

Movie review

Victory

a war movie with a twist

by Terry Dupuis

Victory is a type of movie we have not seen on theatre screens for a number of years.

Basically, it is a World War Two prisoner of war yarn, which makes it a descendant of films like Stalag 17 and The Great Escape. Yet Victory is more than that.

It is also a sports film in an unusual setting. In this respect, it is reminiscent of the Burt Reynolds movie The Longest Yard, in which prison inmates had a football match against their guards.

In Victory, the sport is soccer, and Allied prisoners-of-war take on the German national team. Michael Caine portrays the British officer who used to be the captain of a soccer team. He conceives of the idea of organizing the prisoners into a soccer team, feeling that this will be good for their morale.

Caine tries to persuade the German officer who runs the camp into allowing the prisoners to have a game against the Nazis.

Surprisingly, the Nazis go for the idea, feeling that a public match could be used to advantageous propaganda purposes. The soccer game is to be held at a stadium in France.

The Allied prisoners also have an ulterior purpose in the match. There is a plan to use the soccer game as a means of escape for some of the prisoners.

Victory is indeed a victory for a number of the people involved in this movie.

For veteran direction John Huston it marks a return to a quality project after last year's dismal thriller called Phobia.

Huston has had an erratic career, with unequal number of hits and misses. Victory is one of his recent hits, and the director's best film since The Man Who Would Be King, some 6 years ago.

Also, doing his finest work since The Man Who Would Be King is actor Michael Caine. Since 1975 this fine actor has fritted away his talent in such dubious projects as The Island and The Hand. Victory finally gives Caine a role which is worthy of him.

Finally Victory marks a triumph for Sylvester Stallone. His two Rocky films were big hits, but his other films failed to click at the box office.

The success of Victory would seem to indicate that public is ready to accept Stallone in a different role.

Victory may well mark a turning-point in Stallone's career. He plays an American war prisoner who sees the upcoming soccer game as a possible means of escape.

Victory contains a fine role for Swedish actor Max Von Sydow as the decent-minded German commandant of the camp.

And the movie also makes the screen debut of Pele, the internationally renowned soccer player.

Victory is entertaining throughout its length, but the highlight of course is the rousing soccer game.

It's superbly photographed and edited, and so exciting that many audience members will be cheering from their seats.

T-ball All-stars attend Newmarket tourney

by Bill Nicholl

The Midland T-Ball All-Stars made their annual trek to Newmarket on Monday, September 7 for a T-ball tournament. This was after two postponements because of weather, as their third annual tournament had originally been slated for the Saturday, then Sunday. Midland should be proud of the boys for their behaviour both on and off the field, only being edged out in the final game against Newmarket 18-14.

Due to some coaching errors and early inning defensive jitters we fell behind a much improved Bolton team. We started to rally in the third inning but fell short just short as Bolton hung on to win by three runs 23-20.

Against Barrie in the second game, the Midland crew started strong and maintained their momentum all game. They were never behind and won going away 28-21. All players

were sharp particularly on defence and had the game won before they batted in the bottom of the fifth.

Their final game of the day was a big one against the always powerful Newmarket squad. In the first annual tournament in 1979, Midland upset Newmarket to win the tournament. Newmarket got their revenge last year. Thus the stage was set for this rubber match.

The Newmarket squad had already been in six or seven tournaments this year. They are very experienced

being together since June and are definitely the favorite every year.

They, having won the toss of the coin, took to the field in the first inning and limited Midland to just three runs.

Midland knew that they were going to have to be tough defensively and played super-sensational ball as they held the mighty Newmarket squad to just one run, but after the first inning, the experience of the Newmarket team showed, as they played steady ball to overcome Midland 18-14 without

having to bat in the bottom of the fifth.

Coaches were Bob Irvine, Rick Larmand and Bill Nicoll.

Team members were Chris Irvine, Scott Hudson, Sean Lavin,

Jody Weaver, Doug Lunnie, Chris Kinnear, Danny Whyte, Brad Deschamps, Chris Larmand, Dan Reidel, Jason Nicoll, Scott Cunningham, Sean Rourke, Cory Hansen and Mike Adamson.

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