

Unusual Names In Tournament

The team travelling the greatest distance was from Quinton, Sask. It went by the name of Kawacatoose Nicimosak. I think that's Plains Cree but I don't know what it means. The coach's name was Bill Strongarm and his equipment manager was Ken Dustyhorn.

Surnames such as these are common among First Nations people of the western plains. They are often literal translations of native names and are frequently both colorful and descriptive.

Since their ancestors were buffalo hunters, their names could also reflect that fact.

A different kind of name was illustrated by Les Tabobondung, coach of the Parry Island reserve team. His last name is an untranslated Ojibway word.

I'm sorry, but I don't know what it means either. If it was a Mohawk word maybe I could tell you. However, this sort of surname is more common in Northern Ontario among the Ojibways.

The Mic Mac team from Nova Scotia generally had ordinary Canadian names. All except their coach. His name was Stephen Sylliboy.

Also their team had a most unusual name. It was called "1752 Treaty Truck House." This name was beautifully lettered on each jersey but I don't know what that means either.

I do happen to know what the name of the Manitoba representative means.

The team from The Pas, in northern Manitoba, was called simply Mixed Cree. I saw them at last year's Canadian Native Championship tournament at Portage La Prairie in Manitoba.

While their team is composed of mostly Cree girls, they do have some non-natives playing for them in their local league. Using a bit of native humor they decided to call themselves Mixed Cree.

Maybe the Mic Mac team is using Mic Mac humor and I just don't get it.

The fact that Six Nations Native Daughters won the tournament means that they can host it again next year. Maybe the weather will co-operate for a change.