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Sports Editor

The colder the sport the better we like it

With the recent snowfall the winter spirit is starting to come alive more vividly. It is getting more like hockey, curling, skiing and general all around winter sports weather. Until now it has been somewhat difficult to feel at ease carrying a pair of skates into an arena where the temperature is cooler inside than out. Or to be waxing skis when there isn't even snow on the nearest mountain. Now it is here.

Canada is a land of ice and snow, and upon which we have built a major portion of our universal sports image. We are known for producing the elite in hockey, curling, skating, skiing, and even snowmobiling. Winter is our sports domain. Although, we do not necessarily demonstrate it during winter Olympics. This year maybe.

Canadians just don't get as excited in our off-season when they have to play golf, baseball, basketball or even football, which we usually prefer to play in icy cold conditions at the end of November. The colder the sport the better we like it. So, we are now just coming into our own this week, with the change in weather. We are more alive and tuned into our sports heroes. We can start watching Saturday night broadcasts of Hockey Night In Canada without feeling somehow out of sync with mother nature.

DROP CELSIUS BY 20

Few of us would like to leave the warm sunny skies of summer to go into a barren cold arena to see hockey for instance. But, drop the celsius by 20 and their is renewed interest in our national winter sport. Therefore it could be assumed that we are not indeed interested in the hockey so much as in the conditions it is played in. There is more hockey going on inside those new steel and concrete arenas where the cold is trapped than outside on a winter's day where there is a crispness in the air and a warm sun in the sky.

This theory I have worked out can best be exemplified by the recent attendance at the games of Georgetown's two major hockey teams, the Raiders and Gems. Both teams have been experiencing lower than expected crowds at their home games at Gordon Alcott this year. Granted neither team has been burning up the ice winning games but, both are playing good hockey which has for the most part been near the .500 mark of one out of two games resulting in a win. A sort of 50-50 season.

The Raiders are getting around the 300 mark for most of their games on Friday nights while the Gemini have been averaging somewhere around the 150 to 200 in recent games Sunday nights. Weekends are the key spectator nights as both nights are considered a night out. The Raiders with the prime night have a higher talent level and a booster club to bolster their attendance. The Gems on the other hand have a talented group of young hockey players but, because of their ages no booster club by LLBO rules, and the final night of the weekend to contend with. Both teams do their best to build up their respective audiences through promotions and advertising. However, as I understand, past figures indicate that Raider games are accustomed to having triple the number of fans out to their contests, and the Gems somewhat lower numbers in the stands. Part of the problem could be the overexposure to hockey we get in this country. Many feel August to April regular season, without summer camps, is enough of a good thing.

An improved product does have something to do with the resurgence of the Gemini supporters on hand. But, as I am about to prove in the next couple of weeks and months, it is the skies above which will determine whether capacity crowds will once again be the rule of the day rather than the exception.

PARENTS EXEMPLIFY

Minor hockey parents seem to exemplify my theory. Arenas can be seen packed with mothers and fathers first thing in the morning when the day is at about its coldest it can get. Once the day begins to emerge the numbers dwindle.

Sunday morning the parking lot at Alcott is crammed with cars, all players and few wives or friends of the men playing industrial hockey.

So, all I can say is the crueler and the harsher the days that lie ahead the better off our sporting reputation around the world will be, since most people are a little bit egotistical and hams at heart who perform better when they know someone is watching.

Heritage Council nominations

Final nominations for the Heritage Council Mini Hall of Fame were received this week. Voters will be selecting from the following candidates: H. Levy, Red Asseltine, Ann McMenemy, Bill Richmond, Joe Pentesco, Bud James, Dave Osborne, Zeke McCandless, Legion Branch 120, Bob Lane, Gord Alcott, Arena Staff, Business Community, Hockey Families, Auxiliary Clubs, Herb Robinson, Herb Arnold, Frank Connely, Jim Yates, Jim Ford, Herb Hancock, Harvey Garvin, Alf Sykes and Del Beaumont.

The winner will be announced at the Heritage Council Dinner, February 14.

Squash teams lose

It wasn't a great week for the competitive members of the Georgetown Racquet Club's interclub teams on the courts but it wasn't as bad when the standings were released. The mens' C team was the only winner and that has them in fourth spot after nine games. The mens' D team is in third and the B team is in sixth.

Erwin Schandelmeyer led the mens' C team with a 3-0 win over his opponent from the Guelph Country Club Thursday here in Georgetown. Dave Rivers also won, 3-2. Dave McEwen shut out his challenger 3-0 and Doug Richardson and Barry Giffiths lost 1-3.

The Hillside Club in Ancaster defeated the C team four sets to one last Tuesday. Ron Davies was the only local to win. He scored a 3-2 game win. Christine Kogon lost 3-1 and Paul Duval, Graham Smith and Tom Kankainen all lost 3-0.

The mens' B team were wiped out by the North Field Racquet Club from Kitchener Wednesday. They all went down 3-0. Team members are Boyd Hoddinott, Al Kogon, Rod Eastwood, Rod Presswood and Norm Hertz.

The ladies team didn't fair that well either losing all of their matches.

The ladies team of Sandy Morrow, Linda Yardley, Gayle Williamson and Judi Rivers all lost their matches against the Granite Club of Toronto.

Between 50 and 100 members of the squash club took

Gillespie strikes wrestling gold

There's gold in Doug Gillespie's home. The young GDHS student brought home the gold from the Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate Central Ontario Wrestling Tournament.

He manhandled his way to the winning podium in the 47.5 kilo weight division while being named the most valuable wrestler in the bantam weight division.

There were 300 wrestlers from across Ontario competing in the Scarborough school tournament.

in the clinic put on by the head referee in the province Monday night.

Ski-o-rama begins tonight at Alcott arena

Today's the day. Although there isn't much snow on the ground, this is it. The first day of the Ski-O-Rama at Gordon Alcott arena. This afternoon and tomorrow afternoon from 4 to 7 p.m. a ski and skate exchange will take place as a preliminary event to the evenings of ski demonstrations.

Sponsored by the recreation department and the Y, the two-day event is to provide early opportunity to get into the spirit of winter. Tonight a special presentation on the newest winter sport, cross country skiing will take place commencing at 8 o'clock. Tomorrow at the same time the Ontario Ski Council will also present a film and presentation on downhill skiing.

As well, there will be information booths on where to ski this winter, what to wear and with what to do it.

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