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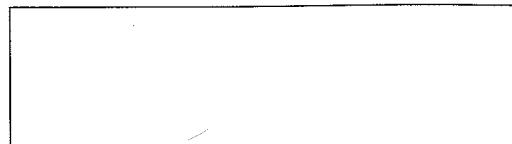


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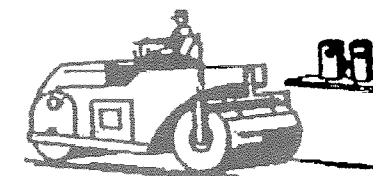
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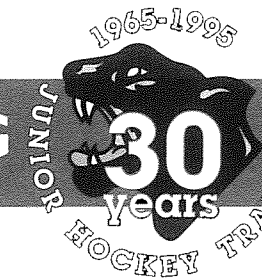
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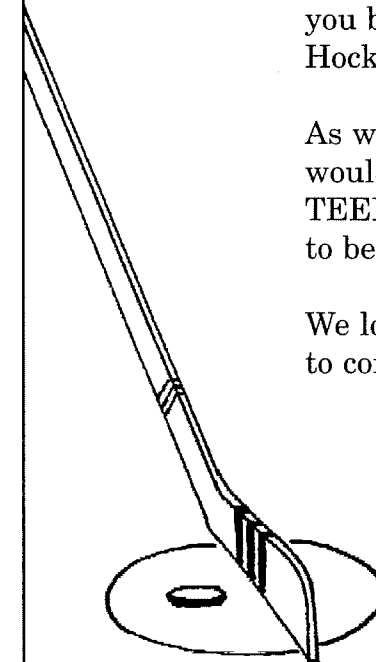
COUGARS

FROM THE TOP...

On behalf of the Executive, it is my pleasure to welcome you back to another exciting year of Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey.

As we enter this 30th season of Junior Competition, I would like to thank the FANS, SPONSORS, and VOLUNTEERS who have supported the organization and continue to be the reason for the Club's longevity.

We look forward to a successful season and will work hard to continue the fine tradition of Junior hockey in Cobourg.



Jim Morrow
 President

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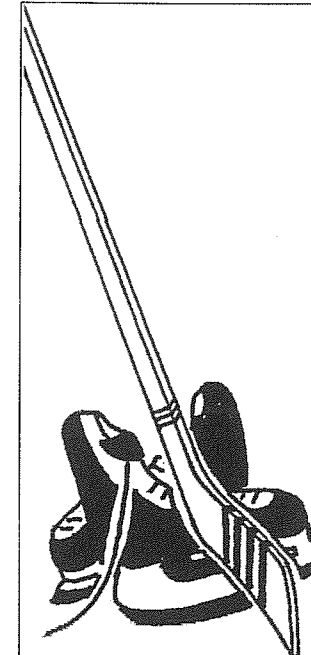
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THE GM SAYS



On behalf of the 1994/95 edition of the Cobourg Cougars, I would like to welcome you to the Cobourg Memorial Arena for some exciting O.H.A. Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey.

As well as being our thirtieth anniversary this is our third year operating at this level of hockey and the program has accelerated quickly. This is not by luck, as we have a tremendous group of volunteers, sponsors, fans and players that support our hockey club.

For the management, coaching and scouting staff as well as the trainers, equipment guys and most of all the players, we hope you enjoy this season as:

