



Sport Spots

By FRED SIMPSON



Double Trouble??

Sil Steffan is probably the only hockey coach in captivity who can celebrate a victory in one breath and bemoan a defeat in the next one. Both on the same day and with two different teams, yet.



SIL STEFFAN

I caught Sil in somewhat of a psychological hang-up last Saturday. In fact I had to wrest the gun away from his head. Remove the bullets.

You see, Sil had just come off a bad trip. Namely, his bantams had blown a 3-2 loss to the opposition and his Kings had just been drubbed by Etobicoke. That's enough to send any well-adjusted coach around the bend.

I should hasten to add that he wasn't all that pessimistic. Just slightly taken aback for the moment. He was also wrestling with two line-ups at the time with a bantam game scheduled for 6 pm and a junior one for 8 pm. He needed at least one win out of that very badly.

IT'S A CHALLENGE

"I guess you could say it was the challenge," said Sil in answer to the inevitable question of why he would take on two teams under one hat. "The Kings asked me to come out and I liked the idea of coaching a junior team. I like to think I can help them. At the same time, there was no way I was going to forsake my bantam boys in mid-season. So here I am."

Sil hasn't got all that much to despair of to date as his record with the Kings is two wins, two losses, and a tie.

"Of course I haven't had a chance to really figure the situation out in Oak Ridges," said Sil. "I'm still getting adjusted, getting the boys to play under my system which is a handicap when you consider the other teams are pretty well set."

Sil hasn't got any illusions about the Kings (currently holding down the nether regions of the Metro Junior "B" League with four wins, 17 losses and a tie.

MISTAKES KILLING US

It's only the first year of "B" hockey for the boys and they are doing well under the circumstances. We're hurting with a lot of injuries right now and the puck isn't bouncing for us. "We'll get five shots on goal, make a mistake and the other team scores."

Steffan feels his club has the ability to make the eighth and final playoff position in the league "but we're going to have to skate and check 60 minutes of every game. We can let up a second."

HE WINCED

It was the loss to Etobicoke that caused him to wince. "They're a bottom team and we've got to beat those guys if we hope to make the playoffs. When you knock off the top guys that's a pleasant bonus but you never count on it."

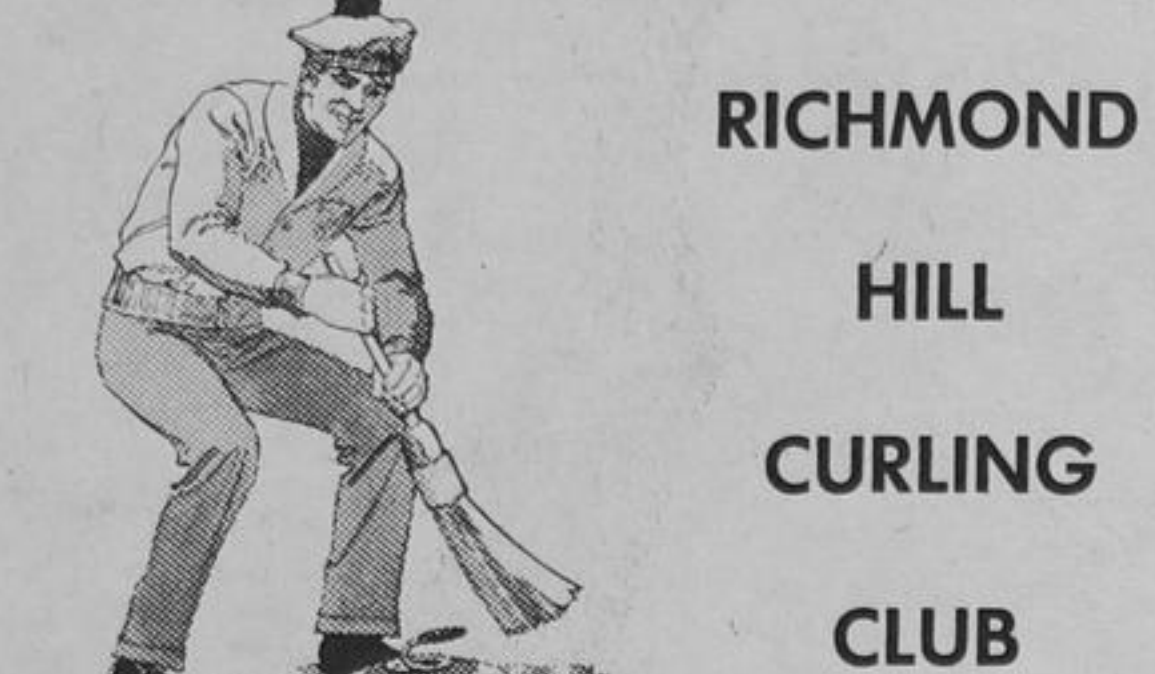
Sil also took on the Oak Ridges coaching job because "I want to see that team a success in "B" competition. I think it's important that it is a success. Junior "B" hockey fills a much-needed void for youngsters in the 16 to 19 year age bracket. It gives them something to shoot for after midget hockey, something really competitive."

