



The whole story

Even though he's wearing a mask, Dixie Beehive goaltender Mark Griffiths cannot hide his feelings after another Guelph Plater goal in Sunday's Provincial Junior A hockey game at Dixie Arena Gardens. The game was a nightmare as the Beehives were beaten 9-4.

## Beehives of old emerge in lost weekend swing

The bad old days returned to Dixie Arena Gardens this weekend as the opposition filled the Beehive net with 20 goals.

Twenty goals would have been a good night's work for Provincial Junior A teams in the previous two seasons. Fortunately for this year's edition of the Beehives, the damage was spread over two nights.

The Aurora Tigers paid a rare Friday visit and left with an 11-5 victory and the Guelph Platers, who the Bees stung in two previous games in Guelph, walked off with a 9-4 win Sunday.

It had to happen. Dixie hockey teams have been in hockey heaven, this season. The Junior A and Junior B clubs were undefeated in 25 games at home until Friday.

The Provincial A Bees were briefly in sole possession of first place last week while riding a 13-game unbeaten streak.

Suiting up against Aurora the Bees were overconfident — a bad state of mind when playing one of the hottest clubs in the league.

Aurora is still 10 points behind North Bay and Royal York but Beehive coach Larry Stern figures they should not be counted out.

"They are a hell of a team," he says. "The league is starting to catch up. For teams like Aurora it was just a matter of time before they sorted themselves out."

"Teams at the bottom of the standings are starting to knock off higher clubs."

Listening to Stern go on about his players after the Aurora game left the impression the Bees would even have had trouble removing their skates.

"They didn't skate," he said. "They didn't check. They didn't hit. They didn't do anything. The defence fell apart. The goaltending was shoddy."

Phew — and as for Sunday night.

"They put it to us. You can't get down a couple of goals to Guelph and expect to come back. We were forced to open it up and then things got worse."

Mark Griffiths started in goal Friday but Stern pulled him after five goals. Paul Fisher was the target Sunday but he also came out after five goals against.

"Both can play better," was Stern's only comment on that department.

The Bees were without Russ Foster for both games. Dan Cormier missed the Aurora game and Rory Carroll sat out the Guelph defeat.

Steve Cloutier, who is third in league scoring with 58 points, scored in both games. Cormier scored twice against Guelph.

## A Stern selection

Larry Stern, coach of the Dixie Beehives, will coach the western all-stars in the Provincial Junior A All-star game on Jan. 14 in North Bay.

Stern's western all-stars will face the eastern all-stars coached by North Bay's Don Turcotte.

Stern, in his rookie year as Bees coach after a successful career with Mississauga Reps, was picked on the basis of the Beehives performance over the first 27 games.

Despite two losses at home on the weekend, the Beehives had the best record in the strong western section of the league. Included in the west are contenders Guelph Platers and Royal York Royals.

If Royal York had won Sunday, Royals coach Ken Gibb would have gotten the nod from league officials. The all-star teams will be announced shortly.

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## slander Mike Kaszycki

# He knows he belongs

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH

What happened to Mike Kaszycki last Wednesday night at Maple Leaf Gardens was a summary of his 1977-78 National Hockey League season — a mixture of frustration and excitement.

The Mississauga Hockey League graduate is thrilled to be a regular member of the New York Islanders. He's also frustrated that after 21 games he had yet to score his first goal.

Kaszycki was thrilled at the thought of playing before friends and family against the Toronto Maple Leafs last week. But he was also frustrated by a groin injury that kept him out of the game.

"I'm really disappointed," he said after watching his team lose 3-2 to the Leafs. "My parents are here and everything. I really wanted to play, but that's the way things have been going this year."

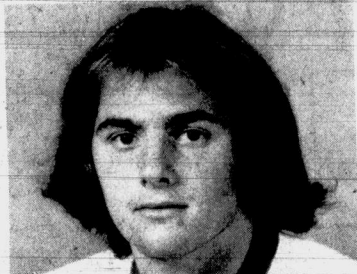
Kaszycki's first season in the NHL has not been a disaster, far from it.

After setting a Junior A scoring record with 170 points two years ago, Kaszycki was drafted 32nd overall by the Islanders. He spent last season with the Fort Worth Texans of the Central Hockey League and was runner-up in the rookie-of-the-year voting.

Despite those credentials, the 21-year-old centre came to training camp this fall with only an outside chance of making the team. Most of the attention was focused on rookie Alex McKenry, a 6'4" 200-pounder.

Kaszycki, a 5'9" and 175 lbs., was virtually overlooked.

But when camp ended it was Kaszycki who remained in New York and McKenry who wound up in Fort Worth.



Mike Kaszycki

"He made it by working," says Islanders coach Al Arbour. "He has a lot of poise for a rookie. But he overcomes everything with hard work."

Kaszycki started as a centre with Bob Bourne and Bob Nystrom and spent some time on the bench before being reinstated as a regular centre. Since then he has played well and his line has become the second best on the Islanders. Kaszycki has eight assists in his first 21 games, but was still looking for his first goal on Wednesday. He found it Saturday night when he scored against the Boston Bruins. But that goal came after a lot of frustration.

"I'm a little frustrated," he said. "Maybe I'm trying too hard, I don't know. I was sure I had my first goal in Chicago the other night."

"The rebound came out and was lying right on the line. All I had to do was hit it. Just before I did, two guys came at me so I just put my head down and dove at the puck."

"I was lying on the ice, ready to pick up the puck for a souvenir. I couldn't believe it hadn't gone in."

While Kaszycki was frustrated by his inability to score, he did not expect it to go on much longer.

"I've been getting the chances," he said, "but I've hit a few posts, things like that. Maybe I'm pressing a little."