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Ron Johnson
General Manager



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Second row: Keith Boundy, Brian Gillis, Brydon Elinesky (C), Rick Austin, Bill Ryan, Eric Buttar
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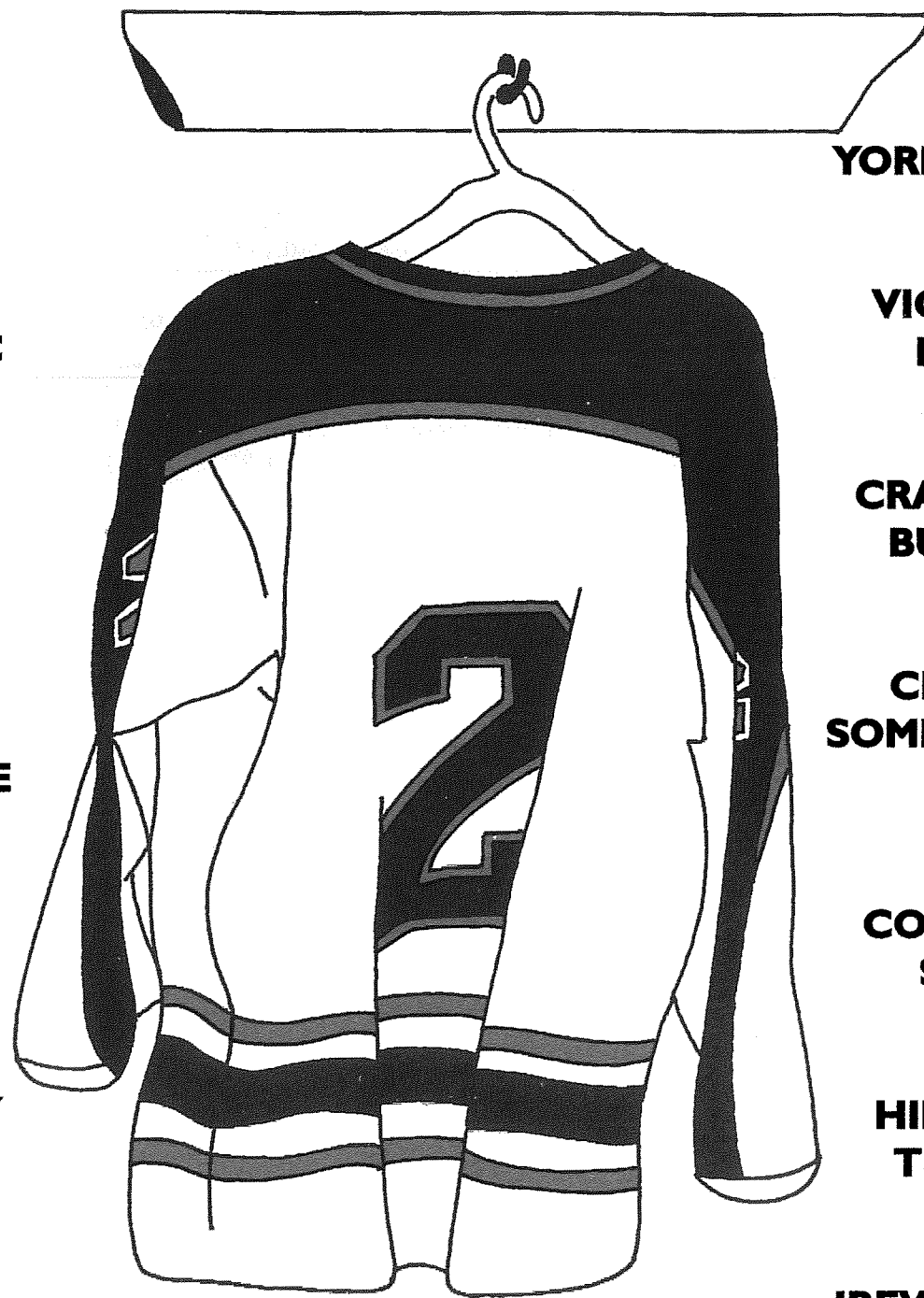
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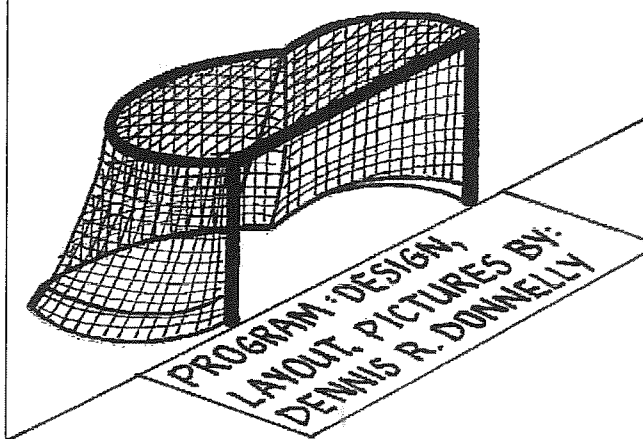


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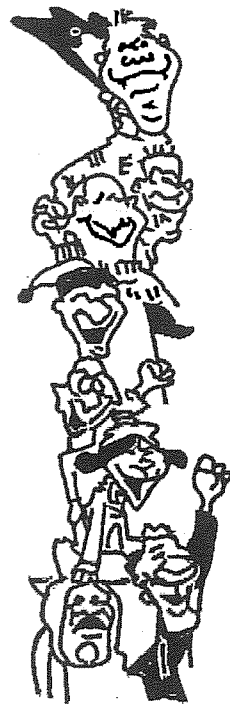
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First of all, I would like to thank you in purchasing this hockey program for tonight's game. We designed a larger, more colourful program for you, the fans, to enjoy throughout the 94/95 hockey season. It being our 30th Anniversary Season, this year's program will hopefully will reflect on that. At this time, I would like to thank all the advertisers in the program for their support and hopefully we'll see you in the 95/96 hockey program.

