

'Tough' to eat words after Blizzard win

I came to bury Caesar, not to praise him! Quote. Well, I went to Blizzard vs Benfica, Portugal on Sunday evening and went to bury Blizzard, not to praise them. And, after my last report on the team, I have to eat my words.

Blizzard came out on top by a 1-0 margin. The winning goal came in the first minute of the second half of extra time on a magnificent shot by Canadian Randy Ragan. From 16 yards out he took a pass from substitute Neil Roberts and crashed the ball into the roof of the net. This was a sudden death win over the Portuguese champions and European cup finalists of 1983, to take the International Cup trophy held by Benfica for the past three years.

Admittedly the visitors were jet weary after two games in the States during the past 10 days, arriving in Toronto on Saturday. At the same time Benfica had their first experience with Exhibition Stadium's artificial turf.



Soccer

By ALEX TOUGH
Herald Special

The game was superbly played in the heat and at a fast pace throughout with excellent goalkeeping from both teams. Blizzard had the best chances over the first half. A last-minute attack at the end of each half saw Jimmy Nichol come very close to opening to scoring. With 10 seconds left in regulation time he headed towards an open net, the ball was somehow knocked clear by an incoming defender and Nichol blasted the rebound just over the crossbar.

Justice was done in the end with the Blizzard victory. The huge crowd, which was not announced, were royally entertained. Should Toronto have this class of opposition every week what a difference it would make to their play and putting fans in the stadium.

I estimate more than 15,000 Portuguese fans were there as well as many Blizzard supporters. This evening Juventus of Italy arrive for their first visit since the 1-0 win by Blizzard two years ago. This time Paulo Rossi, Michel Platini, Boniek, Cabrini, Tardelli and Gentile with Scirea, who all appeared in the '82 World Cup, will be in uniform and the game should be a cracker.

BLUE VS WHITE

Locally, Meteor Blue and White do battle at Cedarvale at 8:45 p.m., preceded by the Minor Mosquitoes rep match with Erin Mills. Brackens entertain Acton 'A' at Dorsey at 7 p.m. At the same kick off time at Trafalgar Road Ajax has a chance of revenging Eagles recent loss to Milton Rangers against the same opposition.

Last week Meteor White were holding a fairly comfortable lead over leaders Butcher by 3-0 into the second half. The goals were good and deserved on the run of play with White doing all the running and placing the visiting goal under a great deal of pressure. With Arthur Harrison playing confidently in the strange position of goal and Robbie Lister sparking in midfield and Graham Hill bustling up front White basically controlled the first half. The second half was a different story. In the last 10 minutes Butcher had come back to draw the game at 3-3. The visitors became a little undisciplined as the half wore on and ref Bryan Turner booked four players in a torrid finish.

The only other Inter County result to hand is the Brackens 10-2 loss to the Mariners. Brackens were

hurting from the lack of a proper goalie and other injuries. Mariners welcomed the return of Brian Clark from injury at centre back to steady the defence. After five minutes Mariners led by a typical Dave Chapman goal. He latched on to a through ball from Archie Tannock on the half way line and trailed several defenders in his wake as he went on to score from 20 yards having also beaten stand in goalie Eddie Patterson. Brackens were still in the game and giving the Mariner back four all sorts of bother without being able to put the ball in the net. However Brackens equalized in 35 minutes then Mariners netted another three before half time. In the second half, Mariners played better and scored six more. Tannock scored three, and Alex Tough scored twice. Chapman, Les Tinsley, Danny and John Shields and Brian Clark scored once each.

Tomorrow evening the Molson Inter County "Player-of-the-Month" trophies are being presented at a special night for players and officials of the Inter County Molson sponsored league.

SHORT PLAYERS

Vacations are rearing their ugly head at the moment. Teams are short of players and it has been difficult to place referees for all matches in the past two weeks. This problem period appears at some time or another each year and not always in the same week. It is for this reason that there is no longer a soccer shutdown in the midsummer. At one time we closed off for a few weeks and yet found the same shortages when play resumed. It has been felt

that a shutdown is not favorable and I agree.

The Falcons held a mid season dance at the weekend and it was a much, much better affair than the past couple of years. Good music, good company, good food, and liquid refreshment of course go a long way to make a successful evening. We had all four ingredients.

The junior Falcons played out a close one to top of the table rivals from Burlington, and only a great drive from a free kick from outside the box beat goalie Peter Jones. The goal came in the 35th minute of the first half on Monday night. The team were short of several regular players, some who did not show and late work call offs were the main reasons. As it was, Scott Murray, the injured goalie, played very well as a target man up front and reserve Eric Clark made another worthwhile appearance in midfield. The otherwise good match was spoiled by a 'triple red card' ejection to a Burlington player who persisted in misconduct after a free kick had been awarded against him for an illegal charge on the Falcon goalie. The forward, who had come on as a sub late in the first half, lasted only four minutes in the second when he received his marching orders from ref Bryan Turner.

One thing prevalent at the disciplinary hearings this year is the amount of dissent being reported as the major problem. Violent conduct, that is fighting mainly, has almost disappeared from the offences sheet and has been replaced by dissent and persistent misconduct as the problem area this season.

Powderpuff softball action

Barons top Gators

By SUE WILLIAMS
Herald correspondent
The Red Barons turned in an excellent team effort to top the Green Gators, 14-8, in last week's Ladies Powderpuff Softball League action.

Lorraine Tarzwell pitched a good game for the Gators.

Patti McElroy and Joanne Kemper started for the Chocolate Chicks as they pulled together for a 13-7 victory over the Knight Riders.

The Caltee Cougars scored 11 runs in a second-inning outburst, and they went on to defeat the Screwdrivers, 15-5.

Cougar Linda Anderson had a great night on the mound, and teammate Lori Hoffing also had a good night.

Mostly Golden squeak-

ed by Blue Thunder, 9-7, in an exciting match. Golden's Linda Donald cracked a home run, and teammate Mary Jones pitched well.

Thunder players Joy Gwillam and Sandy Lewis were strong at bat. Diane Aplin gave the Thunder good defensive play.

The Burgundy Brewers

took the momentum on early home runs by Lynn Blackstock and Betty Kirby, who connected for two round-trippers, as they went on to clobber the Blue Mooners, 30-8.

Joane Coles homered for the Mooners. Pat Akers played well in a losing cause.

Postma goals down Bombers

David Postma fired four goals to lead the Green Bombers to a 4-1 victory over the Blue Streaks in Georgetown Youth Soccer Club minor league house league action last week.

Kevin Taylor, Andrew

DiGenova and Adam Robinson were also outstanding for the winning side.

James Young replied for the Streaks, who got top efforts from Michael Fletcher, Andy Preston

Continued on page B4

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