

Dixie Beehives: no more playoff honey



Beehive coach Joe Scalon: Oh, well!

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN
The flock of grey that seems to have penetrated Joe Scalon's locks is a fair measure of the labour it required to take a green, unproven hockey team to Provincial Junior A semi-final playdowns.

The dream ended with abrupt 6-1 finality last week of course, but the squad weren't supposed to be contenders — remember?

Wexford Raiders scotched a near Cinderella effort by short-circuiting Bees on their own stomping grounds.

After extending their upstart roles to the limit, Dixie simply fell flat with a bad game Friday night.

Wexford hounded Bees into a host of takeovers, controlled the corners, and displayed fine positional hockey to snuff most every offensive thrust.

"The best team won" admitted Scalon simply. He felt the series could have turned the opposite way in the fifth game.

"We had a 6-5 lead but just couldn't put the puck in the net for insurance goal." Raiders rallied for an 8-5 win and never looked back.



Too late... Scoreboard at Dixie Arena tells troubled tale of Beehives fortunes in the last minute of deciding game against Wexford Raiders.

"We just didn't have the horses tonight" offered manager Bill McNicol as he reviewed the 39-31 shots on net advantage Raiders had.

Still for a team that wasn't supposed to have enough firepower to pull themselves out of a streetcar track, the team did amazingly well. Their fourth place finish was a long haul from a predicted eighth.

Welded into a tight positional team they cut a swath through teams they were supposed to bow graciously to.

Guy's like Dave Large, one of the league's top scorers and probably the most consistent player in the loop, provided the spark.

Then there was rookie-of-the-year Mike Kaszycki, another high point

getter, and spunky Gerry Shafter, a hard-nosed bag of feathers.

Scalon thought foremost of Large. "He gave 100 per cent all the time. He was a real deserving captain."

And the Beehive mentor praised a behind the scenes stalwart like trainer Eric Ferguson. "He did a big job of looking after the boys and the equipment. He's the best one I've ever worked with."

Lone scorer for Bees in the final loss was Bruce Allworth. He took a neat pass from Kaszycki on a relay from John Kenney.

Paul DeMarco and Andy Vince had two apiece for Raiders while Neil Burns and Ben Kawa added singles.

NOTES: Scalon says he has not made plans for coaching next year. "I'm going to take a holiday in a week and think about it." He feels the club will have a nucleus of seven or eight strong players for next season plus good prospects now in midget and juvenile. None of this year's team will be over age for the coming season.

MIKE TOTH
Sports Editor



Muskegon, a mediocre urban sprawl not too many snapshots from Detroit, is a typical production-line Michigan settlement — complete with used car lots, rush hour traffic jams and a high admiration for a sleek Ford.

Especially if it happens to be Gary Ford, the all-conquering Canadian king of blades and sticks.

Ford, 27-year-old product of Mississauga's minor hockey setup, is the Bobby Orr of the local Muskegon Mohawks — quick, colorful, clean and deadly effective inside the opposing teams' bluelines.

With a half dozen games left on the regular International Hockey League schedule, the marvelous Mississaugan has Muskegon shinnies fans in a state of ecstasy. And with a good reason: a goal here, a win there and the Mohawks are home free as proud occupants of the third and last playoff spot of the circuit's eastern division, comprised of Port Huron, Flint, Toledo, Saginaw and Muskegon.

For a team that had only one victory to its credit in the first 16 games of the season, that's a Mount Everest height of achievement. Mohawk fans, lavish in their praise, leave little room for doubt that the man most responsible for the U-turn was Meadowvale-born Ford. As a property of the Montreal Canadiens organization, he spent the first part of the 1972-73 with Nova Scotia Voyageurs, then got shuffled off to Muskegon in hopes of getting Mohawks (both Canadian affiliate sides) on the trail of success.

In 48 games, Ford set a sizzling scoring pace with 57 goals and 64 assists for a grand output of 121 points — the best tally count in the loop, equalling his top-of-the-circuit career-high of last season. The scoring record of the semi-pro IHL (set by Len Thornson with 139 points in 1966-67) is not out of the question, either.

"It's tough to mention the name Gary Ford without stopping to consider the season he is having," glows Mohawks publicity director Eric Nadal.

"And it would be difficult to imagine anyone even challenging Fordie for Most Valuable Player and All-Star Centre."

What makes Ford an ideal idol is the fact that he is "Mr. Clean" himself; the least penalized player among the IHL's top 25 marksmen (with only a two-minute penalty) despite constant close-checking and rough treatment reserved for those who can break up a tight game fast and often.



GARY FORD

Understandably, Gary's parents in Meadowvale are proud of their son and the awesome display of trophies he won during five years of Mohawk warfare. He has been, at one time or another, rookie of the year, most valuable player, scoring king and perennial all-star.

In his days as a pint-sized shinnies aspirant, Gary played in what used to be called the Toronto Township League (now Mississauga Hockey League) with and against players like Fred and Jimmy Stanfield. Graduating into junior ranks, he appeared with both Brampton and Weston Dodgers.

