Shepley is Rangers coach of the year

Brett Shepley has been honoured as coach of the year for the Oakville Rangers rep hockey system.

"His tireless work with the peewee AAA's and, latterly, with the bantam AAA was evidence of his commitment to Oakville's high level hockey development," said Keith Murray, vice president of rep hockey for the Minor Oaks Hockey Association (MOHA).

"He persevered with the peewee AAA despite the fact that they lost over 160 man-games due to injury. And when we needed some help with the bantam AAA who had gotten off to a negative start, he was there to help.

"He brought this team up over the .500 level, which was a major effort on his part. Brett is an example for all of our coaches to follow."

Shepley played his early hockey with the Chatham Maroons juniors for five years before entering the coaching ranks. Prior to coming to Oakville in '94 he coached teams in Cambridge, New Hamburg and London.

His biggest coaching thrill, to date, he said, was winning the North American Silver Stick championship with the Oakville Rangers minor atom AAA rep team in '95.

"Some of those boys are still active today — Mike Swinton with the Brampton Junior A's, Rich Meloche with the Milton juniors and Scotty Russell with the Blades," said Shepley. "All of them were just a great bunch of hockey players."

On the home front, having the great support of his wife, Lori, "really helps make the long hockey season an enjoyable one," said Shepley.

Shepley's daughter, Jessica, has also been no stranger to these sports pages in the past couple of years as one of Canada's top junior golfers. The defending Ontario junior and open golf champion, she is now on a scholarship at the University of Tennessee.

She fired the best round at the national junior championships earlier this summer in Winnipeg with a 70 but then had to settle for seventh place when she followed up with rounds of 79 and 80. The previous year, she had been second at the Ontario junior, Ontario open and national championship.

BACK ROW: David Smith (coach), Hugo Guertin, Christopher Karafilov, Paul Manchisi, Christopher Gregoire, John Sousa (assist. coach), Nives Greco (manager). MIDDLE ROW: Patterson Farrell, Ryan Sousa, Ricky Maimonis, A.J. Wood, Andrew Dziedzic. FRONT ROW: Dylan Cruickshank, Justin Mac, Matthew Greco, Julian John, Marshal Slipp and Jack Smith sitting in the front. ABSENT: Johan Israelien and Moyo Akinade.

Beckham-life performance from Smith

On the same weekend of England's historic defeat over Germany, the Oakville Xtreme got a David Beckham-like performance from Jack Smith en route to an impressive 4-1 win over Brampton in the championship game of the London U-9 tourney.

After an opening goal by Paterson Farrell, Smith potted the natural hat-trick.

The semifinal game against Kitchener proved to be their most difficult of the weekend with Oakville winning 1-0 in extra time with Jack Smith scoring.

Here are their preliminary round results:

• OAKVILLE 3, Burlington 0: goals were scored by Dylan Cruickshank, Jack Smith and Andrew Dziedzic.

• OAKVILLE 4, Byron 1: goals were scored by Paul Manchisi 2, Jack Smith and Marshall Slipp.

• OAKVILLE 0, North London 0.

A special mention to all team sponsors: Sunoco, Mariolle Inc. (Rossignol), Life Source Water Systems Ltd. in Oakville, Glaxo Canada, J&D Tire Sales and Service, Granddad Ronnie and Nanny Frances from Norwich, England, Corbetts Sporting Goods and Innovation Process Control Inc.

Storm finishes off season undefeated in league play

The Oakville Storm U-12girls rep team finished a tremendous season with two quality wins over the second and third place teams.

The Storm took on league rivals Burlington and handily defeated them 2-0 with goals from Alison Wiseman (on a lovely cross from the left corner by Jenna Manchisi) and Katie Mason (from Carleigh Joyce).

The final week of the season saw the Storm defeat Waterloo 2-0. Carleigh Joyce converted a penalty kick for the winner and Katie Mason scored on a breakaway after being set up on a real pretty passing play involving Justine Bernier, Victoria O'Hara and Jenna Manchisi.

The last two wins capped off an undefeated season in SRSL League play.

The Storm finished with a 16-0-2 record, outscoring their league opponents 74-1 (with Waterloo scoring the only goal against earlier in the season).

The team is anchored in goal by keeper Kelly Zinkiewich (17 league shutouts in 18 games; 42 total shutouts this season).

The stalwart defence consists of Gillian Knap (Sweep), Kristina Pade (SoccerTeena), Jacquelyn Ferguson (Shy Guy), Megan Skippen (Skip) and Stephanie Ovsec (Stef).

The teams strong point all year has been the midfield, Carleigh Joyce (Carkey), Justine Bernier (JJ), Megan Tilley (Nails), Ali Okihiro (Alley-Oops) and Jenna Manchisi (Cheesey). The forwards are Katie Mason (K-T), Alison Wiseman (Apple), Megan (Mosquito) McKellar, Eden Gary (Boomer) and Victoria O'Hara (Miss Vicky).

Ready for prime time

The Oakville Atom AAA Rangers paid a return visit to Waterloo for the second of two exhibition games last Saturday, winning 5-3. The Rangers also won the first game, 4-3.

Patrick Readshaw iced the game at 5-3 with an empty netter — his second of the game — but not before a game saving sliding stick save by Conor O'Kelly frustrated the Cubs in their effort to tie the game.

Oakville had led 3-1 before Waterloo tied it up at 3-3.

Patrick Marsh also had a two-goal game with Tyler Stothers adding a single.

Assists (unofficial) went to Adam DiMarco (2), Patrick Readshaw (2), Steven Guzzo and Matthew Fillman.

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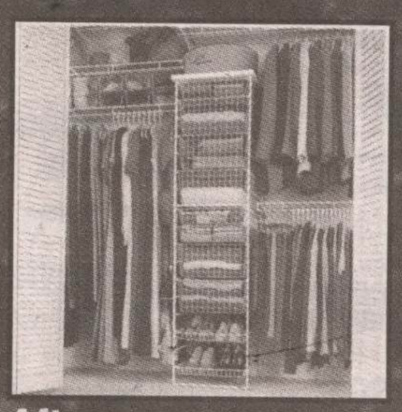
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