

Midland ladies volleyball team contender in county league

The coach responsible for taking the St. Theresa's boys volleyball team to the Ontario finals has moulded a group of Midland and area ladies into a real volleyball contender.

Bruce Finlayson took over the reins of the Midland team in the new Simcoe County Ladies Recreational Volleyball League. Last year the ladies had to be content playing exhibition matches at the YMCA. This year 10 teams make up the league and they are getting more than their fill of competition.

"Last year's team couldn't control the ball at all and were taking wild jabs at it," said Jim Morache from the

Midland 'Y'. "This year's team is at least twice as good."

Only four of last year's team members made the team, together since early October. They've improved quite a bit since then, due to the vigorous practices Finlayson runs them through.

"I'm putting them through the same drills that I ran my boys through," he said.

Team member Sue Presse likes the hard workouts, although she can't take part in them at

the moment as she's nursing a broken ankle suffered in one such practice.

"Bruce really works us hard," she said. "He's not letting up on us just because we're old ladies."

The team plays every

other Tuesday night in Base Borden and practice every Sunday and every Wednesday when they don't play the night before.

The Midland squad held down second spot until their last match when they lost three games and

won only one, slipping then to fourth.

"Everyone's skills have improved since the beginning of the season," said Presse, "but we still don't move enough. Women tend not to move for the ball, they reach instead."

Atoms tie Stayner 2-2

Jeff Bales and Billy Russell scored for Midland Minor Atoms as they tied Stayner 2-2 on Sunday.

Shawn Davy, Mark Lapointe, David Bressette and Mike Gadsby provided assists.

Midland Minor Atoms next game is this Sunday in Collingwood. Game time is 4 p.m.

Team leaves December 26

Midget coach checks out facilities

"It's a wild country!" exclaimed Midland Legion Midgets coach Bob Merkley on his return from Sweden.

Merkley and manager John Armstrong were

scouting for the Midland team's excursion later this month, and finalizing dates and locations for their hockey games.

"We won't be taking the kids to some of the places

we went," said Merkley commenting on the drinking and entertainment establishments Swedish Hockey Federation officials took them to.

"The hospitality was unbelievable. We were given hockey jackets, training suits and lots of other gifts."

The players will be billeted in Swedish homes while the parents will be staying in \$12.50 per night hotel rooms.

The Midgets are guaranteed four games, three against Swedish competition and one against a team from

Finland. The top two teams in each of two

divisions will meet in the finals. All games will be played in Mora, with exhibition matches scheduled for Leksand and Borlange.

"We're going to have a rough time against them," said Merkley, "because we're playing their top teams and they'll be bringing in players from all over Sweden."

The voyageurs leave from Toronto at 6 p.m. Boxing Day.

Volleyball results

Results of Saturday's area three boys' volleyball tournament:

- Burkevale 15—Our Lady of Lourdes 7
- Huron Park 16—Port McNicoll 14
- St. Joseph 15—Parkview 0
- Corpus Christi 15—Monsignor Castex 8
- Sacred Heart 15—Huron Centennial 5
- Consolation Semi-finals
- Our Lady of Lourdes 15—Port McNicoll 11
- Monsignor Castex 15—Parkview 2
- Sacred Heart 16—Huron Centennial 14
- Sacred Heart 15—Our Lady of Lourdes 11
- Consolation Final
- Sacred Heart 15—Monsignor Castex 6
- Championship Semi-finals
- Burkevale 15—Huron Park 5
- St. Joseph 15—Corpus Christi 9
- Bayview 15—Sacred Heart 9
- Bayview 15—Burkevale 9
- Championship Finals
- St. Joseph 15—Bayview 9
- Bayview 15—St. Joseph 8
- Bayview 15—St. Joseph 7