Through the years, Muskegon provided testing ground for NHL players and stars like Carl Brewer, John Ferguson and Andre Bronovost, to name a few.

A late comer to the Mohawk camp this year is another Mississaugan, 21-year-old right winger Duffy McCarthy, secured from Des Moines on loan for the remainder of the campaign.

Between them, they have the Muskegon hockey vehicle speeding along in a high playoff drive.

TOTH-SOME MORSELS — There is a move a-blade to get an intermediate league off the ice and provide organized hockey for those who are over 21, residents of Mississauga and aren't playing or about to be snatched up by play-for-pay or toil-for-fun squads elsewhere.

Initial meeting of the group is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town of Mississauga offices. Among others, an election of executive is planned by the too-old-to-play-junior shinnies set.

Airport Soccer League president John Brown said a trip to New Zealand by a combined Malton-based Air Canada and BOAC team is "definitely on." The Malton selects will leave for Auckland on April 14 and meet friendly rivals from two new Zealand airlines.

WELL DUNN, BUCS!

Port Credit Warriors find bench-warmer too hot to handle

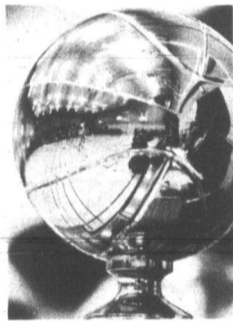
BY JOHN STEWART
Dennis Zanardo sat down and Brampton Centennial exploded.

It was a curious combination to say the least, but one that carried the poised Bucs to the Peel County senior boys basketball title Friday night against Port Credit.

Zanardo drew his fifth and final foul with 20 seconds left in the third quarter and his team trailing 41-33. For the Bucs, who rarely dip into their bench unless it is absolutely necessary, the forward's loss looked like the beginning of the end.

But the team responded by rattling off an incredible 16 straight points to take a commanding 49-41 lead and coast home with a 55-46 victory and their second championship in three years.

With the pressure on before a capacity crowd at Clarkson Secondary School, Brampton outscored the rattled Warriors 20-5 in the fourth quarter.



The Peel senior basketball championship trophy

The slack caused by Zanardo's absence was admirably taken up by guard John Dunn. Dunn never got off the bench last week as the Bucs edged T.L. Kennedy by a single point.

But Friday, after some opening moment jitters, he fit right into the Brampton game.

He did a good job at the top of the Centennial 2-1-2 zone, stole the ball once and made

an important basket by putting the ball on the floor and driving past his man for an easy two points.

Dunn also did a good job, with the rest of the Bucs, in handling the ball when they stalled near the end.

Brampton's best offensive threat was Warren Day who scored 16 points, eight of them in the 16 point surge that carried his team past the Warriors. Bernie Niermann hit 12 points and Bruce Thorne scored 11.

It looked as if Niermann would have to sit out much of the second half when he drew a fourth foul before half time. But the officials ruled after consultation with the scorers' table that the Buc captain had only three fouls. His rebounding was essential to his team, especially after Zanardo fouled out.

Until the end of the third quarter, the game belonged to Port Credit. They were ahead 30-21 at half time and were outmuscling Brampton badly on the boards. Dave Frittenburg in particular provided steady rebounding at both ends of the court.

The Warriors were obviously ready for Brampton's combination of zones and were getting, — and making — good shots. Bruce Hamilton, who finished with 14 points, was their best outside shooter showing a soft touch under stress.

Credit played man-to-man defense exclusively with Hamilton drawing the toughest assignment — Bruce Thorne. He did a great job on Brampton's best shooter, staying on top of him and limiting his shots from the floor throughout the contest.

Fouls hurt the Warriors. Their two big men, Frittenburg and Bill Lawrence both had four to start the last quarter forcing coach Mac Hickox to leave only one in the game at a time. Lawrence, troubled at the high post by the Buc zone and the good defense of Bruce Thorne, scored only nine points.

In their collapse in the early part of the fourth quarter, Credit's shooting went cold, they committed mental errors contributing to turnovers, and they had trouble for the first time getting good shots on Brampton's zone. Typical was a technical foul called on a Port Credit player for failing to raise his hand after committing a foul.

It was the first Warrior loss since December 20 when they dropped a four point decision to Westwood.

Brampton had beaten Credit twice before in exhibition matches. In the east-west tournament the Bucs won 43-25 and they took a pre-season exhibition match by 15 points. The Warriors were without Lawrence in both those games.

The Buc triumph was the fourth in a row for the west division and finished a near-sweep by Brampton schools in basketball. Central Peel won the midget and junior boys titles, and Brampton Centennial won the girls senior title.



