

## Playoffs fast approaching

# Coaching and referees decisions may be crucial

A week or so ago, I penned some thoughts on the possibility of Tony Waiters returning as Canada's coach for the World Cup attempt in 1994 when the tournament will take place in the USA. There are other possibilities and I should have mentioned them also.

Former Vancouver, Toronto and Canada captain Bruce Wilson is another whose name is bandied about. My feeling is that Wilson is not a proven coach, although a fine player in his day. He is presently coaching the new CSL entry from Victoria. Wilson joined Victoria after a very short spell with Steelers. His current charges are not doing too well and it is early for him to make his presence felt.

Bob Lenarduzzi, the youngest member of that well known soccer family, has his supporters. Player/coach of Vancouver, he has also represented Canada as a player in distinction. He has Vancouver playing at the top of the CSL with bright attacking soccer. Once again, though, Lenarduzzi is a relatively unknown quantity and I would much prefer someone with more than a little experience and with a proven track record.

Something else I mentioned a few weeks ago was a survey being conducted by the University of New York into the reasons why kids left soccer as they grew into the teens.

The USA Soccer Association has-



By ALEX TOUGH

also carried out some research in this area and recently published their findings. The major reason for dropping out in both boys and girls is loss of interest followed by no longer fun. Third reason for boys is tired of playing and practicing and for the girls a want to take part in other activities.

From the survey it seems that the questions were put to find out the reasons for dropping out of school soccer programs and not club programs. Conflict with other sports and activities was a joint fourth in the list. What the results do not show is how the questions were asked, that is, the answers may have been given to pre-set questions or may have been an open, "why did you leave soccer..." More on the survey later.

Playoffs approach and games become more important as the wind down to the end of the season beckons, (already...) Coaching and referee decisions may be crucial to the result of a match. Bearing this

in mind here is a thought.

Two wrongs do not make a right, or, in sports, do they...

During a house league match last week there was a forward and a defender in direct opposition to each other. Both players were elbowing and pushing each other simultaneously whilst trying to get control of the ball from the other. These actions in themselves are illegal and punishable by a free kick. With both players breaking the rules which way does the referee call the penalty. For the defence... For the offence... Not at all... Which way would you call it... Game officials are taught to keep the game flowing as much as they can and not to stop the game at every infringement. However, if the calls are not made how can the young player learn the correct methods of play...

I chose to ignore the challenges as both players were putting out the same intensity of challenge and they were not being overly physical in their personal struggles to control their part of the field and game. The correctness of my decision not to stop the game, or incorrectness, may depend on your own point of view. Perhaps I should have stopped the game, spoke to both players and restarted the game with a dropped ball...

Another incident came when I awarded a penalty kick for hand ball inside the penalty area. An intentional hand ball is punishable by a direct free kick, to the opposing and non-offending team. A direct free kick is one where the kicking player may score a goal without the ball being touched by another player.

Direct free kick; direct into the goal. (Indirect free kicks are where the ball must be touched by another player and not kicked directly into the goal). Inside the penalty area, a direct free kick is a kick from the penalty spot with only the kicker and opposing goalkeeper inside the penalty area. In the case of the handball offence

committed by the defender the referee has to decide, quickly, whether the offence was intentional or accidental and either stop play or let it continue.

Should the player throw up his arms to defend his face against a hard shot in his direction is that intentional... In my opinion, yes. The intent is to put the arm between the body and the ball deliberately, the reason is not important.

Another subtle instance may be where the player is struck by the ball accidentally and yet manages to control the ball in his, or his team's favour, by quick reactions to the situation. Is this punishable by a free kick... In my opinion, again, yes. The laws of the game do not state at which point the player changes from accidental to intentional, and is punishable. It is up to the referee and his decision has to be as quick as the reaction of the player.

All this stemmed from an exciting Mosquito boys game with the score ending at 7-6 for the green shirts.

The only results from the Inter County league come from the first division as the second division teams cannot be bothered to telephone their scores. The league is now to consider fining teams or deducting points for lack of adherence to the regulations in this respect. Other discipline items are rearing their ugly heads as the playoffs near.

A couple of players have found themselves incurring the wrath of referees and have been ejected. Persistent dissent, even after the league warning, and violent conduct are the offending reasons. The players will be dealt with.

In the meantime Marlin stand alone at the top of the first division table with 17 points following a narrow win at Villa - 1-0 could not be closer and apparently a well-controlled game from accounts. Meteor and Eagles had a bit of a to-do in their match before a second half penalty award saw Meteor

come by the odd goal in three. Meteor are in third place with 12 points, one ahead of Eagles. In second place is Crown and Anchor with 13 points. Crown saw off the Mariners in the last fifteen minutes by 6-3. Hard to believe that Ancients were in front by 2-1 with 20 minutes left in the game. Another late loser is the story of the season. Yet the soccer is still there.

