

Soccer Scene

Defensive tactics prevail at 1990 World Cup games

No doubt about it, the biggest moment in soccer for four years, the World Cup, is over. A true World Cup, the largest single event in the world. And we have been privileged to be able to watch all of the games, live or on tape, via TSN and Molsons.

Predictions are not my strong point, as I have often said. I kept away from forecasting the winner until last week and got it wrong. I gave the kiss of death to Italy. Mind you I did forecast three of the last four. England I did not foresee as being able to make the consolation or final games. Perhaps I was not so far wrong as England finished fourth after losing to Italy, the favourites.

West Germany are champions, Argentina are runners up. Justice is served as Argentina did not really deserve to be there at the kill. Well prepared, methodical in play, adventurous when they had to be, Germany had all that was required.

The attempts by FIFA to have the tourney described as an advert for fair play were not achieved. Players have been taught for so long the wrong way to tackle and the correct way to pull shirts, tackle above the ball, push, trip and all the other niggly illegal plays it was hard for them to play fair. For example, Cameroon were cynical in defense yet bright and clever on the ball. Most teams had a similar outlook.

Defensive, negative tactics prevailed and the so-called rabbits showed that they have learned well how to survive against higher rated countries. It would seem as though winning at all costs, well almost all costs, is thersot important item on the agenda.

Does the end justify the means. Is it better to have played well, to the best of your ability, and lose to a better team or to win, no matter how you arrive at the winning post.

I like to win, win well and have played well, and certainly not by breaking the rules and regulations. Each to their own.

The game will change again over the next four years as teams analyze their performances and amend as they see fit. We are already preparing for 1994 and the USA.

The Ancient Mariners did not lose this past week-only because we did not have a game. Crown Anchor take the lead in the first division with a 3-1 win at Meadowglen over Meteor. Meteor's cause was not helped when the goalkeeper was thrown from the game for retaliation against a Crown challenge. The

Crown player was also ejected. Meteor had not allowed a goal at this stage of the game and the loss was unfortunate. The remaining division game ended in a 2-2 tie with Eagles and United in opposition.

Home teams fared well in second division clashes. Stingers recorded a 3-3 tie against Laurentians, Milton defeated Ajax 4-2 (a rare win) and Blazers took out Trexcon, 2-0.

Georgetown ladies' squads had mixed fortunes. A 0-5 loss to Milton and a 0-6 loss to Brampton No.2 couples with CRSC United winning 2-0 over shorthanded Acton were the local results.

Inconsistency of officiating is a real concern for soccer people as well as in other sports. (what do you think of ice hockey officials Kerry Fraser versus Don Koharski, for example.) Compare any two baseball umpires with their differing strike zones. The problem is the same. What one official is 'hot' on, another is not. Some apply the rules with advantage in mind others do not. And even attitudes and style may change in a game. I have no idea how oneness can be achieved. Unless we use programmed robots, of course.

Players are inconsistent in the same manner, I believe. They are not all the same. Some are skillful, some are physical, some are both. Some are fast, some are slow. Some are tall, some are small.

The problem with a single game result is that the official may be an unknown quantity and it takes a little time into a game before the standard is known. Where the referee is well known to the players, it can be recognized before the game begins what is likely to be called and what is not. It is another part of the game with which we have to live and accept.

The Mexican referee is the final participant in the World Cup who demonstrated the difference between top players and officials. Regretably, he lost control, disallowed one tripping inside the penalty area and allowed another. Those actions gave West Germany the winning penalty kick score. After all the panalty shoot-outs, it is poetic justice to have the final game end with a penalty kick. The closing minutes were a let down with the two ejections of Argentina players and the caution to Maradona.

This Wednesday, Inter-County games in town are United vs. Villa, Meadowglen and Blazers vs. Milton at the Alcott arena at 7:00 p.m. and Mariners vs. Crown at Cedarvale, 8:45 p.m.

Malton dominated by Junior boys

The Gordon Alcott Tennis Club Inter County matches had their ups and downs this week.

The Junior Boys did well against Malton taking 9 points. Rich Sowery took both his sets as did Paul Dallison and Daniel Estevan. The team of Dustin Thompson and Phillip Williamson got a default. Gord Buchin split his sets.