Port Credit's Jamie Clare finishes off a drive with a layup in the Peel championship game Friday, as teammate Dave Frittenburg (21) looks on. The Warriors led by six after three quarters, but eventually lost to Brampton by nine points. (Times photo by Ron Pozzer)

Rep 'Bug Squad' facing final test

To be or not to be — that's the nerve-wrecking question facing the Mississauga rep "Bug Squad" in a Metro Toronto Hockey League tyke AA western division championship decider this week.

The fate of the title hinges on a "make-or-break" game

to be played tonight between Mississauga PCO tykes and Royal York Rangers. The two teams sandwiched a 1-1 tie between victories to knot the count and make a tie-breaker necessary. Royal York won 2-1, then PCO's evened the count via a 1-0 triumph.

Lawrence Smith fired

home a goal, but it was too little to save the "Bug Squad" from a 2-1 defeat Monday night in the third game of the series.

Earlier, goalie Mike Sands and Andy Connor assisted on Mike Harvey's goal to salvage a 1-1 tie with the tough Royal York foes.

PCO's took the semi-final hurdle in their stride, downing Toronto Kings by 3-1 and 4-1 scores in two straight games. Ken Strong

(2), Lawrence Smith (2), Mike Harvey, Randy Watling and Bruce Heblthweite accounted for the scoring power.

Deally diet pays off in Ontario freestyle wrestling triumph

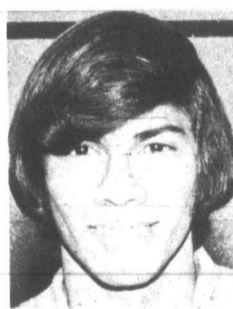
Ken Deally of Erindale Secondary School shocked himself and his coach over the weekend by winning the Ontario junior (under 21) freestyle wrestling championships at Waterloo University.

Deally, second in the Peel-Hallon and third in the OFSSA meet defeated Robert Crang of the University of Toronto 2-0 in his final match to take the title. The Erindale wrestler got a takedown before the end of the first round and held on to win.

Earlier, Deally had decided one opponent and pinned two to get to the 105½-pound final.

The McBride Avenue wrestler almost didn't get to compete at all. He was five pounds overweight with two days to go before the meeting only an apple for lunch on Friday and a half of a grapefruit Saturday, Deally just made it under the limit.

He now moves on to the Canadian championships tomorrow at Thunder Bay. Besides competing in the junior free style, the grade 13



KEN DEALLY

student will try senior Greco-Roman calibre as well.

Next year, Deally plans to attend Sheridan College and join the well-known Europa wrestling club in Toronto.

Asked if his performance had surprised his coach, Ken replied, "yes, but not as much as it surprised me. I figured I might possibly finish second or third but I never expected to win."

Erindale team mate Ed Falcioni also competed, but dropped his two opening bouts. Wrestlers from Central Peel and Glenforest also failed to move past their first two matches.

SPRING BREAK

Lacrosse school set

For most kids, the days of spring break provide a chance to get away from school. For others, it's a golden opportunity to learn about the game of lacrosse, Canada's original national sport.

The Mississauga Lacrosse School, a five-day instructional clinic run for the first time under the auspices of the Recreation and Parks Department, is scheduled to get under way next Monday,

March 19 at Applewood Heights Secondary School.

The clinic, with daily instructions between 9 a.m. and 12 noon from Monday to Friday, March 23, is open to boys and girls in the 7-12 year age bracket.

Head instructors are former Toronto Shooting Star pro players Mike McMahon and Brian (Butch) Keegan. McMahon is a physical education teacher at Applewood.



ROBBIN ROWE... Erindale gymnast favorite to win Peel title (Times photo by Ron Pozzer).

Boys gymnastics ready for instant facelift

BY MIKE TOTH
Boys gymnastics, once a bona fide attraction ranking not too many field goals or hoop shots behind football and basketball on the popularity chart of Peel high school sporting pastimes, is being subjected to a facelift.

The idea behind the plastic surgery is to lift boys gymnastics out of obscurity and into the spotlight of scholastic glamour sports.

"We had a real good competitive gymnastic setup at one time," said Gary Ewart, head of Applewood's physical education department and one of several dedicated teachers wielding a surgeon's scalpel. "But the sport is not as popular these days as it was five-six years ago."

Ewart's Axemen will be among competitors from eight Mississauga-area high schools contesting the Peel championships at Erindale this Thursday. They are slated to join novice, intermediate and

advanced groups from Gordon Graydon, Lorne Park, Clarkson, Glenforest, Mayfield, Westwood and Erindale to decide the fate of county crowns in a six-event program — floor exercises, vaulting, side horse, rings, parallel and horizontal bars.

Both Ewart and his friendly rival (and co-surgeon) from the host Erindale school, Ron McBride, consider the Peel get-together an operation of considerable importance.

"We have to convince the physical education people that gymnastics are as important as basketball or wrestling," commented McBride, who coached Raiders to their second consecutive Peel high school football crown last fall before turning his attention to the "rejuvenating of gymnastics."

Among others, McBride has ambitious plans for an open meet at Erindale with Peel boy gymnasts exposed (Continued on page B4)

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