### DARTS

By the time this column is in print the Monday night league will have had its' first organizational meeting of the coming season. Last season the local pub league ran under the auspices of the Region of Peel Darts organization as part of Darts Ontario.

There is a strong feeling to operate as the Halton league on its' own and the meeting will probably decide upon such a move. There could well be some changes to the format and some changes in the participating establishments and the player rosters.

The less competitive industrial league playing out of the Legion on Wednesday evenings has a captains' meeting arranged for the Legion on Wednesday, 9th of August, at 8:00 p.m. Another meeting is set for the 16th and player registration on 23rd with the opening league play on August 30th.

More information may be obtained from Mike Pepper for the Monday night league, 877-8848. The league would like to hear from local drinking establishments which may be interested in putting a team or two in competition and from prospective players. I believe Time Out, with two teams and McGibbon also with two teams are returning to the fray.

More information on the Wednesday night league from Joe Poirier, 877-3534.

Sharpen your points lads and lasses we are about to be off to the boards very soon.

## Men's Flag Football

# Play to resume Sunday

Several interesting games are scheduled for Sunday, as league action resumes in the Georgetown Men's Flag Football League, at Georgetown High School.

In a third place battle in the league's "B" Division, Plus Welding takes on Corrigan.

The second place team in the league's "A" Division, M and M, challenges division leader, Dairy Queen.

With the expulsion of Norval from the league, because of three consecutive defaults, games involving Norval have been wiped from the schedule and game times adjusted accordingly.

### GAME TIMES

- 8:45 a.m. - Muscle Works vs Longhorns.
- 10:00 a.m. - Plus Welding vs Corrigan.
- 11:15 a.m. - Kerry Kitchens vs Glen.
- 12:30 p.m. - M and M vs Dairy Queen.

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	"A" DIVISION					PTS.
	W	L	T	F	A	
Dairy Queen	10	0	0	254	40	20
M and M	5	3	0	130	209	10
Oldtimers	3	7	0	104	231	6
Kerry Kitchens	2	8	0	118	184	4
Norval	0	10	0	72	279	0

Team	"B" DIVISION					PTS.
	W	L	T	F	A	
Longhorns	9	1	0	319	110	18
Glen	7	3	0	196	108	14
Corrigan	6	4	0	289	186	12
Plus Welding	3	5	0	150	219	10
Muscle Works	3	7	0	122	169	6

### UPCOMING GAMES

- (Sunday Aug. 13)
  - 8:45 a.m. - Muscle Works vs Longhorns
  - 10:00 a.m. - Plus Welding vs Corrigan
  - 11:15 a.m. - Kerry Kitchens vs Glen
  - 12:30 p.m. - M and M vs Dairy Queen
- Norval has been dropped from the league schedule because of three consecutive defaults.