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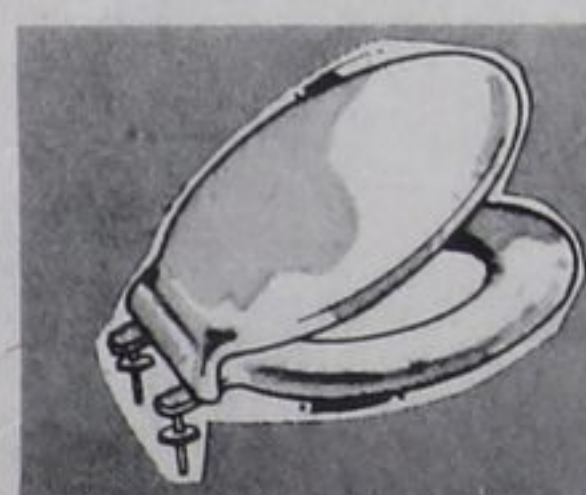
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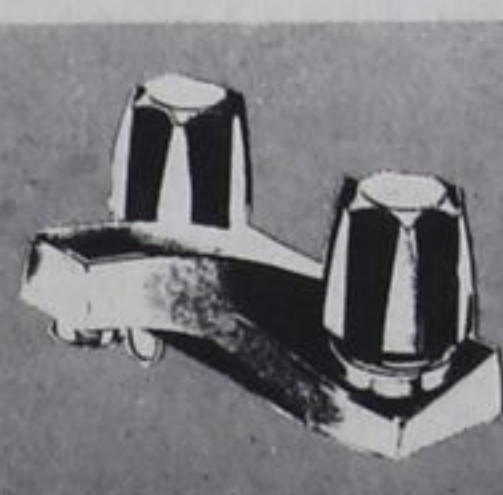
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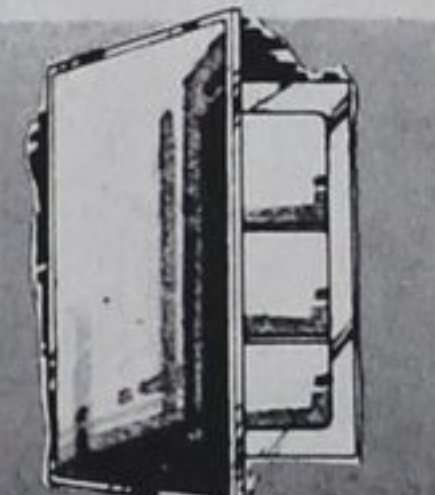
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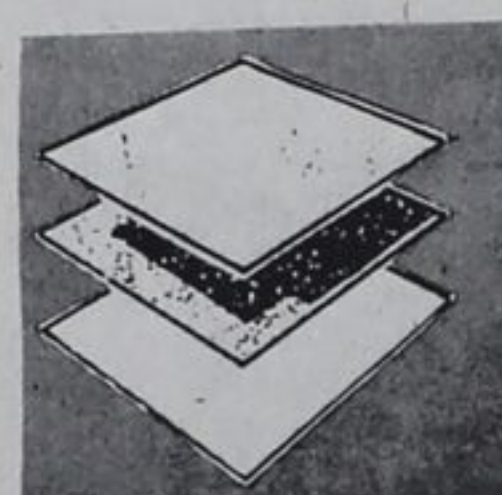
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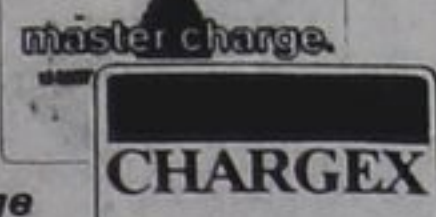
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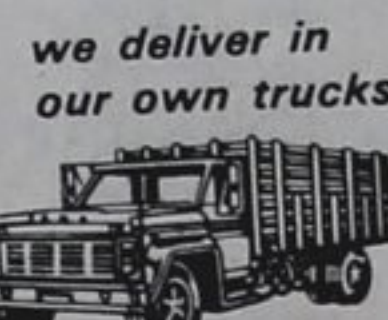
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