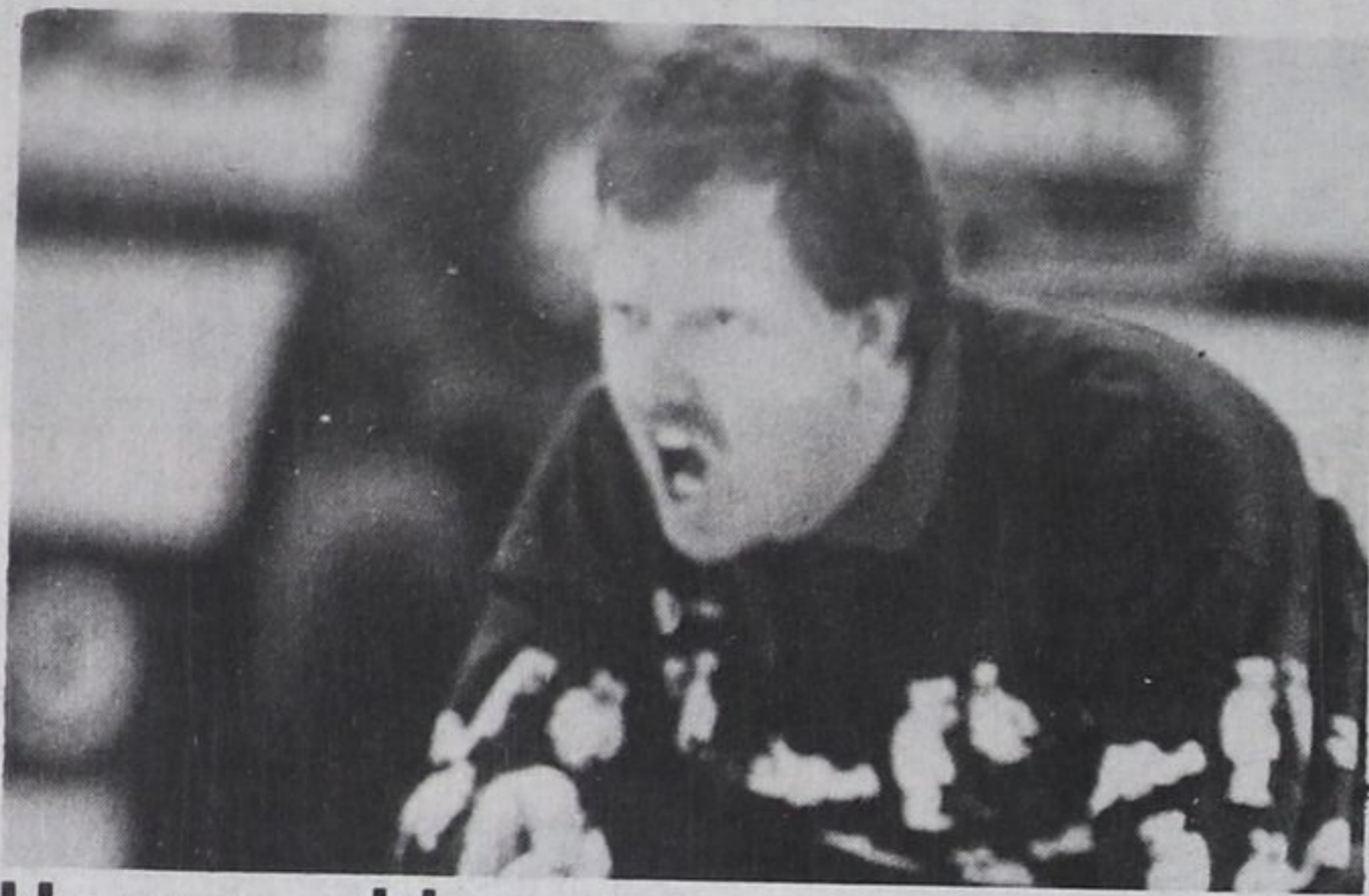




Penetanguishene Curling Club News



Jody's gang gains experience at Ontarios

by Ed Pearson

The Penetanguishene Curling Club junior rink skipped by Jody Robillard had their baptism by fire at the Ontario Pepsi Junior Championships in Kingston, Feb. 1-4. They are now tempered by that experience and will be better prepared for their next high level encounter.

Jody, along with Alfredo Graziani, Spencer Beaudoin, and David Laverdiere, were disappointed with the 1-6 finish in their first foray into provincial competition. They lost six games in a row, and had their only victory against Tam Heather in an extra end, on the final day.

Bill Howard, who acted as coach through the competition, said the lads acquitted themselves quite well. He remembered son Russ did no better when he first entered provincial championships. Bill added the boys have nothing to be ashamed of. They lost all their games in the 10th end, and were always in the hunt. The few mistakes they made were exploited very quickly by more experienced opposition.

