## European soccer in full swing this weekend

By ALEX TOUGH **Herald Special** 

As our season is well into the second half, the rest of the world wakes from its spring and sumner slumbers. By next weekend, ill of European soccer will have ægun.

I assume that the majority of occer supporters around this irea are former Europeans or lave that ancestry in their past omewhere. Be that as it may, imilarly to North America contient sports, many managerial nd player changes have taken lace. I shall be watching closely he fortunes of Hibernian which lub I have 'supported' through hick and thin since I was a lad.

Whilst commenting on the time ifference between us and the astern section of the globe, here ; another. This continent has the ges of registration of players eginning January 1 which seems zirly logical. The game began in lurope and over there the age of egistration begins August 1. The ajority of the world adopted the ame registration date. Only the lorth American continent dopted January 1.

The change to August 1 has een bandied around officialdom or several years. The USA are hanging in 1992 and CSA are proosing to change in 1993. Talks etween CSA and USSA took lace and USSA originally proosed 1993, which is the reason, uainly, for our proposed change 11993.

The Canadian Pan American ames soccer squad did not do ery well in the results column. s far as I am able to ascertain e lost 1-3 to each Honduras and SA in the qualifying stages and ) did not go forward. This is our

potential Olympic squad, which does augur well at this stage for the Olympic qualifying rounds.

The Inter County league statistician erred in placing Mariners and Meteo first last week. Both are second to Merseyside by one point, with United five points further behind. Eagles, Marlin, Winchester and Villa fill the remaining spots in order. In the second division, Blazers lead the way with Ajax one point adrift and having a game in hand, Milton, Gunners, Old Triangle, Stingers, Celtic and winless Laurentian follow in order.

Meanwhile, Mariners defeated Villa 6-0, (it could have been 25-16), Meteor 4-0 over United, Marlin 4-1 over Eagles and Winchester dropped 0-4 to Merseyside. Blazers won 3-0 at Celtic, Ajax 4-2 over Milton, Gunners 7-0 over Laurentians and Stingers lost 1-3 to Old Triangle.

Falcons in the Peel-Halton league, have turned it on in the past four games, winning them all. The team is playing quite well these days and have handed out shock losses to more fancied outfits. On Saturday, the club will host the second Harry Jackson Memorial five-a-side tourney. Entries are requested to Joey Clare at 877-7867 or at 32 Regan Crescent. This is an open tourney and the entry fee is \$80 per team of eight players.

The recent correspondence on outside facilities between another outside user and the Parks and Recreation director prompts me to put in a cent or two worth. Firstly, there is very little space around for new fields, diamonds, etc. Except where new development is planned, and being built, south of town. The town plan called for several acres of recreational usage. I could be wrong, but I believe that the original allotted amount, promised amount or talked about amount or whatever has been reduced. There is no doubt that we all need more - where do we get it? And, will the town ensure that we get it? Or, shall the developers win out?

Some may recall the arguments used by user groups against user fees a few years ago. The spiel given was that the application of user fees gave the director and his staff leverage with the council to maintain and provide needed facilities. .

Soccer has Joseph Gibbons (or Emmerson or Moore Park as we may know it) - in rough shape; Cedarvale (large and small donated to the town for soccer and other activities) - in fair shape; Cobra (donated by the company, a follow on from the previous owners) - in rough shape; Alcott - in fair shape although the surface is not the best for growth and Neilson (a

temporary field). Not too many for the numbers and use is mainly limited to organized league, cup and playoff games, with little practise or scrimmage time.

I digress a little. The major argument against user fees was the use of volunteer groups and their activities as a counter action to vandalism. Federal surveys with towns which had and had not organized activities.

run by volunteers, were compared. Towns without had a greater incidence of vandalism. Vandalism has reared its ugly head this summer. Soccer, baseball, rugby, and other sports play their part in keeping vandalism down.

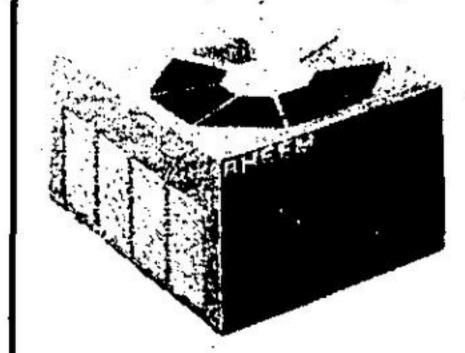
Elected and appointed town officials would do well to keep this in mind when budgeting or pairing budgets and plans.



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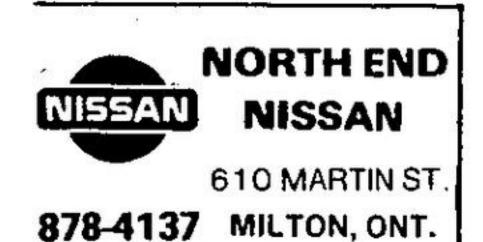


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