He has his own ideas about how a club should be run and he's the boss out there although he's ready and willing to listen to any sound advice. "One thing he's against is what he calls his players taking cheap shots at the opposition and drawing stupid penalties."

NO, NO

"You don't win hockey games in the box and taking cheap shots at people isn't what the game is all about. I'm one who doesn't like fights on the ice although I don't expect our players to stand there and take it if someone else is giving him a rough time. I just don't want us to start it."

(Continued on Page 16)



RICHMOND HILL CURLING CLUB

By RON TAYLOR - 884-7817
Christmas Bonspiel Prizes, Sing-Song, Refreshments Enjoyed By All

The Christmas 'Spel was held Friday and Saturday and congratulations go to the committee members Don and Karen Rallis, Dick and Marlene Augustine, Gerry and Doreen Cole.

Festivities began at 7 pm Friday with the last rinks leaving the ice around midnight. Curlers were back on the ice at 9 am Saturday and the curling was completed by 10 pm.

Snacks, special egg nog, and entertainment were provided between games and poinsettia plants were awarded to all losing leads after the first game.

Bill Hall, assisted by Shirley Bate on the piano, led an enjoyable sing-song. Dinner and dancing topped off this very successful bonspiel.

It's this type of event that does a great deal toward making RHCC the friendly club it is noted to be.

The many guests of Ruth and Frank Ellison wish to thank them for their wonderful hospitality Saturday afternoon. There must be some connection between this gathering and the noise level of the 5 pm Saturday draw.

TILL'S RINK

Winner of the first draw was Ron Till's rink of his wife, Lee, Tom and Carol Hodge. One point behind was Bob Taylor's rink of Joan Taylor, Barry and Marlene Wilson, with Murray Meeres and his rink of wife Doreen, Ralph and Raye Ryan finishing in third place.

The team with the lowest score was also recognized and first draw honors went to Ron Van Toen's rink of Shirley Bruce, Sam and Dawn McLean.

TOP RINK

Second draw winners were Vera Shropshire, Bruce Stephenson and Edna Coulter skipped by Cliff Brown. This rink not only won their draw by a 12-point margin but also were top point getters in the entire bonspiel with 52 points.

Harold Loudon continued his winning ways by skipping his strong rink of Audrey Loudon, Alex and Clare Wood to second place. Paul Welsh, with his wife Peggy, Brian and Bev Nielsen were close behind Harold to claim third place.

The second draw low score prize went to George Greer's rink of Jean Brumwell, Bruce and Lola Buckles.

