

By Fred Simpson



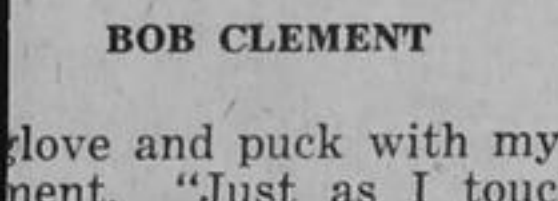
Sport Spots

Good Nights, Bad Nights

Goalies, like everyone else, have good nights, bad nights, brilliant and awful nights. It wasn't quite the halfway mark of the opening period and Bob Clement was having a good night in the nets for Aurora Tigers in a Provincial Junior "A" hockey game against North York Rangers.

The score was 1-1 and Clement, a Richmond Hill youth, had already stopped 10 or 11 shots directed at him by the Rangers.

Came the 12:06 mark of the same period, a rush and hard shot by North York's Bruce Anderson. A sprawling, left-hand glove save by Clement and Anderson coming on to hook Clement's glove and the puck off his hand as he lay in front of the net.



BOB CLEMENT

"I automatically reached out for the glove and puck with my bare hand," relates Clement. "Just as I touched the glove Anderson skated across my hand."

"I watched the blade of his skate go over my hand which was palm up but I didn't realize I was hurt that badly until I lifted it and two of my fingers, my ring-finger and little finger, were dangling. There was a lot of blood and made a dash for the bench."

Bob was relaxing and talking about the unfortunate turn of events in his somewhat limited hockey career to date at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stu Clement at 246 Harry-ran Crescent, Richmond Hill. His left hand was washed in bandages.

"Here I was having a good season, was really happy playing with the Tigers, and then it's over. It's hard to figure."

LUCKY

But it could have been worse.

"When I think about the fact that Anderson weighs something like 175-pounds with razor-sharp blades I realize it could have been much worse. I've still got my fingers."

Bob's current plight and the fact he hasn't completed a full season in the past three reminds me of the title of a recent book by Canadian Author Hugh Garner called "One Damn Thing After Another."

Because that's the way it's been.

A year ago he was suffering through a rather uncertain season as back-up goalie for Richmond Hill Rams' Gary Carr who was considered the best goalie in the league and considered most likely to be a top star of tomorrow.

"That was a bad season for me," states Bob, "both mentally and physically. I needed to play and I just wasn't getting the ice time. When I did it was usually in front of the hometown fans and I couldn't do anything right. Then my confidence went and I was dead."

It's true that he didn't suffer any physical injuries but he still didn't consider it a full season.

Two years prior to that it was a case of physical injuries with the Richmond Hill Legion Midgets.

KNEE INJURY

The first year saw him going great until the last half of the season when he ran into a knee injury. Then came the first half of the second season and he was out again as he damaged leg cartilages. One whole season if you match the two halves.

"I really figured this season would be the one for me with the Rams," said Bob. "But it didn't work out that way and I felt I needed more ice-time. I wasn't going to get it with the Rams so I asked for my release to make a deal with another team."

The release was forthcoming and Bob found a willing taker in the Aurora Tigers.

"Apparently they had seen me in action in an exhibition game against Wexford. I couldn't do anything wrong that night. They took me on."

The Tigers already had two goalies but Clement earned a steady job with his play and saw his share of the action until his injury.

STICKING WITH HIM

What is bolstering Bob at the moment is the fact that the Tigers could very well have dropped him from their roster as a result of the injury.

"Coach Jack Ferguson told me that I was still one of their listed players which means if I don't play again this season they will be one (Continued on Page 16)

Ottawa Move Shakes Local Softball World

By FRED SIMPSON

The 1974 pot has started to boil with the announcement Saturday that the Ontario Fastball League has been classified as a professional loop along with its western counterpart.

Making the decision were the executive members of the Canadian Amateur Softball Association at Ottawa.

Especially affected will be amateurs if they tear up their area clubs and their hitherto amateur ballplayers such as Newmarket, Oshawa, Scarborough, and Toronto Globals.

CASA Executive Director Larry Skinner told "The Liberal" in a telephone interview from Ottawa that the decision by the association ended a year of controversy surrounding both leagues.

That controversy came to a head last season when the Newmarket Rays of the OFL challenged Winnipeg of the WFL in what they decided to term as "the Canadian Championship". This was in direct defiance of the CASA who had already declared the Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers as Canadian titlists following a tournament in Hull, Quebec.

"We decided that someone had to take a stand, right now or forget about it," said Skinner. "Now the next move is up to the OFL. We made our move this time to enable everyone to make their decisions in ample time before the new season begins."