"There's a lot of pressure to score and play well up here. Look at (Islander rookie Mike) Bossy. He's got over 20 goals already. People look at me and think maybe I'm not that good if I haven't scored."

"But I know I belong here and sooner or later I'll score. The guys kid me about it a lot, which is good. It helps keep me from getting down on myself."

"That's one thing you can't do up here. If you get down on yourself, you're finished. They'll have another guy in your position in no time."

"Those road trips are murder."

But the aura of the big leagues hasn't worn off for Kaszycki. He isn't carried away by it, either.

"I'm just taking it easy this year," he says. "I haven't made any big investments or anything like that. I'm concentrating on hockey. Maybe when I've established myself a bit, I'll have time for some outside things."



He got ahead

Rest assured, Norm Regimbal of Pete's Delivery did not lose his head in Saturday's Mississauga Basketball Association game with Erindale, even though Andy Zulps (12) appears to have decapitated Regimbal.

## Welton is on a winning slope

A 17-year-old Mississauga high school student earned notice by his fine performance at the United States Holiday Classic that he is ready to move up in the ranks of Canadian men's skiers.

Competing against 100 skiers from Japan, the United States and Canada's B squad, John Welton, a member of the Southern Ontario ski team placed in the top 40 — considerably improving his previous best performance.

Welton, racing in the giant slalom at Sutton Mountain Vermont, finished six seconds faster than the nearest team-mate

from the Southern Ontario squad.

"I wasn't expected to do so well," said the Erindale Secondary School student. "In the division time trials held earlier this month I was the second fastest."

"The icy conditions on Stratton Mountain were to my advantage."

Welton's performance led to his FIS handicap points being lowered from 77 to 65. FIS points decide a skier's ranking. The lower the FIS handicap the higher the skier is seeded in an FIS event.

In the upcoming Pontiac Cup races Welton expects to be seeded first.

The Southern Ontario team returns home tomorrow after races at Pico Peak today. This is Welton's third year on the team. He had his best showing in the Pontiac Cup last season when he placed ninth in the slalom competing against national team members at Georgian Peaks.

Jane Burns and Jay Empey of Mississauga are also members of the Southern Ontario team but did not make the Vermont trip.

John's younger brother Dan and Jeff MacInnis are competing for spots on the elite team.

# The great slapshot rule that wasn't

Before even one puck had been fired in anger this fall, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) announced plans to further improve minor hockey in this country.

The abuse of the slapshot, the hockey governors claimed, was ruining the game. Young hockey players were growing up with no knowledge of wrist-shots and stick-handling and other lost arts of the game. The slapshot was king, and a bad king at that.

In a highly-publicized move, the CAHA placed a ban on the slapshot and promised an improvement in minor hockey.

Six months later the slapshot is still king and the lost arts are just as lost as they were last year.

The main reason for the retention of the status quo is that the original ban was not a good one and that the

revised ban is even worse. The whole affair has been a waste of time.

The original rule change, introduced this summer, called for a penalty on any player who raised his stick

above the waist, either on his backswing or on his follow-through. The rule applied to all players aged 12 and under, which includes players in the Paperweight to Peeewe divisions.

Before the rule was used in league games, the CAHA decided that it had too many flaws and modified it. The revised rule, issued in October with little publicity, called for a penalty only if a player raised his stick above his waist on both the backswing and the follow-through.

Several coaches in the Mississauga Hockey League were polled last week and all agreed that the rule has been virtually useless.

"The way the original rule was worded there would have been a lot of unjustified penalties," says Derrick Wyles, a Minor Peeewe coach with the Cawthra Park organization. "For instance, how can a player backhand a shot out of his end without raising his stick above his waist?"

"But the new rule isn't serving what was originally intended. You're only penalized if you raise your stick

both ways. It's not hard to take a slapshot without doing that. In fact, only a boy who doesn't know how to take a slapshot would do that."

"He'd have to be using his stick like a shillelagh."

Wyles is the coach who hasn't even seen the rule enforced this season.

Kirk Hewson, a Minor Peeewe coach in Clarkson, has seen about 50 hockey games this year. He has seen the rule enforced, but only three or four times.

"The revised rule is good in some ways," he says. "Kids have been winding up and following through for years. It stops them from doing that."

"But I preferred the rule the original way. All the changed rule does is teach them how to take better slapshots. It certainly doesn't discourage them from taking them."

Hewson feels that the revised rule

has some value at the lower levels of the MHL but none at the AAA or Red level.

"Kids in the higher calibre divisions know better and they don't take the big windups anyway," says Hewson. "So they're taking just as many slapshots as they ever have."

The basic purpose of the new rule was to discourage the profusion of slapshots and encourage the use of other shots. A sideline purpose was to cut down on the number of injuries caused by high sticks.

But even that hope has not been fulfilled.

"They bring in this rule, supposedly to help cut down on injuries," says Wyles. "I don't know how many injuries were caused by kids being hit by sticks on shots, but I can't recall many."

"At the same time, they take out

the penalty for hitting a puck with a high stick. The kids were just starting to get used to knocking down high pucks with their hands. It's crazy."

Fortunately for MHL players, referee-in-chief Bill Peeling decided to go against the CAHA ruling on that issue. Penalties are still called for high sticks in the MHL, but not in leagues like the MTHC.

The CAHA's original intention was a good one, but the rule was poorly worded and poorly researched. The revised rule accomplishes nothing.

"Sometimes you wonder what they're thinking of," says one Atom coach, who declined to be identified. "They still haven't made a decision on whether face masks should be mandatory."

"It worries me that these are the people in charge of hockey."



Chris Zelkovich