

## Just where were Tretiak and Anisin?

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH

There were so many questions surrounding last Thursday's hockey game between Traktor Cheljabinsk and the Mississauga Golden Arrows that the Soviets might as well have worn question marks instead of numbers on their red jerseys.

The fans had questions. Where's Tretiak and Kharlamov?

The press had questions. Who are these guys? The Soviets, as usual, had few answers.

Reports prior to the game suggested that the Soviet embassy in Ottawa had claimed that stars Vladislav Tretiak, Valery Kharlamov, Viacheslav Anisin and Yuri Lebedev were to play Thursday night at Port Credit Memorial Arena.

The 876 fans who paid \$8 a ticket to see these stars got a pretty good deal. It would have cost them a lot more to fly to Japan where Tretiak, Kharlamov, Anisin and Lebedev were really playing.

So where did the false reports come from?

"I don't know where you got that information from," said Soviet interpreter Nikolay Lents. "Those players have never played for this team."

The Times had called the Soviet embassy a week prior to the game and no one at the embassy knew any of the Traktor players' names. The embassy, it claims, did not release the misinformation about the Soviet stars.

So who did? Arrow owner Les Gall denies any complicity in the false reports. He believes the Soviet embassy released the information and is now denying it.

"There's a Russian hockey team over here," Gall says. "Are you trying to tell me the Soviet embassy doesn't know anything about it? All I know is that I was told that the Soviet embassy claimed those players were with Traktor."

So just what kind of team is Traktor?

According to Lents, they hail from the city of Cheljabinsk and finished third in the first division of the Soviet league last year. Spartak, currently playing several NHL clubs, finished sixth.

So what is a third-place team doing playing amateurs when a sixth-place team is playing against professionals?

"The amateurs asked us first," said Traktor's manager, identified only as Mr. Beshkirev. "Then the professional teams asked for a Soviet team and Spartak went along."

That isn't true, says Gall.

"We originally were to play a Czech team," says Gall. "But they couldn't come so Traktor was a last-minute fill-in."

The very fact that Traktor finished ahead of Spartak was considered a bit unbelievable by most who attended the game. The Soviets were good, but certainly not of international calibre.

"I don't see how they could have beaten Spartak out," says Gall. "Maybe they were third in the third division."

The vagueness of the Soviets appears to lend credence to that claim.

When asked if any of the Traktor players had been to Canada before, Lents replied that four had played in series with Canada. He could, however, name only one — Valery Belousov.

Whatever the origin of the Soviet team, it hasn't had much trouble with OHA Senior A teams.

Prior to playing the Arrows, Traktor beat the fourth-place Orillia Terriers 6-4 while outshooting them 59-28.

Following their victory over the Arrows, Traktor easily handled the fifth-place Brantford Alexanders and sixth-place Whitby Iroquois by 6-1 scores.

## Lucky's salmon had sweet tooth

Lucky Harris used more than luck to break the previous Molson's Big Fish Contest record for chinook salmon in 1977.

The Mississauga resident caught the 38 lb. 7 oz. chinook with a bait consisting of a marshmallow and spawn. He caught the record breaker from the mouth of Bronte Creek in Oakville. The chinook weighed 12 lbs. more than the previous record salmon.

The awards were announced last week by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The Credit River was the sight of a 35 lb. 4 oz. catch by Barrie's Jim Lang. The fish earned him fourth place in the Molson's chinook contest. Brantford's Bill Potter plucked a 28 lb. 14 oz. chinook from the Port Credit section of Lake Ontario which earned him 10th spot on the chinook list.

John Howell edged fellow Mississauga resident Terry Johnston for 11th place in the smallmouth bass division. Howell's bass weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and Johnston's catch was one-and-a-half ounces short of that.

Ron Johnston of Mississauga caught the fifth biggest Northern Pike this year. Johnston's catch weighed 27 lbs. 5 oz. and was taken from Manitouabing Lake in McKellar township.



