

DISTRICT SPORT NEWS

Sports

By Bill Ellis



There is the story about the referee who had just finished officiating a very close game. After the crowd had left, he dejectedly approached the pay phone to call a friend. To his surprise, he discovered he had no change. He called to a passerby, "Hey, Mac, lend me a dime, I want to call a friend."

"Here's twenty cents," replied the stranger, "Go call all your friends." Referee and umpire baiting seems to be becoming a favourite pastime around this time of year, especially in the hockey circles. Players, coaches, crowds and newspapers are all taking a crack at the man in white. If you want to kill a sport, keep this up and the fans will be staying away in droves. Actually if the players made an attempt to stick to the rules, they wouldn't need officials at all except for face offs, jump balls or whatever the situation might be. A player, 90 per cent of the time knows when he has intentionally or unintentionally violated the playing code and the referee will almost certainly tell him. A player will admit his mistake before the official has time to call it.

There are four principal reasons why this occurs due to a supposed miscall by the official. They are the referee, the player, the coach and the crowd. The referee calls only what he sees, what more can you ask? He follows the slogan, "Be kind and good but devilish firm." He will never reverse his decision. Why should he? If he does, he will look foolish and the players will lose their respect for him.

The player, in the heat of the game, may forget himself and have a verbal and perhaps physical battle with the man in charge. Perhaps we can forgive the athlete once but if these outbursts keep up he had better select another sport as he is giving little to the betterment of the game. Many players figure if they jump the official and give him a blast later on in the contest he will think twice before making the same call and when a ref. has to think twice, it's too late to blow the whistle. I have found usually it's the poorer players who do the most beefing. I guess they want to show the home crowd that they can do something well.

The coach, who should have a great deal more common sense than his players, can set a good or bad example for his charges and the local fans. When he blows his top, he does it to show that he is standing behind his boys in their disagreement with the officials. He may be actually driven to it by the rabid rooters who immediately look to the bench to see the reactions of the mentor who is supposed to know everything that is right or wrong. The coach, being a good showman, goes into his "I'm mad" act and the spectators think that's great and he is almost assured of his job for another season. A wise coach will realize the official never changes a decision so he saves his ulcers and indirectly by his actions will have a settling effect on his team. Then they will stick strictly to the business of playing the game.

Members of the crowd operate under the assumption that they have paid the price of admission therefore they are entitled to do and say what they please. The "know-it-alls", who each week "absorb the game through the seat of their pants", go to work on the whistle tooter and pretty soon half the arena joins in. It's an example of mob psychology at its best. It would be pretty hard to cure this. The fans could be educated on the finer points of the rules but I think they would rather be entertained than educated.

A prominent North York official, who for years has been outstanding in conducting basketball, football and track competitions, said he would never officiate hockey because the present day official has to fight both teams, the coaches and the spectators. It is too bad that these conditions have to exist. Probably the best solution is the one most high school coaches use and that is, when a player openly expresses his disapproval of an official or his decision, the coach says "that's all brother" and the boy is benched for the rest of the game and a few games after that. Winning is secondary, good sportsmanship is not.

Don't get me wrong, I like hockey, it's just that I don't like the direction in which it's headed.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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NOTICE

RE: THORNHILL SWIMMING POOL

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AGGRESSIVE PLAY PAYS OFF IN HOCKEY

The individual player should always try to think aggressively. He should avoid at all costs the kind of mental attitude that causes the player to wait for opportunities to develop. The aggressive player who is always working to get into position will be able to set up many play opportunities. The player who just skates up and down, waiting for an opportunity to come his way, will often wait for a long time. Many of the so-called breaks of a game are merely situations that developed because an individual player was being aggressive.

For example, when the player is skating up beside a puck-carrier, he should be working hard to get in position to take a pass and not just going along for the ride. By doing this, he will not only create scoring opportunities, but will, at the very least, lighten the load of the puck-carrier by making the defence keep alert for any passing play. If the players coming up with the puck-carrier are passive, the defence can then concentrate on the puck-carrier.

Even though the players coming up the ice with the puck-carrier do not succeed in building up an opportunity, if they are seriously trying to keep active and act aggressively, they will force the defence to take them into consideration. Thus the puck-carrier will be able to make convincing fakes or set up individual plays.

Keep Cool and Clear Quickly
In getting the puck away from the scoring zone as quickly as possible the defensive players should be sure to clear calmly and coolly. There should be no dilly-dallying or carrying the puck around near the goal. If a breakout play cannot be quickly set up, flip the puck out into the centre ice zone. Do not hang on to it, get checked or pulled into a held puck situation for a face-

off. Wild-eyed clearing can cause a lot of trouble. Keep cool.

Avoid Staleness in Sport
Staleness is considered to be more mental than physical by experts, although it does have many physical reactions. The main cause is a boredom which is often unconscious. For example, when a person does the same thing over and over again in the same old way, his mind gets sick of it and throws out physical symptoms in order to force a change. This is why staleness is a problem in any activity.

The housewife suffers from it. It is a big problem to the school teacher and also to the business executive, who has to do the same kind of exacting work over and over again. Thus, in avoiding it, variety in the activity is very important. The more variety at a practise and in the training program, the less likelihood there is of the athlete becoming stale. This is, perhaps, the most important preventive measure.

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Whooping Cough
One of the most serious of the contagious respiratory ailments is whooping cough, a disease which kills more infants than diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles combined. Medical attention should be obtained directly a child shows any symptoms of this disease. The safest precaution is to have the child immunized against the disease early in life.

RICHVALE

Correspondent:
Mrs. J. J. Taylor
Telephone TU. 4-2269

W. Francis of Avenue Rd., Richvale were driving home Monday evening when they were struck by a bread truck proceeding along Daves Rd.

The truck driver is thought to have swerved to avoid a boy on a bicycle which had no taillight. The driver climbed out of the truck apparently unhurt after his vehicle struck a tree further down the road. The Lewis car was damaged but Mr. and Mrs. Lewis escaped with a shaking up.

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Electors of Markham Township

To those in Markham Township who worked for me and voted for me in this year's municipal election I extend my sincere thanks.

May I at this time wish the 1954

Council every success.

BILL MASTERS

Merry Christmas

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and all you wish yourselves for the coming New Year.

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The Holiday Season affords us the opportunity to express our appreciation to our many friends for their good will and thoughtfulness during the past year.

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