Don Richard's rink of wife Phil, Al and Shirley Shuckster won the third draw by beating out John Bate, Shirley Bate, Tom and Blanch Leslie by one and a half points. Don Brayshaw skipped his rink of Cathy Brayshaw, Peter and Doreen Nye to a third place finish.

Skip Bill Schellenberg, his wife Red, with Bob and Helena Sutherland had the distinction of being the low scoring rink on this draw.

First game winners in the top division of the second schedule skip entry competition were rinks skipped by Don Richards, Ralph Harley, Jack Shropshire and Tom Bush.

Second division first game winners were Jack Rummye, Doug Jenner, Jim Anderson and Frank Ellison. Third division winners were John Perkins, Wes Draper and Armon Tripp.

TUESDAY CURLING

Tuesday competitive curling, first draw, is now completed with Jack Kreins' rink of Mike Jaciuk, Steve Kavanagh and Don McDonald tying Ralph Ryan's rink of Al Shukster, Ken Evans and John Brady with five wins and two losses each.

In the Thursday schedule, Mike Mulcahy skipped his rink of Dick Augustine, Vern Garlick and Bill Oliver to six wins with Murray Meeres with George Greer, Alex Alesson and Bert Naylor next with five wins.

Mike Graydon, part-time bartender and iceman has now added a third dimension to his services. Last Wednesday he filled in for our "missing" cook and from all reports did an excellent job in preparing a steak dinner for 18 guests. He was also instrumental in preparing Saturday's dinner for the many Christmas bonspiel curlers. Well done, Mike!

OOPIES!

Since Elgin Barrow's success at the Thornhill Invitational, he has been having trouble at his own club. He lost to Jim Anderson on Monday but the big defeat was on Friday evening by Harold Loudon in the first game of the bonspiel.

Lucky for Elgin it was only a six end game and the scoreboard only shows 16 points, for he was trounced 16-0 and failed to pick up an end. However, he returned on Saturday and redeemed himself by winning five ends in his second game. Unfortunately, his third game was another disaster. This happens to all skips, it is just a matter of time.

Hartman's final effort came at 19:41 unassisted. USE TWO GOALIES. The Rams used two goalies in the game with Doug

NEWMARKET: Five hundred snowmobilers with pledges amounting to \$25,000 are expected to sign up for a 100-mile snowmobile marathon scheduled for February 3 by the Whipper Watson Appeal Committee. The committee is endeavoring to raise \$250,000 for construction of a therapeutic swimming pool in the new wing of York County Hospital.

Best Choice Of Three

Langstaff Farm Site Of Sport Stadium??

Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe wasn't "surprised at all" that the Metro powers - that - be have finally gotten around to publicly acknowledging that Langstaff Farm may turn out to be the best bet for a stadium after all.

"I don't see how they could afford not to consider it," said Councillor Rowe who has been instrumental in plumping for a stadium at the farm site at Highway 7 and Yonge Street along with Mayor William Lazenby, and former Councillor Shawn Beggs and local Architect Douglas Allen. Why it's a natural both as to accessibility of the surrounding population, transportation, you name it."

Councillor Rowe was referring to recent statements by Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey that of the private proposals studied by a stadium committee the one that looked most promising was one at the former Langstaff Jail Farm.

DEVELOPER'S SCHEME
 This involved a developer's scheme to build a high-density commercial and housing complex plus a stadium on the site of the former Langstaff Jail Farm. The 632 acres of vacant land are owned by Toronto City Council which is wondering what to do with the property.

Councillor Rowe feels that "if such a stadium was to be built they should go for the whole bundle and make it a domed one."

The idea behind the Langstaff proposal is the developer - whom the committee refused to name - would buy or lease the land from the city and be allowed to build hotels, stores and hous-

ing on the site. **COST \$60 MILLION**

In return for the opportunity to build these profitable ventures he would throw in a domed stadium. Although the stadium, which would cost at least \$60 million, would inevitably lose money, the development as a whole would be profitable.

But committee members felt a high density development would prove unpopular with residents of the Langstaff area.