Gifts before the gift goals

Members of Traktor Cheljabinsk, the Soviet hockey team currently touring Ontario, and the Mississauga Golden Arrows exchange gifts prior to last Thursday's game at Port Credit Arena. Traktor scored five times in the third period to beat the Arrows by an 11-4 score.

Times photo by GORM LARSEN

## It was close for a while

# Arrows hit by Traktor

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH

Traktor Cheljabinsk, the Soviet first division hockey team currently touring Ontario, is doing so, in the words of its manager, to learn from Canadian hockey teams.

Last Thursday at Port Credit Memorial Arena, it was the Mississauga Golden Arrows who learned a few things in their game with the Soviets.

Traktor put on a display of skating, passing and conditioning before 876 fans as they swamped the last-place Golden Arrows 11-4.

Mississauga hockey fans also learned a few things about the Golden Arrows, too. The Arrows forgot their 3-17 OHA Senior A record and actually made a game of it for two periods.

They trailed 6-3 going into the final period

before a lack of conditioning and skill caught up with them.

"A lot of guys learned a lot of things out there," said Golden Arrows coach Hal Schooley. "These guys (Traktor) are full-time hockey players; our guys are part-time players. But they showed us how much conditioning counts in this game."

Schooley wasn't satisfied that his team had held the Russians in check for two periods with a strong defensive game and strong goaltending from Rick Katchanoski.

"It's maddening to play as close to them as we did and then lose by that score," he said. "We gave up six goals that a Peeewe team shouldn't have given up. Damn, we scored to make it 5-3 and our captain falls down and gives them the sixth goal. That killed us."

The man who fell down on that play hadn't

heard Schooley's comment but was blaming himself for the loss.

"I played well," said Chris Bootland. "But I blew the game on that play. What a time to fall down. Up until then we were right with them."

While most of the Arrows were discouraged by the large score, most were still thrilled at the thought of playing the Soviets.

"I really enjoyed it," said winger Reg Henry. "We didn't push them very hard, but it was still enjoyable."

"These guys are masters," said winger John Stainton. "Nobody in our league could touch them. It was an honor playing with them."

Bootland summed up the emotion that prevailed on the team. "We were pretty ner-

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## Peeewe AAA team leads tourney take

It came as no surprise that Mississauga hockey teams returned from the Christmas tournaments with seven grand championships and two consolation championships.

But it was surprising that one of the grand champions was a Mississauga Hockey League team.

The Cawthra Park Peeewe AAAs pulled off one of the big surprises of the tournament break by winning the Don Mills Hockey Tournament last week.

"It was unbelievable," said coach Ken Kielbiski. "Only a couple of our players had ever been in a tournament before."

"We beat Martingrove 3-0 in the final and they were a lot bigger than us. But our little guys came up big and our defence played well."

Cawthra's defence, led by goaltender Paul Wheeler, did play well. Cawthra surrendered only four goals in four games and registered two shutouts.

The big star, though, was winger John Vincelli who was named the most valuable player in the tournament. He had four goals while Richard Shappard scored six. Ken Schmidt also had four goals.

Cawthra is in second place in the MHL with a 13-4-3 record.

The Cawthra victory wasn't the only surprise of the tournament week. The Mississauga Minor Bantam A Repls won the Riverside tournament in Windsor, playing against AA calibre teams:

"Nobody expected us to win," said coach Tom Dwyer. "Some of those other teams should have blown us out of the rink."

The real surprise was that the Peca Bros. Repls didn't die from heart failure. They won three of their four games in sudden-death overtime, including the final game.

"It was exciting, that's for sure," said Dwyer.

The Riverside tournament was an all-Mississauga show as the Herron Chev-Olds Bantam AA Repls won the Bantam division.

The Techaire Systems Minor Peeewe A Repls won the B and grand championships at the Iroquois tournament in Whitby. They also won two individual honors as Dave Pollard was named best netminder and Tom McCutcheon the top coach.