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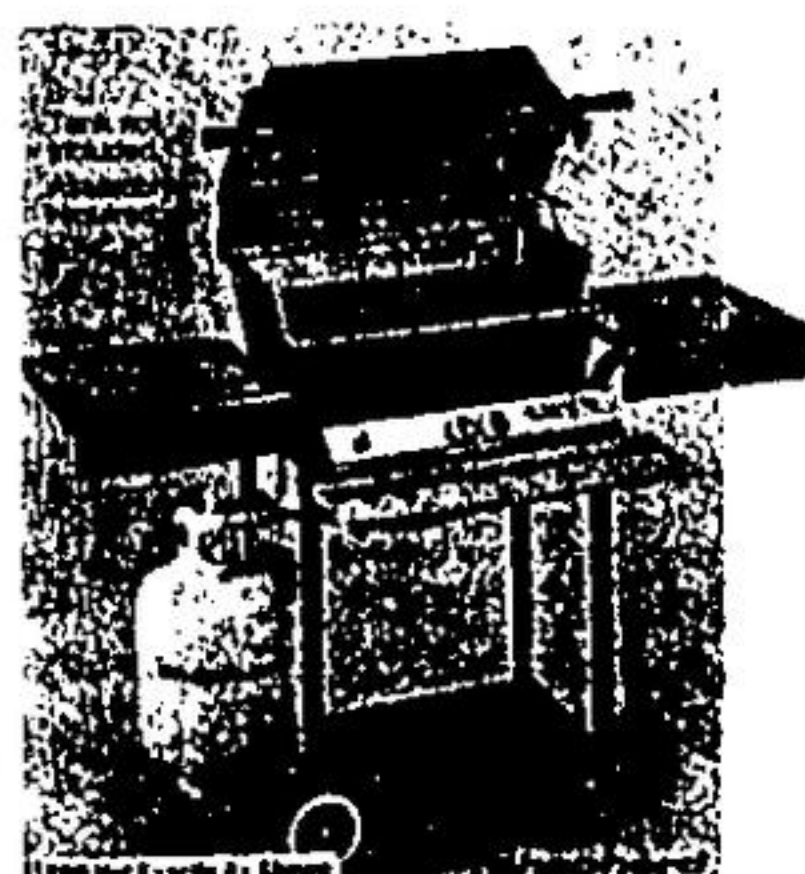
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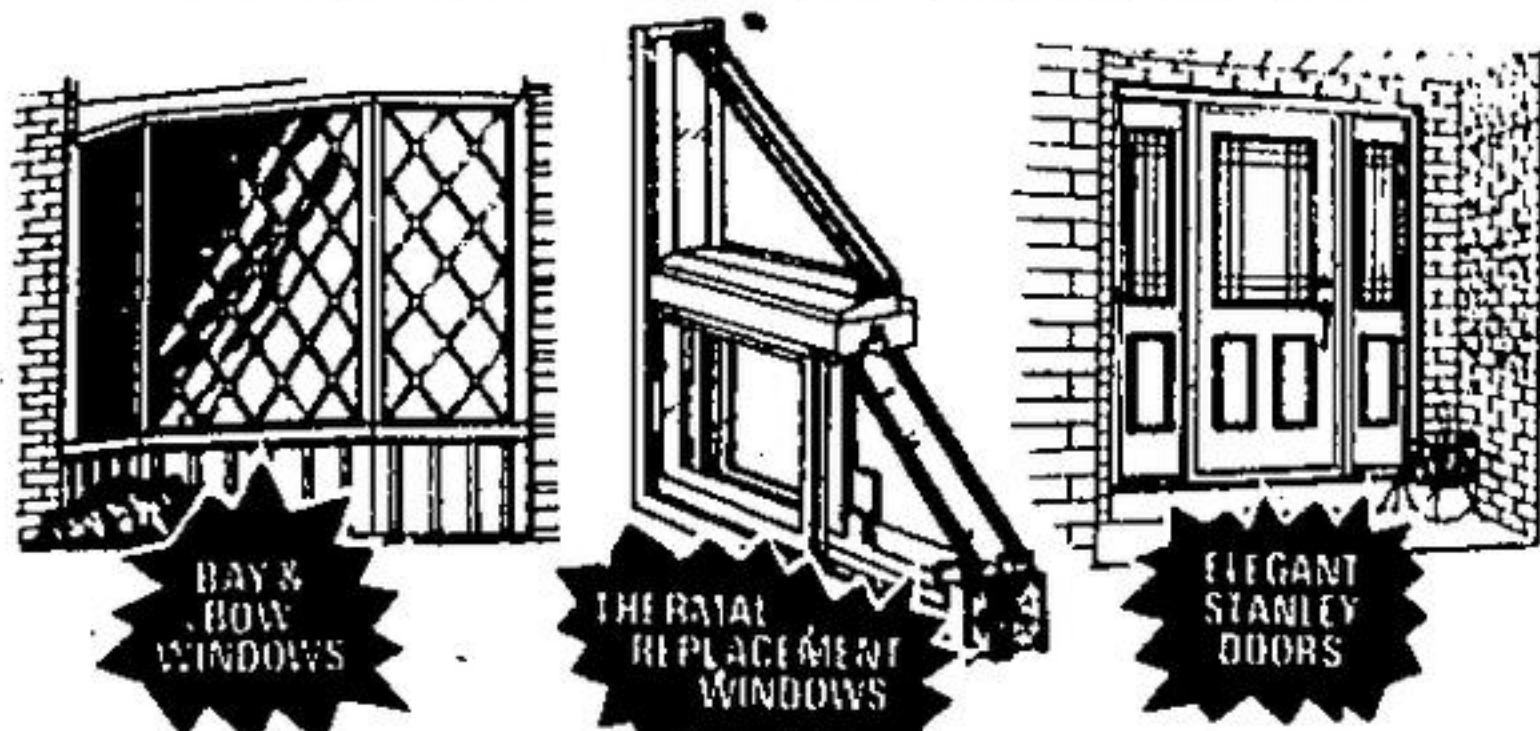
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