Penetang's inexperience shone through eight hog line violations, being too defensive by relying on the take-out game and failing to take the initiative in the draw game.

They were unsettled by the time clocks (new in provincial championships this year), and not used to conforming to rink rules, by congregating at the back of the house.

Bill Howard ventured that the rink has the talent to win, and

that only experience will solve the other problems. He said "they were good ambassadors for Penetanguishene, the most popular rink there."

The final standings prior to the playoffs were Sarnia 6-1, Kingston 6-1, Brampton 5-2, Chesley 4-3, Tam Heather 3-5, Lindsay 2-5, Penetanguishene 1-6, and Bayview 1-6.

The rink obviously has pro-

mise for the future. Alfredo Graziani is the only player who will outgrow his junior standing at the end of the season. So, while the rink will be looking for a spare, the nucleus is there. As Jody put it upon his return, "We all enjoyed the experience, and intend to have another run at it next year."

We wish you all the best guys!

Hoarse skip

Russ Howard looks like he's booming instructions to his team. But, in fact, little is coming out of the "horse's mouth." Dry air and the touch of the flu caused the usually vocal skip to lose his voice. They won anyways!

Jody's juniors jell in Georgetown

by Ed Pearson

In the regional playdowns in Georgetown, in early January, Jody Robillard's junior rink came together as a team. There they experienced the disappointment of losing, but also the emotions of bouncing back to win the "B" side of the event in dramatic fashion.

In the first game they walked over Dixie 14-3, but were halted in their tracks in game two by Brampton, 9-4. The powerful Bramptonians were invincible and swept through the playdowns unbeaten.

After a 9-4 win against Brantford, they had no trouble versus Burlington defeating them 8-3 and advancing to the "B" side final. After jumping into an early 4-0 lead, they gave up five consecutive points to Welland over the next three ends.

Heading into the 10th end, Robillard held a slim 7-6 lead, but was without the hammer. Welland took one to send the match into an extra end. It was a nail-biting, nerve jangling climax with the spoils only going to the victor. The Penetang rink went into caucus and decided they would keep the house clean, which they did to perfection.

When it came to skip Jody Robillard's last rock, all he had facing him was an opposition stone lying in the 12-foot circle. With nerves of steel, Robillard drew to the four foot to advance the rink to the Ontario Pepsi Junior Men's Curling Championships.

Following the game, coach Wayne Morrison declared "that game had everything, excitement, emotion, and skill. I am so proud of the boys."



Primo seniors event

Pauline Babando, Irene Desrosier, Kay Lapere and Charlie Walton were the winners of the annual Penetang-Midland Seniors Bonspiel. Prize packages were donated by Primo Foods.

Senior spiel "Primo" success

by Ed Pearson

Both the Penetanguishene and Midland Curling Clubs have very healthy Senior's Leagues. Although there are some old campaigners playing at both clubs, the emphasis is on fun and sociability.

Penetang plays on Wednesday afternoons, while Midland makes Tuesday their day for matinee curling.

Both clubs count over 60 members in their senior leagues. Three years ago, Alvin Gropp of Penetanguishene and Norm Ransom of Midland hatched a plan for a home and away senior mixed bonspiel between the two clubs.

The spirit of rivalry has been known to exist between the two towns in the past. To avoid a

minor war, it was decided that each rink would comprise of two curlers from both towns (in theory at least). The attendance of 72 curlers at the Penetang club obliged drawmaster Pop Gravelle to go to two draws.

The morning draw was won by Fred Hook (Midland), Jack Hanna (Penetang), Ed Pearson (Penetang), and Agnes Dupuis (Penetang).

In the afternoon draw Charlie Walton of Midland along with three Penetanguishene players, Kay Lapere, Mike Babando, and Irene Desrosier, topped the board with 14 points and six ends.

The winners were rewarded with fine food packs supplied by PRIMO FOODS. Many thanks to our sponsors!

Armstrong wins La Maison

Local reporter Jim Armstrong scribbled down he wanted to play vice in the annual La Maison Mixed Bonspiel, but was moved up to skip when the draw wasn't filled.

But, the newsmen made some headlines himself as he slandered the opposition to win the front page bonspiel. Armstrong, whose mug is seen on CKCO-TV, along with Mary Lou Radecki and Paul Gravelle defeated Jerry Baker 7-3 in the first game.

After a filling lunch, the Armstrong rink scored a 10-4 victory over Jackie Gyte's rink skipping in place of Jim Radecki.

The Armstrong team won glass shaped curling stones courtesy of La Maison. Second place went to Diane Ruston's rink of Annette Merkley, Lorraine Moreau, and Mert King.

Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to the winners.

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