

Life begins at 30 for Southfield pucksters

By RON HINGST

There is a misnomer that hockey is strictly a "young man's game." Mr. Red Wing, Gordie Howe, has

spent his retirement on the ice in the World Hockey Association when most men his age keep athletic endeavors to a walk around the block or a trip to the refrigerator for a cold one.

Many other hockey professionals are still active and the age of 30 and 40, but of course they are pros. Most amateur hockey players usually "hang up" after adulthood, some turn to coaching and others turn to the tube to keep in touch with their game.

Each Thursday evening at the Southfield Ice Arena, the hands of time are turned back for some 125 hockey players. An eight team delegation of over 30 men take the ice over a four hour span for organized competition in the Southfield Men's Over 30 Association.

Four years ago, Southfield resident Ray Murray approached arena manager Ray Tremblay with the idea of starting a hockey program for men. The word spread and Murray returned to the recreation department with a list of interested citizens.

"This is one of the best programs I've seen in Detroit and Canada," said Tremblay in a heavily French Canadian accent. "There are no loopholes in it."

An estimated 90 players participated in the six team circuit during the initial season. The league has now expanded to eight teams with a waiting list of players to join the Association.

WE TRY to have all situations met with our board of governors and a

rules committee," said Murray, Association president and an active player.

The rules were adjusted to accommodate a style of play for the players. Slap shots and body checking are prohibited and fighting is a definite no-no.

"We tried to eliminate the violent type of contact and we don't tolerate fighting," Murray said.

The Southfield Over 30 founder, who is 42 himself, listed 55-year-old Zory Sarkisian as the league's current elder statesman although Luther Wagner held that title last season, but retired at the ripe old age of 57.

THE PROGRAM is open to all Southfield residents, but employs of some Southfield businesses can join.

According to Murray, 12-18 players are currently waiting to join teams. The Association maintains a draft system for new players to keep competition balanced. Each new player is graded through a system and new members are divided up to meet each squad's needs.

"We also have a medical replacement program for those who get hurt during the season," Murray said.

The Association has experienced about a 10 per cent drop out each year which opens the doors for new members.

"THE YOUNG players speed the game up, but for the most part the competition is relative to your own experience," Murray said.

To minimize the performance of sometimes real, over-ambitious performers, the Association's

administrators tabulate each player's penalty minutes. Perpetual violators of injury-causing penalties such as tripping and hooking are sent a warning letter.

"It gives an incentive to follow the rules," Murray explained. The schedule limits games to one night a week so playing does not interfere with members social and family lives—a definite plus for any hockey player's wife.

The medium age for this year's participants is 37½, Murray said, and less than one-half dozen players are single.

To the delight of wives, the Association throws a dinner-entertainment bash at the season's end, and Murray said the event has become "quite professional."

"We try to utilize the talents of the members in our organization," Murray said.

And while staying in shape presents a problem for the fast pack of hockey, what about the fear of injuries?

"From my experience, I have never seriously been hurt," Murray said. The interest in organized hockey for the Over-30 crowd has grown and such leagues are sprouting up at a

number of locations. This season, the Southfield Association has formed two all-star teams for exhibitions in other cities. Sports are not just for kids.

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Spartan victory means tie for top

Spartan Concrete and Sawyer Fuller Funeral Home are tied for first place in the Southfield Over 30 Hockey League. Both teams have 10-3-5 records.

Spartan defeated Sawyer Fuller 3-2 last week to tie up the top spot. Ray Tremblay, the league's leading scorer, scored two goals, and Dick Raynor added another for the winners. Sawyer got goals from Hill-Hoyd and Jim Goldberg. Spartan goalie Chuck Hoover held Sawyer scoreless until early in the third period.

In another Over 30 game last week, Arley's Firestone and Concordia Camera played to a three-tilt tie. Frank Goldberg scored twice for Concordia while Len Milburn added a single goal. Firestone's goals were scored by Gordon Wikman, Derek Reynolds and Arnie Shapiro.

Bob Stefanko and Jim O'Dea each scored an unassisted goal to give Suburban Sports Center a 2-1 victory over Star Lincoln-Mercury. Tom Jones scored Star's lone goal. Both goalies - Star's Mike DeLoo and Suburban's Lee Jacobs - turned in fine games.

Last place Hager Pynke Chevrolet surprised Northland Heating 4-3 on goals by Ray Brunett, Bill Losen, Nick Leo and Bill Coburn. Northland's goals were scored by John Hildebrand, Bruce Coburn and John Gummerus.

Games Thursday (Feb. 13) include Firestone vs. Northland (7:30 p.m.), Spartan vs. Suburban (8:35), Star vs. Sawyer Fuller (9:40), and Hager Pynke vs. Concordia (10:50). All games will be played at Southfield's Civic Center Arena, 2000 Evergreen Road.

Over 30 Standings

Team	W	L	T
Sawyer Fuller	10	3	5
Spartan Concrete	10	3	5
Arley's Firestone	10	6	2
Suburban Sports	7	6	5
Concordia Camera	5	8	5
Northland Heating	6	11	1
Star Lincoln-Mercury	4	9	5
Hager Pynke Chevrolet	5	11	2

NFWB singup

Registration for the North Farmington West Bloomfield Little League will be held on February 22 and March 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Farmington High School, 3200 Thirteen Mile Road.

Applicants must have a completed registration card signed by a parent, cash, check or money order for \$25 (\$20 for the second child, \$10 for each additional child), birth certificate or a copy, a note from a doctor stating physical health. Doctors will be present to give free physical examinations.

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