

A few brief notes on soccer officiating

Inter County matches this week, locally, are Villa 'B' vs Milton at Mckenzie at 7 p.m.; Ajax vs Eagles at Alcott at 7 p.m.; Varian vs Park Avenue Collision at 8:45 p.m. and Ancient Mariners vs Master Mariners at 8:45 p.m. at Cedarvale, tonight (Wednesday).

Soccer

By ALEX THUGH
Herald Special



Last Wednesday saw Meteor Blue defeat fellow club team United, 7-0 to take a share of top spot in the first division. Joint leaders are Park Ave. who won by the odd goal in seven coming from behind in the last 20 minutes. Incidentally, Blue have not dropped a goal to an opposing team so far this season, which may constitute a new record.

In third place are the Ancients who scraped through against a vastly improved Villa 'A' by a cutely placed header from Archie Tannock early in the first half. Varian continued to miss their experienced players in going down heavily to Streetsville by 8-0.

In the second division, new entrants Rose and Thistle have a one point lead over Ajax following Wednesday's results. Ajax pulled off a 2-1 win over their closest rivals to come within that one point. In third place are United who lost so heavily.

Eagles are doing very nicely in fourth spot after a 4-1 win at Milton FC. Villa 'B' defeated Masters 2-1 to leave the Masters truly entrenched at the foot of the table.

Referring an Ontario cup match recently brought out a couple of good pointers. On blowing for a free kick I allowed a quick kick to be taken, which is quite legitimate, providing a clear signal is given. In this case the offending team nearly lost a goal in the speed of the movement. I had indicated the direction of the kick and signalled to the players in the immediate vicinity that an offence had taken place, which direction and who were the offenders and offended. However, this was not clear to players, club officials and fans, of whom there were plenty. The signals, other than the whistle to stop the game, were not clear to the latter.

The criticism received from the offending team bench was fairly justified. My signals should have been clear for all to see, even whilst allowing a quick free kick to be taken.

The second incident is one which happens frequently although maybe not in the exact circumstances described. In another match a player was in the process of taking the ball right up to and past opponents in his progress towards the penalty area. He did in fact make his way into the area leaving a trail of defenders in his wake. At a precise moment I glanced away from the ball in play area and towards the goal line anticipating a cross or shot from the attacker and he went out of the line of sight.

At that point a shout came from the bench and I turned back. A defender had the ball and the attacker and another defender were on the ground. I had missed what happened! There were no linesmen at this game. The play of course continued. From the nature of the outcries I assumed that some watchers had witnessed what they thought was an offence. They could well have been correct. If the official does not see something this could

well be the reason. Refs do not always follow the ball, as spectators and team officials almost always do. The game is observed from a different perspective and called from that viewpoint.

Recently I witnessed a no-no from a coach. The coach went on to the field to remonstrate with the referee, a youngster, about something which he thought the ref had missed. A team official is not allowed on the field of play without

the referee's permission or being called upon by the referee, no matter what the reason. The coach's entry could be misconstrued by everyone and is a potentially dangerous situation.

In this instance, that of a young and inexperienced official, the coach could well have turned off a potentially good referee forever by his action of protest, whether correct or not.

See you later, folks.

First Choice Haircutters sweep two games in rural squirt play

The Glen Williams First Choice Haircutters swept a pair of games last week in Halton Rural Squirt Girls play, this improved their season record to five wins against three losses.

Last Tuesday, the team travelled to Limehouse, and came away with a 27-6 victory in a curfew-shortened five-inning game. The Glen scored five runs in the first inning, and never looked back, garnering a total of 26 hits for the match. Leading the hitting parade was Stacey Colarossi, with three home runs and nine RBIs. Kim Sheppard and Dana Leslie each contributed a solo homer. Top run-scores, with five each, were Amy Cooper and Shannon Morris, with Colarossi and Sheppard chipping in 4 each.

The next night, the team travelled all the way to Lowville. However,

they made the trip worthwhile, registering a 20-13 triumph over the home team.

First Choice opened the scoring in the top of the 1st, when a Kim Sheppard double drove in Amy Cooper, who had singled to open the game. However, Lowville tied it in the bottom of the inning, and scored another in the bottom of the second, to take a 2-1 lead.

The Glen came back, scoring four runs in the third, to regain the lead. Consecutive hits by Colarossi, Sheppard, Angie Norman and Leslie drove in the runs. But Lowville wasn't about to give up yet. They countered with two runs of their own, and outscored the Glen 4 to 1 in the 4th inning, to take the lead at 6-5.

In the fifth, Colarossi capped an nine-hit seven-run inning with a mercy-rule home run. The runs were a result of one walk, seven singles, a

Tascha Hoogendam triple (her first of the year), and the Colarossi blast. Once again First Choice was on top. But once again, Lowville responded, scoring four runs to narrow the gap to 13-12. After a single run in the 6th, the Glen iced the victory by scoring six runs in the seventh.

The Glen played solid defence for the most part. Cooper, Morris and Norman made a nice catches to retire batters. And Colarossi made a nice play, receiving a relay throw and tagging out a runner trying to take second base.

The game summary read: Lowville 13 runs, 10 hits, eight walks; Glen 20 runs, 24 hits, five walks. Lowville pitchers struck out seven, while the Glen struck out 10.

Next week, First Choice visits Hornby on Monday, and hosts Lowville on Tuesday.



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