The Scott's Colonels Minor Atom A Repls won the Royal York grand championship while the Peeewe A Repls took the Willowdale consolation title.

The Mississauga North Stars produced grand champions in the Atom and Bantam sections of the Erie, Pa. tournament. The Midget A North Stars were finalists.

The Minor Peeewe North Stars took the consolation championship at the Brantford Centennial Firefighters tournament.

• More details on page A-11.



Well-protected

Two Traktor Cheljabinsk players move to protect Arrow forward in last Tuesday's international exhibition game at Port Credit. The game attracted 876 fans.

Times photo by GORM LARSEN

# The handshake heard 'round the rinks

To most people, a handshake bears a message of peace, friendship and trust.

To those in the Mississauga Hockey League, though, the handshake means anything from undying love to a punch in the mouth. But no matter who's involved, the handshake means controversy in MHL circles these days.

They are currently several petitions making the rounds at MHL games protesting a recent ruling that bans the traditional handshakes following all minor hockey games. More than a few people are more than a little upset at the rule, which they say detracts from one of the major purposes of minor hockey — sportsmanship.

The Mississauga Hockey League,

which governs this city's 5,000 hockey players, is standing firm. It claims that there are just too many reasons

ing it as an opportunity to vent their frustrations.

There are several incidents on file of minor hockey players, in all age groups and both sexes, punching and spitting during the post-game ceremony. There were enough incidences to warrant a curtailment of the tradition.

However, those incidences may not have been enough to cause concern had they been the only problem. The MHL was also worried about the amount of valuable time taken up by the handshakes.

There were two reasons for the introduction of the rule — one was the increase in ugly incidents during the handshakes. Yes, while little boys and girls were shaking hands to prove that bygones were bygones, some were us-

ing it as an opportunity to vent their frustrations.

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However, those incidences may not have been enough to cause concern had they been the only problem. The MHL was also worried about the amount of valuable time taken up by the handshakes.

"The time problem, by itself, would never have been a reason for stopping handshakes," says Roy Williams, chairman of the MHL's discipline and protests committee. "But when you take the two, handshakes turn out to

be a lot more trouble than they're worth."

It's that point that has so many parents and coaches upset. Many claim that the ice time that expires during handshakes, and thus shortens the succeeding games, is the real reason behind the new rule. It's a matter of economics, not a matter of concern. Many also claim that it's the older players who are ruining it for the younger ones.

Not so, says Williams. As the man who sees reports on all games, Williams has enough minor hockey horror stories in his files to prove otherwise.

"We've had reports of Minor Atoms (nine-year-olds) spitting in the handshake lineups," he says. "There have been punches thrown and there have been girls involved as well."

"Most of the problems we have are

in the older age groups. But this one seems to run right through."

While the MHL has at least taken a move to curtail a growing problem it appears that it has taken only a band-aid move, and an unpopular one at that.

Lining up for handshakes is not the problem. It is only the tip of a rather large iceberg and banning handshakes will not solve a thing.

The real problem is the atmosphere that creates situations like fights in handshake lineups. What kind of games are children playing that leads them to physical violence?

"I think we have to take a good look at the way the game is being played," says Williams. "We've had to expel a couple of coaches because of their behavior. I wouldn't say things are any worse than they ever were, but they certainly aren't any better."

The MHL's move appears to be one

of expedience. Since handshakes cause problems and waste time, ban them. "We didn't want to," says Williams, "especially since it's counter-productive to the MHL's aims. But we see no other alternative."

One alternative is suspensions. The MHL, which is closer to the best minor hockey outfit than the worst, has suspended players for bad conduct but the suspensions have been of the typical slap-on-the-wrist nature common to hockey.

But stiffer suspensions again would be merely a band-aid cure. What is really needed is some type of campaign to make minor hockey the kind of activity in which handshakes are spontaneous, not banned.

Those wishing to voice complaints on the issue can call Muriel Chudiak at 274-3864.



Chris Zelkovich