So I hope you enjoy this year's hockey program. Your support for our hockey club is greatly appreciated. Let's fill the arena, cheer your COUGARS on and give your all, as they, the players, are giving *their* all.

Yours in hockey,

Genie R. Sorelly
Program Chairman

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THE FIRST 30 YEARS

By Layton Dodge

Thirty years of Cougar hockey — it hardly seems possible. But then time does fly when you're having fun.

The Cobourg Cougars Junior Hockey Club has had many peaks and valleys, twists and turns, over three decades. Excuse us if we touch on only a few of the high spots.

Cougars' evolution can be divided into three segments: the six seasons of junior B, the 21 seasons of junior C and, now, going on three years of tier II junior A.

The vision of Ken (Coon) Medhurst and Dick Robinson, the team's first coach and manager respectively, and the community-minded leadership of businessmen Jeff Rolph and Clarke Sommerville enabled Cougars to get off the ground and on to the ice in 1965 with the cast of Cobourg's two-time OMHA midget AA finalists forming the nucleus.

Cougars fit right into the Eastern Ontario Junior B Hockey League back then, culminating in a first-place league finish in the 1967-68 season. Imagine the disappointment when Oshawa Crushmen eliminated that first-class team in a memorable six-game series in the group final with 3,500 people viewing the clincher at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium.

A sample of the many fine players from that junior B era who immediately come to mind are Gord Kelly, John Gray, Dennis O'Brien, Gus Bambridge, Gord Brooks, Brydon Elinesky, Brian Gillis, Bill Ryan, Steve Harold, Paul Massey, Keith (Boomer) Boundy, Doug Campbell, Rick Austin, Paul Herriot, Bob Hill, Larry Thompson, Paul Gutteridge, Eric Buttar, Reg Stevenson, Al Fenton, Dave Peers and Mike Kelly. They drew big crowds and played great hockey for the most part in those early years.

With the passage of time and the graduation of key personnel, the Junior B Cougars fell on hard times for a couple of winters.

The Cougars, responding to the team's inability to remain competitive over a prolonged period of time, switched to the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League in 1971. The honeymoon lasted through most of the seventies and the fans supported them, often in record numbers. The familiar chant "Hey, you Cougars, go you Cougars" echoed in many arenas with Bill Robbins and Maurice Pursey the chief cheerleaders.

The first half of the junior C era was particularly prosperous. In fact, the initial edition of Cougars in that category stunned group powerhouse Sutton South Shore Rangers in a first-

round playoff series that went the seven-game limit and the Cinderella Cougars eventually advanced all the way to the Ontario Junior C finals, winding up as runners-up to a powerful Leamington team despite John Cane's incredible work in the Cougar cage.

In 1974, Cougars finished second to none in the province, an exercise of excellence that still stands as the only Cobourg OHA provincial championship in more than a century of that venerable organization's existence.

The '73-74 Cougars' unprecedented and breath-taking march to the pinnacle of success produced a treasure-chest of memories. Few of Cougars' legions of fans back then will ever forget Terry Irwin's life-saving goal with three seconds left in regulation time at Bradford to send a game Cougars had to win to OT and Cougars coming all the way back from a 3-1 game deficit in the semifinal to rub out a rough Bradford club. It made the Ontario final almost anti-climactic as Cougars licked Simcoe in five games in the championship series to complete the incredible odyssey.

Cougars also won the Central Ontario group crown on two other occasions but lost out to Dunnville Terriers a couple of years later in the provincial semifinals and, in front of capacity crowds to Gananoque G-Men in a hard-fought 1980 series that Cobourg learned too late should have been theirs since Gananoque later was caught using illegal players.

Players of the ilk of Terry Lewis, Brian Connor, Marty Kernaghan, Paul Bevan, Pat Rutherford, Bill Whitelaw, Randy Fife, Eddie Clarey, Terry Irwin, Garth Beer, Doug Choiniere, Stu Watson, Bruce Sherwin, Morris Petherick, Jim Flesch, Wayne Rorabeck, Alex Calder, Tom Sharpe, John Buckley, Carl Deline, Gary Hope, Kevin Lowe, Ken Stevenson, Kyle Campbell,

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A cross-section of the goaltenders who faced opposing junior C shooters includes Ron Fowler, Rick Fife, Glen Davis, Phil Hennessey, Rob (Boomer) Turland, Mark Flesch, Scott Birkhof and Jason Riehl, to mention a mere handful.

The eighties were probably the team's least productive, although they finished as league runners-up to Lakefield Chiefs under coach Ron Johnson around the middle of the decade.

