



**Mark
Clairmont**

Sports Editor

Canada Cup could break hockey's back

As another hockey season dawns upon us, Canada's national winter sport will be coming under greater microscopic scrutiny than it has in many a long year. With the inclusion of four new teams in the National Hockey League interest is up and the ever increasing violence in the game, everyone from shinny officials to fans and the politicians, police, and public in between will be eyeing the sport.

Perhaps this is just what hockey needs to straighten itself out. For years hockey has been worshipped in this country. Saturday's Hockey Night in Canada telecasts were attended more religiously than Sunday morning church services. National Hockey League players were more well known individually than any other single group of people. It was a mania.

Today, however, that has all changed and yesterday's sports heroes have given way to other "larger than life" public figures. It is the entertainers not the entertainees who have changed the situation. We the people are backslashing at what used to be a "sport" but which has over the years since evolved into a "business" it's time to return the game to the streets, alleys and ice ponds where it began and let it start all over.

A step in the right direction if being taken by some concerned lovers of hockey. Groups like those trying to aid the game by bettering the coaching that is available to the young impressionable boys and girls starting out. With the cost of putting a child into organized hockey becoming so high, that quite literally thousands cannot afford to play, it is time to re-evaluate how the game is being run. The players and paying parents deserve better coaching for their money. Granted, coaches volunteer their services for free but, that is because they supposedly love the sport. If they do, they should be willing to help upgrade their favorite winter past time. You don't see the Leafs or Canadians with coaches who have no training.

This past weekend's coaching clinic in Georgetown was poorly attended and if the players had the same attitude as some of the coaches appear to, they wouldn't turn out for practices figuring they don't need to learn anything more than they do by watching TV.

Other steps worthy of mentioning are those being taken by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, who this coming weekend will be voting on whether to ban body checking from the Pee Wee level and on down. To many these little ones are getting knocked down so often that they don't get a chance to learn how to skate properly.

Similarly the Ontario Hockey Association, which handles the big boys leagues, is presently experimenting in exhibition games with rule changes. They involve single hand checking to prevent two handed cross checking; removing the red line during off side passes; only allowing line changes during penalty stoppages; injuries or goals.

Somehow someone is thinking.

Despite what I have said the game flourishes at most level. But, that doesn't mean it can't be improved. If it doesn't improve, the Canada Cup this coming fall of 1980 could be the straw that broke hockey's back.

SPORTS SHORTS - Two local players who are trying to make a living out of this crazy sport we call hockey, are with the Edmonton Oilers organization. As reported in this space last week Mike Forbes and Dick Popeil were out west these past few weeks trying to crack the lineup. Popeil was cut last Thursday from the parent club said his sister Theresa Wilson, who was out there that day and returned Monday. "They offered him Dayton (Ohio), one of their farm teams. But, he's thinking it over. He's also checking into an offer at the Calgary university, and the Olympic team is a possibility."

As for Forbes she and Dick watched him playing for the Houston Apollos, another Edmonton affiliate. Thursday night in Calgary against the Canadian Olympic team. He's down with the Houston team for seven days when he will be brought back up, just prior to the season opening, for re-evaluation. They just want to give him some more ice time, I think," Wilson said.



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Raiders sign seven but need 10 more

The future careers of several hockey players trying out for the Intermediate "A" champion Raiders are in limbo this week as the team prepares to round out its opening roster for next week's season opener against Barrie Flyer Friday night at Gordon Alcott Arena. The Raiders have signed seven players to date and must have 17 signed cards by next week.



To date the Raiders' President Bob Hooper says they have signed Steve Lyons, Gary Ford, Ray Tonelli, Juri Kudrasovs, John Boyce, Chris Milne and Steve Bronizewski.

Last night's game against Preston and Friday night's home game here against Stratford could be the deciding factor for some players. The exhibition matches, which are used for just exactly this purpose, will enable coach Steve Blundy to give last minute looks at the players trying out for the '79 team. It's a difficult task for Blundy, as he himself was vying for a position on the team at this time last year. Many of the players he will have to decide upon played side-by-side with him into the Eastern Canadian finals last year.

Friday last, Blundy got a bit of an idea how his scoring punch might be as the Raiders easily handled the Preston Jester, a Senior 'A' team, 11-4. A game which Blundy said brought him closer to



Mike Wilson heads up the player carrying the puck and the action to the Preston Jesters during a game Friday.

(Herald photo)

**Raiders 11
Jesters 4**

common factor throughout the league this year with several teams changing their rosters considerably for the upcoming campaign. Next week the Herald will be previewing the entire league team-by-team.

this year's team. Getting to know the team from behind the bench is different than it is on the ice trying to learn how the players play, concedes the coach.

Many of last years players will be in the lineup again but some of the new faces in the red and white jerseys will warrant considerable watching as they played in different leagues last year. This is

GEORGETOWN INTERMEDIATE A RAIDERS 1979-80 SCHEDULE

DATE	TEAMS	TIME
Fri. Oct. 5	Barrie at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 12	Georgetown at Barrie	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 13	Collingwood at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 19	Owen Sound at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 28	Georgetown at Dundas	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 2	Port Elgin at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 9	Georgetown at Orillia	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 10	Orillia at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 16	Owen Sound at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 18	Georgetown at Owen Sound	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 23	Port Elgin at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 24	Georgetown at Barrie	8:00 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 30	Georgetown at Port Elgin	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 7	Collingwood at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 14	Georgetown at Orillia	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 21	Dundas at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 28	Orillia at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 4	Georgetown at Port Elgin	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 5	Barrie at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 11	Georgetown at Collingwood	8:30 p.m.
Sun. Jan. 13	Georgetown at Dundas	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 18	Owen Sound at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 25	Dundas at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 1	Georgetown at Port Elgin	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 8	Barrie at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 15	Georgetown at Dundas	8:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 16	Collingwood at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 22	Port Elgin at Georgetown	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 23	Georgetown at Barrie	8:00 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 29	Georgetown at Orillia	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 1	Orillia at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Mar. 2	Georgetown at Owen Sound	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Mar. 7	Georgetown at Collingwood	8:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 8	Dundas at Georgetown	7:30 p.m.

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