

Country's outstanding player

York's "Hawk" ends varsity career in style

By ROBERT EASTO

His name is Ron Hawkshaw, but everybody calls him Hawk. He's an excellent skater; possesses a deadly shot. He's big and strong and smart—a leader on and off the ice.

In a five year hockey career, he's played on one national championship team; been an OUAA all-star four times; an all-Canadian twice. He was the league's scoring leader this season, and was recently awarded the Sullivan trophy as the country's outstanding player.

He is only twenty-three years old with abundant talent and great potential. He played his last game for York University a month ago at Varsity Arena when the Blues defeated York 3-2 to capture the OUAA championship. In a losing cause, he was the best player on the ice. Where does the Hawk go from here?

NHL NO DREAM

The NHL? He's convinced he's good enough to make it. He's not so sure he wants to. "It's not a dream to play in the NHL anymore," Ron says. "The talent has been so diluted that it isn't an honour to make it these days. If it was still just six teams and I was in this position, I'd jump at the chance."

The NHL and Ron Hawkshaw are not total strangers. After helping lead the Waterloo Warriors to the national title in 1974, Ron had a chance to attend the Boston Bruin training camp but Atlanta put him on their over-aged junior negotiation list. That meant it was either Atlanta or nothing. Ron stayed in Waterloo.

The following September, Ron began studying law at Osgoode Hall. He also went to the Atlanta camp. Right from the start he didn't like

what he saw. As a Canadian college player he was automatically a second class candidate.

The Flames management had virtually pre-determined the club's line-up and the camp was divided into two groups: those expected to make the parent club and those destined for the minor leagues. Ron's group received minimal ice time and when he played well, he still felt the situation was hopeless because nobody was watching anyway. Disillusioned, Ron walked out of camp after three days and went back to law school.

Besides himself, Ron feels there are a handful of other Yeomen with professional potential. He specifically cited Bobby Wasson ("the type of player Toronto could use"), Gary Gill ("his size is his only drawback") and Romano Carlucci ("if he puts his mind to it").

If there are so many fine Canadian university players, why does this large pool of talent remain untapped? Ron suggested several reasons; the pros are interested in junior players because they feel they can't work with older players; the Canadian schools aren't scouted properly; they receive insufficient publicity; the pros don't want to waste time and money on someone committed to education or without the necessary desire to play professionally.

MAJOR DECISION

Yet if nobody in the NHL is interested in Hawkshaw, then perhaps the league deserves to go down the drain. Although not certain, Ron assumes Atlanta still holds his rights. Ron doesn't expect to be asked again by the Flames but any interested team should be able to acquire his rights without much

difficulty and there is a good chance that somebody will invite him to their camp.

When, and if, that occurs, Ron will be faced with a major decision. At the moment, he is more interested in pursuing his legal studies. Another consideration is that his wife, Sheila, is not enthusiastic about a professional hockey career for Ron.

But Ron isn't ruling out any possibility right now and if the team and the price are right, he'll probably give it another shot next September.

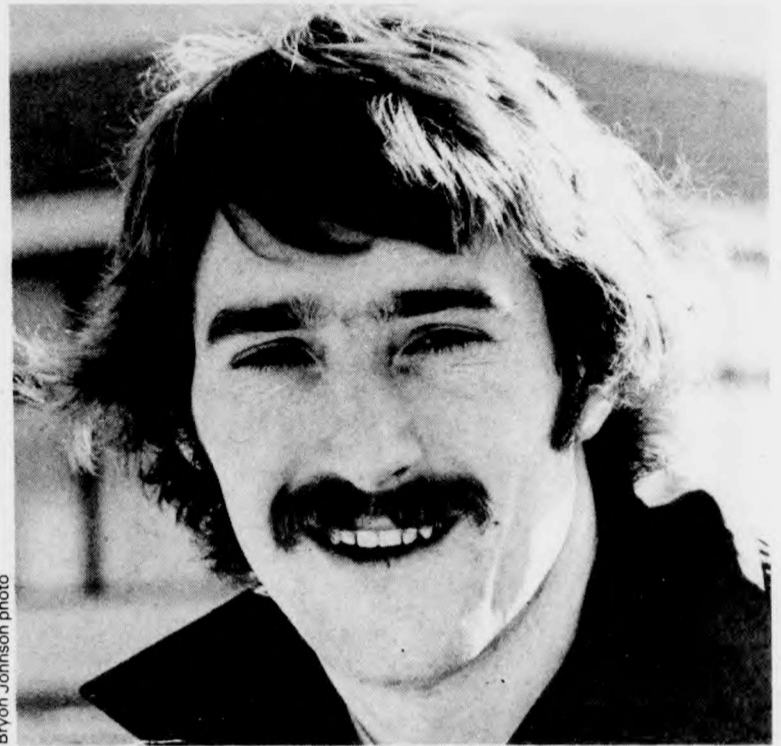
UNIVERSITY COACHING

In any event, Ron does not intend to turn his back on hockey. The idea of coaching at the university level appeals to him. Don't be surprised if next year finds him assisting Dave Chambers and John Marshall as the Yeomen try once more to capture the elusive Canadian championship.

Other possibilities include playing Senior A hockey or even inter-college hockey for the Osgoode Owls. The latter option should give the rest of the league something to think about over the summer, especially in light of the fact that Hawk's talented linemate, Peter Ascherl, is likely to play for the Owls as well.

Ron's long term ambition is to practice law in Waterloo where both he and his wife, Sheila, have many friends from Ron's undergraduate years.

The Yeomen team that Hawkshaw captained this year was arguably York's strongest ever. The only Canadian team to beat them was U of T, which defeated York three times. In several other games against some of the country's top teams, the outcome could've



Bryon Johnson photo

Ron Hawkshaw

gone either way but York always managed to come out on top. Against the Blues it was another story.

COULDN'T SCORE

Ron has no pat explanation for York's failures against Toronto. He admits that the team may be tight when they take to the ice for big games downtown but denies that playing at Varsity Arena is a factor. Indeed, the Yeomen play better there than at York. "The reason we lost was that we didn't get the goals," Ron says. "We outplayed them and played as disciplined a style as they did, but we couldn't score."

but at least the team played well and was beaten by the eventual Canadian champions. The lowest point in Ron's career was the playoff loss the year before to Guelph—a game during which the team played poorly and lost to a team that Ron feels wasn't in York's class.

Not surprisingly, winning the national championship with Waterloo is Ron's fondest hockey memory. "At the university level, competition, not participation, is the primary motivation," Ron says. "It's true, winning is everything." Regardless of which direction Ron Hawkshaw's future takes, he'll continue to be a winner.

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