

New Waxers' ownership is ready to take charge

Three-man team to control junior A team's fortunes

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

For several years, Joe Cornacchia had a dream.

The 56-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident wanted to own the Markham Waxers junior A hockey club.

That dream became a reality Thursday when the Provincial Junior A Hockey League's board of governors officially approved the sale of the team to a group led by Cornacchia from Don Bremner, a Ballantrae resident who had owned the club since 1994.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"We've been working to do this deal for over three years," Cornacchia said Friday. "We didn't think it would come through because every time we talked to Don (Bremner) about it, he had second thoughts on selling the team. Don will always be Mr. Waxer in town because he's been associated with the team for so many years.

"But it's a relief, it feels good and we're happy about it."

A former president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, whose term ended earlier this year, Cornacchia accepted the job of director of hockey operations with the Stouffville Spirit, also of the Provincial league, this spring.

But when the opportunity to purchase the Waxers came up on short notice, he resigned from the Spirit.



JOE CORNACCHIA: Is one of three owners that includes Rick Cornacchia and Robert Thissen.

"That's the reason why I took the job in Stouffville in the first place, because I didn't think this opportunity (to own the Waxers) would happen, but it did all of a sudden," he said.

Cornacchia is part of a three-man ownership group that includes his brother Rick, a 51-year-old Unionville resident and manager of the National Training Rink in Richmond Hill, and Robert Thissen, a Toronto resident who is chairperson of Promittere Capital Group and has been involved in the Greater Toronto Hockey League as a sponsor of the Promittere Cup.

Joe Cornacchia will serve as vice-president of hockey operations and general manager.

RICK CORNACCHIA NAMED CLUB'S HEAD COACH

Rick Cornacchia, who coached an Oshawa Generals team that included Eric Lindros to the Memorial Cup in 1990 and coached last season with the

Toronto Red Wings bantams and minor midgets, will take over the head coaching position.

Named to the assistant coaching positions were Jason Goldenberg, a Markham resident and former player with the Waxers from 1996-98, Darryl Sauro, who helped coach the Waxers junior A goalies last season, and Glenn Townsend, a former Markham resident who assisted Rick Cornacchia during his time with the minor Waxers organization.

Joe Cornacchia said the organization's priority is to "continue the tradition but develop a new attitude".

The club wants to work closely with the Waxers' minor hockey organization and develop youngsters to aspire to play for the junior A hockey team.

"There's a lot of good hockey players who live in Markham and we want to keep them in this town," he said.

Introducing Mike Ralph as the club's vice-president of marketing, Cornacchia said the club intends to be more aggressive in this area and to give the team a greater presence in the community.

Among programs the team is working on, Cornacchia said, are to try and get an additional 30 minutes of ice time after the games to allow youngsters to skate with some of the players, to incorporate a learn to read program with elementary school students and to assist with the Waxers' house league programs.

"We want to be totally involved with the community," Cornacchia said. "We want Friday nights to be an event in Markham."

Jones Pools Juniors win two

The Stouffville Jones Pools Juniors made full use of home-field advantage this past week by winning two Oshawa City and District Fastball League contests at Memorial Park.

Hosting the Bradford Sox Wednesday, Jones Pools overcame a two-run first inning deficit to post a 6-3 win.

Scoring a run in the third inning to whittle the deficit to 2-1, the Jones Pools erupted for four runs in the fourth inning.

After Kevin Hayward belted a leadoff homer to tie the score, Dale Boadway drove in two runs with a triple and scored on a Bradford throwing error.

Stouffville added a run in the sixth inning when Jon Ferguson tripled and scored on a ground ball by Hayward.

Greg Dalgarno earned the win. The following night, Stouffville erupted for five runs in the first inning en route to an 8-0 win over the Toronto Champion Indians.

Nick Dambrosio led off the first inning with a double and scored on a single by Boadway. Rob Clayton followed with a double to score Boadway and scored on Tom Hammond's sacrifice fly. Dalgarno then drove in a run with a single and Mike Dambrosio's fielder's choice scored another run.

Stouffville added a run in the third and two more in the fourth to round out the scoring.

Dalgarno gave up one hit to record the shutout for Jones Pools, now 6-2 on the season.

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