie Pisani, Sarah Christiani and Lynsey Moule added singles.

Samantha Ainsworth recorded the shutout.

Other players that contributed to the club's 8-1-3 division-winning record included: Heather Amadori, Elizabeth Andrews, Corinne Babiolakis, Mary-Anne Babiolakis, May Fegidero, Michelle Jatz, Bethany Oeming, Kaitlyn Ryckman, Andrea Vasilopoulos, Laura Wadsworth and Jennifer Wong.

Rugby club gains split

Guy Blair scored a try and added a convert and penalty kick to lead the Markham Rugby Club firsts to a 15-13 road win over the Nomads in Ontario Rugby Union action Saturday.

Sandro Fiorini added a try for Markham. The Markham seconds, however, suffered a 36-14 loss to the Crusaders at Austin Park.

Colin Campbell and J.P. Booth each had a try and Dave Gallifent made two converts for Markham.

The firsts will host Stoney Creek at 3 p.m. on Saturday while the seconds go on the road to meet the Lions at 3 p.m.

Ladies hockey registration

The Ladies Fun Hockey League will hold a registration on Monday at the rec centre lobby from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The league, which plays on Sunday evenings, is of recreational calibre and space is limited.

For further information, call Terry Siblock at 640-7626 or Anne Salvagna at 640-7089.



THE MARKHAM WAXERS JUNIOR "A" HOCKEY CLUB

"Tradition, Heritage, Community"
Over 60 years of Junior Hockey

HOME SCHEDULE

FRIDAY	SEPT. 17 TH	8:00 P.M.	vs.	WEXFORD
MONDAY	SEPT. 20 TH	7:30 P.M.	vs.	NORTH YORK
FRIDAY	SEPT. 24 TH	8:00 P.M.	vs.	STOUFFVILLE
SUNDAY	SEPT. 26 TH	12:30 P.M.	vs.	NORTH YORK
MONDAY	SEPT. 27 TH	7:30 P.M.	vs.	AURORA
FRIDAY	OCT. 1 ST	8:00 P.M.	vs.	VAUGHAN
SUNDAY	OCT. 3 RD	1:30 P.M.	vs.	PARRY SOUND

(905) 294-2699

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