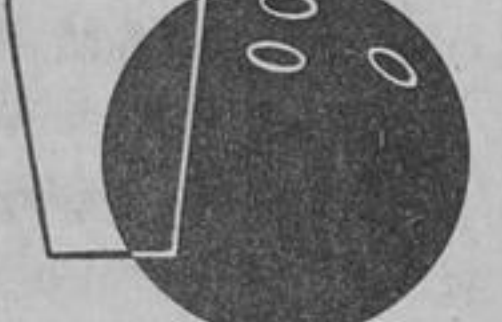
Skinner said the ruling of the OFL and WFL as "professional" will mean that the players on their respective teams will have to decide whether they want to be classed as pros or remain as amateurs.

"As far as we are concerned, if these players opt to play in the OFL this season they will no longer be classed as amateurs and eligible to participate in CAAS - sponsored tournaments including the All-Canadian. That goes for the teams too who will not be permitted to enter any amateur tournaments or even play any exhibition games with CASA sanctioned teams."

In a word: If the Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers and Newmarket Rays even meet in a "friendly" exhibition softball game the Jewellers would be suspended by the CASA.

Skinner added that individual players with such teams as Newmarket, Burlington, Toronto Globals, etc., would still be classed as amateurs.

bowling Results



ABC BOWLING

The Professionals are still leading the series with 31 points followed by the Killers with 26, Gamblers 22, Pooh Bears 19; Amateurs 16; Tigers 12.

Also showing the way in the President's Trophy race are the Professionals with 50,510 points. The Killers have 49,329, Pooh Bears 48,564; Gamblers 48,088; Amateurs 47,722; Tigers 47,177.

Top three ladies for the night were Karen Weber with a big 788 (281, 241, 266) and Marg Price with 726 (230, 247, 249); and Dee Whiteman with 690 (262, 216, 212).

Ed Muehlsteadt led the men with an 802 (251, 240, 311) with Ron Price scoring 717 (294, 168, 255) and Sam Moore 690 (178, 257, 255).



(Photo by Pikulin)

He shoots! He scores! That, essentially, was the story of Monday night's exhibition hockey game between Oak Ridges Alex Brockton Midgets and Switzerland. Only it was Oak Ridges doing most of the scoring (as above, puck circled going into the Switzerland net) as they romped to a 12-2 win. In the

background looking on as the puck enters the net is Switzerland's Hans-Peter Blum. Goalie making his kick too late is Maurus Ammann. A capacity crowd of 1,000 attended the game at Bond Lake Arena and whooped it up most of the way.

He Shoots! - Scores!

By FRED SIMPSON

There was just 10 minutes left in the game Monday night when the touring Switzerland Midget hockey club scored their first goal against Oak Ridges Alex Brockton Midgets.

Result: Something like chaos as a capacity crowd of 1,000 spectators at the Bond Lake Arena went frantic.

It didn't matter that the score at the time was 9-1 for the Brockton Boys and ended up 12-2 in this first-ever trans-Atlantic hockey encounter between the two teams.

FIRST FOR ARENA

Even the members of the Oak Ridges club congratulated goal-scorer Claudio Ernst for getting one on them. This must also be considered a first in the Bond Lake Arena.

That's the kind of game it was.

The Wallisellen team from Switzerland was short on hockey experience but long on popularity with the fans as the game wore on. Everyone went away happy.

That first goal by Ernst came from a wrist shot which appeared to bounce off the chest of Oak Ridges Goalie Danny Pincombe and into the net.

The visitors seemed unable to clear the track in front of their own nets and had a tendency to clutter up the place with three players while leaving the corners to the Oak Ridges players on the theory you can't score from there. Oak Ridges could and did score.

The Swiss team came up with a somewhat unique man-to-man checking formation on the ice which saw a man shadowing an Oak Ridges defenseman on the point whenever the puck was in their own end.

This backfired on occasion whenever an Oak Ridges man evaded his check in the cor-

ner. He then had a clear path to the goal while the other Swiss man was holding hands with the Oak Ridges player by the blue-line.

OPENING CEREMONIES

An elaborate opening ceremony saw a myriad of official guests including Mayor Bill Lazenby and town councillors introduced to the players. Mayor Lazenby presented the town's Centennial flag to the visitors.

Just prior to the opening faceoff, the traditional exchange of gifts between the opposing players took place.

A banquet, as sponsored by the Oak Ridges Minor Hockey Association, was held following the game.

The tables were attended by members of the Oak Ridges girls' hockey team which was quite all right with members of both the Oak Ridges and Wallisellen team.

Coach of the visiting team, Hans Stabler, thanked the Oak Ridges executives for

their courtesy. He said his charges were learning "a great deal from this tour and, as a result, we hope to be much better hockey players in the future."

PEPPERLAW: A CNR freight car left the rails at the intersection of the rail line and Highway 48 north of here New Year's night. The highway and the railway were blocked for nearly 12 hours, from 7 pm to 7 am.

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