The 1990s began not looking particularly promising either on the ice or in the stands until the Cougars, in a bid to recapture some of that old-time magic, took a calculated risk in 1992 and applied for admission into the OHA Provincial Junior A (tier II) Hockey League. Lo and behold, they were accepted, thanks in large measure to the energy and leadership of new president Rod Baker. One of Baker's best moves was to seek out and get a commitment from Ron Johnson to return to the Cougars, this time in the capacity of general manager.

Johnson has proven to be invaluable in spearheading the Cougars' movement since then. Without a major corporate sponsor or an affiliation with an OHL club, the Cougars have defied

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COBOURG COUGARS



the odds and gradually built a network and foundation for an even brighter future.

After missing the playoffs their first year, they improved considerably last winter and made it to the post-season. This year, they're aiming to go higher and, at first glance, they seem to have the personnel to be even more competitive than last winter.

Players like Andrew Clark, Simon Sherry, Geravin Sytnyk, Dan Stewart, Shavn Allard, Brian Wesenberg, Jonathan Smith, the Wright brothers (Doug and Derek), Jason Colasante, Steve Dyer, Ryan Stewart, Kelly Wayling, Al Stewart, Ryan Serra, Dan Mundell, the Slovak connection of Richard Tapajna, Oto Hlincik and Martin Kozak, together with goalies Cameron MacDonald and Tim Lacey, have provided a fast and entertaining brand of hockey most nights the past two seasons to restore Cougar pride and fan interest.

Off-the-ice leadership

By our recollection, Cougars have had 15 coaches, the longest-serving being the late Vern MacGregor and the newest being Brian Drumm. Also giving their time and planting their own particular stamp on the team have been Ken Medhurst, Bob Fawcett, Jon Fisher, Terry Lewis, Gary Hull, Gus Bambridge and Bryan Rose, Ron Johnson, Max Bevan, Dave Tredree, Bill Rollings, Guy Jacob and Vince Serra.

No reflection of the Cougars' background would be complete without reciting the presidents' roll call — Jeff Rolph, Bob Olson, Jon Fisher, Bill Robbins, Bill Carrigan, Vern MacGregor, Brian Keighley, Dick Taylor, Rod Baker, Bob Jenkins and Elizabeth Basinger. They have served the organization well.

These 11 presidents couldn't have done it without an army of well-intentioned, hard-working, long-serving executive members such as Clarke Sommerville, Donna Silver, Cheri MacGregor, Rose Todd, Bill Carrigan, Liz Basinger, Gord Dolley, Andy Dingler, Bill Rollings, Rod Baker, George Sleep, Dick Taylor, Wayne Berry and Charlie Calder. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Many others, past and present, have and are doing unheralded but not unimportant work behind the scenes to make the team tick.

The contribution of the colourful and contro-

versial but skilled and never-dull Bob Spooner on his radio broadcasts, the Energizer-rabbit longevity of OHA referee supervisor Ivan Locke who has been around for all of Cougars' 30 years and then some, the friendships of junior C convenors Andy McLauchlan and predecessor Lloyd Gilliam, the dedication of the retired but long-time club trainer Andy Kolodziej, the loyalty of gatekeepers Lionel and Gladys Gutteridge, the competent and lengthy service of two George Spaldings and one Bill Rollings as timekeepers, the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty efforts of downtown businessmen Gord Kelly and Dave Sommerville, and faithful fans like Russ Smith, Delores Turland, Flo Lewis and Ernie Ayres can not be under-estimated and they're all part of the Cougars' legacy.

But enough of nostalgia! The future awaits with new faces, new adventures, new challenges, new hopes. Let's get on with it and may the only stipulation be that the puck bounces as kindly for the Cougars in the next 30 years as it has in the first 30.

P.S. — Before we wrap up, it should be noted that no slight is intended to those members of the Cougar family and alumni, either current or past, not named in this epistle. Understand that this retrospective is done off the top of the increasingly forgetful head of an aging sports-writer, so please don't be offended if somebody or something obvious has been missed. Regardless, there just isn't enough room to relate all the wonderful memories and list the names of every player and executive who has been connected with the team over 30 years, even if we had total recall and the space to include everyone.

AUTOGRAPHS



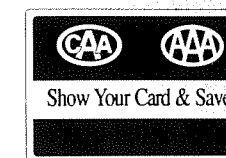
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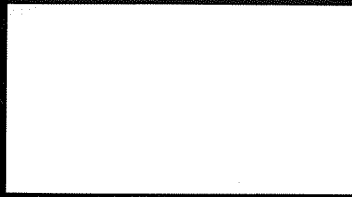
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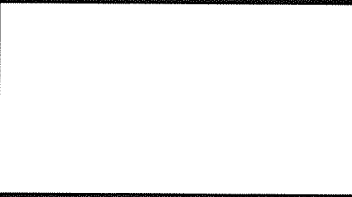
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