The Ladies 'A' team took 1 point from Whiteoaks. Winning in 3 sets were Audrey Houston and Debbie Koster, 2-6,6-1,6-4.

On the losing end the teams were Chris Steen and Ann Kennedy, Ouida Graville and Karin Wilson, Douna MacDonald and Joanne Van Den Hoek.

The Ladies 'C' team took 3 points from Bronte. In 3 sets Mary Hughes and Barb Rieger had 6-4,5-7,6(7-3), Lois Fraser and

Trudy Roy lost in 2 sets 6-7(3-7),5-7. Dynese Griffiths and Maureen Burgoyne won 6-2,6-3. Margot Prior and Norma Maynard won in 3 sets 6-3,2-6,6-2.

The 'B' Mixed Central played Howard Park and lost. John Dallison and Andy Humenay had 3-6,3-6. Rory Kennedy and Al Robitaille 7-5,5-7,1-6.

Ed Rieger and Bill Kent 6-3,6-4. Sandy and Gary Lewis 6-3,6-3. Audrey and Murray Jans 6-3, 6-2. Barb Rieger and Debbie Koster 2-6,5-7.

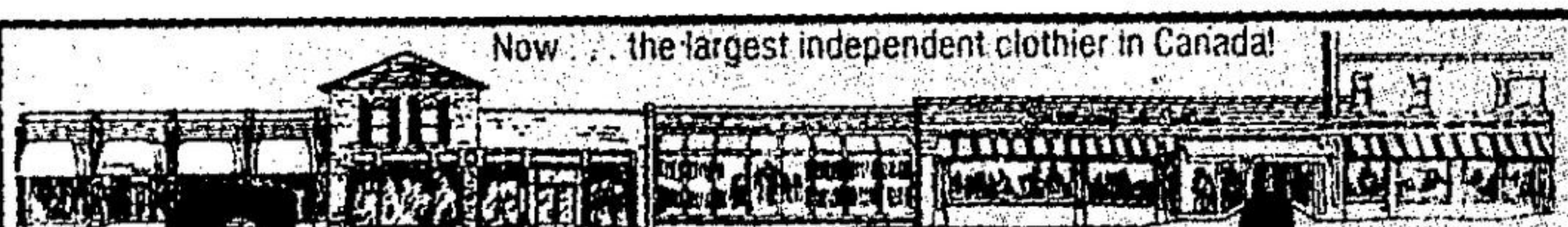
The 'B' West Mixed played York Weston taking 4 points. Bernie Kent and Larry Sissett won 7-6,4-6,6-2. Mike Hurley and Ken Kavanagh won 6-1,6-3.



Leaders in training

This year's crop of Junior Leaders posed for a picture in Cedarvale Park last week. They will be placed in summer camps in Georgetown and Acton, working with children aged 3-16 as part of their training to become leaders. Standing from left are Andrea

Herner, Cathy Vaters, Trevor Metvedt, Ralph Kimber and Greg Taylor. Seated from left are Marissa Fread, Angela Lee, Renee Hegl, Melanie McClure and Darrell Ford. (Herald Photo)



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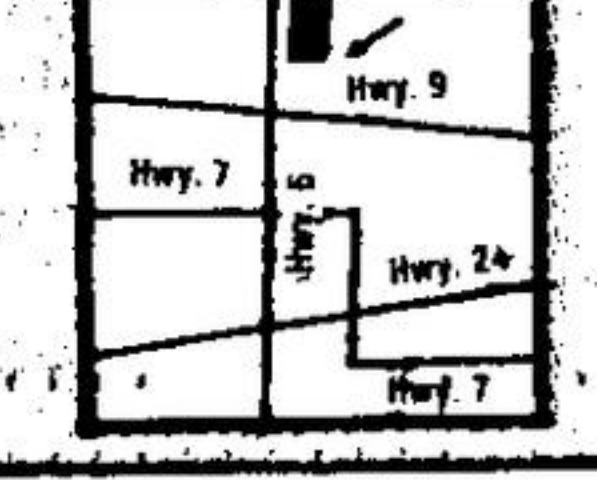
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