"Sure you're going to get complaints," continued Rowe, "especially from those who don't like sports. They complain about anything that concerns paying money out for sports. But there are a lot of people who would go for it."

"It would be a great benefit to Richmond Hill," maintains Mr. Rowe. "Look at the business it would generate for the merchants in the area

as well as the restaurants and motels. People would be coming down from the northern communities and, naturally, they would be spending money down here."

He pointed to the popularity of big league baseball which finds numerous "people from this area travelling all the way to Detroit to watch big league games or to Montreal to watch the Expos. With a major stadium we would have big league ball right here and fill the place.

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER
 "I can envision that from five to 10 years from now you would also have major professional soccer there with teams playing from Europe and other places. Soccer will be one of the bigger attractions some day."

Councillor Rowe agrees that federal and provincial funds would be necessary and thinks that they should be made readily available.

Mr. Godfrey said earlier that Metro Council probably would be asked to commit between \$10 and \$20 million of public funds for a stadium to house big league baseball and football and amateur sports.

He hopes the provincial government will contribute toward the project which would involve either a reconstruction of the Canadian National Exhibition stadium or a new stadium on some other site.

Godfrey and other members of council's stadium sub-committee have been interviewing prospective private developers of a new stadium during the past three months. Nine proposals, including the Langstaff one, have been studied in detail.

As a result of this experience, Godfrey has now given up the idea of a privately financed stadium in Metro Toronto.

DOWN TO THREE

The stadium sites have been narrowed to three with Downsview first, Langstaff second and the CNE third.

The Langstaff site has the approval of Richmond Hill Council who sponsored a "National Sports Centre" brochure two years ago and sent it all over the country.

The brochure dwells mainly on the accessibility of the Langstaff site as regards highways such as 401, proposed Highway 407, and the new Pickering Airport as well as the present one at Malton.

He also felt it was up to York Regional Council to "get in there and let itself be heard. If you want something you've got to make yourself available, make yourself heard."

"As I said," concluded Mr. Rowe, "it's a natural."



STILL GOING FOR TOUCHDOWN

Mike Hartman Scores Two Goals But, Alas, Rams Lose 7-4 Dixie

By FRED SIMPSON

The Richmond Hill Rams got the first goal Sunday night but the Dixie Beehives rattled in five straight after that. End of story.

Except that the Beehives went on to dump the Rams 7-4, relegating them to a fifth place tie with the North York Rangers, three points out of second and four out of first.

The game was a rather lack-lustre affair with neither team excelling, although it was Dixie who was there "fustest with the mostest" when it counted.

They trailed by 1-0 early in the first on Rick Febbo's goal at 1:10 from Dave Stuart.

DIXIE GOES WILD

Then came goals from Doug Patey and Mike Kasycki at 3:49 and 12:33 as the Dixie squad led 2-1 going into the second after outshooting the Rams 13-10 in the first 20 minutes.

Three successful goals by Alex Kallinikos, Dave Large and Dan Cormier made it 5-1 before the Rams' Jim Clement scored at 13:06 from Jim Graham and Billy Stephenson. Kallinikos wiped that one out with his second goal of the game just 36 seconds after Clement scored to make it 6-2.

That same period saw the Dixie team manage 17 shots in 17 minutes at the Rams' goalie at one point.

TRY TO RALLY

Richmond Hill came to life briefly in the third period sparked by two goals from the stick of Mike Hartman. But Doug Patey also scored for Dixie. It was Hartman's 29th and 30th goals of the season.

His first effort came at 4:41 from Bob Bangay and Ernie Takeuchi, with Patey getting that one back at 13:49.

Hartman's final effort came at 19:41 unassisted. USE TWO GOALIES. The Rams used two goalies in the game with Doug

ton tomorrow night (Friday) for a game with that team and are at home to Vaughan Nationals Tuesday night of next week at 8 pm.

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