

The Johnsons Settle for Third

*John Otis
Mission Hills C.C.*

The Johnsons, a local super-intendent ice hockey team sponsored by Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, has completed another fun and exciting hockey season, even though this season wasn't as successful as in the past. The Johnsons finished in third place in the Men's 30 and Over league at the Centre Ice of DuPage.

Members of the Johnsons were looking and smelling great this season, sporting new jerseys that were washed and pressed before every game. I know this is a fact because dryer sheets were found in the jersey bag. Thanks to Michelle, Dave Blomquist's significant other, for taking on this smelly task.

This season's team included superintendents, assistant superintendents, and a golf professional: Darin Ayres (Aurora C.C.), Dave Blomquist (Naperville C.C.), Kevin DeRoo (Bartlett Hills G.C.), John Gurke (Aurora C.C.), Bryan Haas (golf pro, Mission Hills C.C.), John Otis (Mission Hills C.C.), Joel Purpur (River Forest C.C.), Tim Schneider (Skokie Park District), and Dave Schlagetter (Indian Hill G.C.).

The season can be summed up by a motivational speech given by our captain Dave Blomquist: "We've got to shoot, shoot, shoot. It's obvious that we are failing miserably at this passing thing." Joel Purpur must have been the only guy listening because he goes out, takes an ice-melting slap shot from the center line, and he scores.

Kevin DeRoo was definitely the hard head of the team this year. Kevin would show up to games thinking he didn't need his helmet, for he kept leaving it at home. The Aurora C.C. connection was always good for 100 shots per game, John Gurke taking 10 shots on opposing goalies, and Darin Ayres making 90 saves. John Otis was back in action again this season after taking a year off. John's equipment isn't getting any newer, it's just changing colors. Dave Schlagetter started the season with the Johnsons, and then he went on a family vacation. We're not sure if Dave ever came back. Some guy matching Dave's

description, but without the mustache, started showing up at games claiming he was Dave.

There were two rookies on the team: Bryan Haas, golf pro at Mission Hills C.C., a true-to-life Happy Gilmore (Bryan gave new meaning to the term "Beat the Pro". . .or was it "Beat on the Pro"?), and Tim ("I used to be able to skate like those young punks when I was in high school") Schneider. We hope both guys had a good enough time playing hockey games at all hours of the night to skate with the Johnsons again.

The Johnsons would like to thank Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts for their continued and generous support of our late-night follies. ■

