



By DEREK POLOWYK

MARKHAM WAXERS HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT **PROGRAM AIDS COACHES**

WE WANT TO SUPPORT OUR COACHES AND KEEP THEM IN OUR ORGANIZATION

ichael Gouglas, Director of Hockey Development with the Markham Minor Hockey

Association is the brains behind the new Coach Mentorship Program and the Player Development Program.

"This program was designed for everyone who is involved in minor hockey in Markham," stated Gouglas. "[The Program will help ensure the proper support, tools and resources are available as they progress through their development in minor hockey."

The Markham MHA Coach Mentorship Program provides all coaches within the Association the access to a designated Coach Mentor capable of providing the skills, knowledge, and support to improve their coaching performance. The group of mentors includes Dan Daoust, Ted Baker, Dave Turner, Paul Titanic, Phil Kestin, Iim Walker and John Ciavarella. Improving camaraderie between coaches and strengthening knowledge are among the Program's goals. "We want to support our coaches and players, and retain them within our organization," explained Gouglas

COACH MENTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHEDULING APPROPRIATE MEETINGS USUALLY TWICE A MONTH WITH ALL OF THEIR ASSIGNED COACHES TO ASSIST THEM WITH SUPPORT. THE GOAL IS TO HAVE MENTORS OVERSEE AT LEAST ONE PRACTICE AND ONE GAME FROM EACH OF THE COACHES AND TEAMS.

Coach Mentor Dave Turner believes that his job is to go to a game and be there for support and to answer questions, not to critique or evaluate a coach. Turner uses his twenty years of hockey experience and

"The Markham Waxers **Hockey Development** Program will endeavor to provide all association members, both coaches and players, with the support and resources necessary to aid in their development and enrich their minor hockey experience." mith from Canisius College speaks on Creating petitive Culture/Defensive Team Play.

physical education teaching knowledge to help him with his role as a Mentor. He assured that his biggest goal is to build a comfort level with the coach and being able to find enough time to communicate with each other."

Ted Baker who also serves as the OHL Vice-President, is a Coach Mentor. He

strongly agreed with his Mentorship role by adding that his job is to "put tools in the coach's tool box."

OMHA Coaching Program Technical Director Ron Noonan applauded the initiative. "The acceptance of the mentorship program by the coaches will be a stepping stone to implementing their long term



player development plan," Noonan said. "The more resources given to the coaches will in turn make their players hockey experience more rewarding and enjoyable."

Assisting coaches with coaching strategies, practice drills and systems, Gouglas scheduled a series of specialty coach seminars with various guest speakers throughout the hockey season. Some of the notable speakers and topics included:

- JAMES BOYD Mississauga St. Michael's Majors Coach
 The Forecheck/Game Preparation & Bench Management
- DAVE SMITH Canisius College Head Coach Creating a Competitive Culture/Defensive Team Play
- GRAHAM WISE Ryerson Rams Head Coach Planning Your Hockey Season
- CHRIS MULCHINOK Owner Markville Fitness Hockey Specific Training

This season, Markham extended the Program to neighbouring associations in Stouffville and Unionville plus local high school hockey programs.

Any coaches or parents interested in learning more about these Development Programs and up-coming clinics can check the Markham Waxers website at: mmha.thockey.com or e-mail Michael Gouglas at: mgouglas@waxers.com.





