



By Fred Simpson



Sport Spots

Curtain Call

Funny, I don't feel any different. Seven years later and I feel the same. Terrible. Whatever happens to time? Seems just like yesterday I was trundling into the Richmond Hill Arena to watch the first annual Legion Midget International hockey tournament.

But that was seven years ago and here I go again. So what do you write about an event that you've sat in on for all those years? That you haven't written about before? You don't. You reach back into the memory-bag and pull out some material, polish it up, and get out of here.

Was doing some light reminiscing about that baby of all the tournaments seven years ago with Richmond Hill Legion Coach Pete Artemchuk.

Pete is back with the midgets after a three-year absence and he was with them for that first ever tournament back in 1968.

BEST SHOWING

Ironically, that first year saw perhaps the finest showing of all by a Legion squad. That was the time (if fading memory serves me correctly) the Legion almost upset the Ottawa 67's in a semi-final game.

You must remember that dramatic overtime shoot-out which saw a Richmond Hill player and an Ottawa one line up back to back and skate in on the opposing goalies to decide the overtime winner.

Pete definitely remembers it. So does Gerry Methe (now in the pro ranks) who made and missed his shot while the Ottawa player put it in.

STILL REMEMBERS

"That was a hard way to lose," agrees Pete. "I was talking to Gerry a few weeks ago, and you know, he's never forgotten that one either. I think Gerry must have been on the ice for the entire final 20 minutes. He had to be our individual star."

It's also interesting to note that the Ottawa squad went on to lose out in the finals to the Humber Valley Aces. They just had nothing left. In that Ottawa line-up of that year was a nondescript player by the name of Dennis Potvin who is now making a pot-vin-full of money with the NHL New York Islanders. Times do change. Incidentally, Tony Bellavance was playing his first season of hockey with the Midget Legion crew. He's now one of the stars with the University of Waterloo hockey squad who has been impressing everyone of late in the college play-offs.

Of course, when you talk to Pete you inevitably get around to the fourth season of the tournament. That was the year Pete's team didn't even get into the tournament.

"We were in the OMHA finals," he recalls, "and weren't eligible for the tournament. I figure we had the best Midget team in Ontario that season despite losing to Leamington in the finals. We had players like Bill and Dick Weber, Bellavance, Colin Wood, etc., etc."

CLEMENT STARS

Unfortunately, the Legion Midget team hasn't been able to make too many dents in the tournament to date. The one other highlight I do recall was the goaling heroics of Bob Clement in the Richmond Hill nets in the 1972 tournament against the Toronto Foster Fire-birds.

The birds went on to defeat Richmond Hill and win the tournament but not before Clement stood them on their heads. That was the game they threw everything but the end-arena at Clement but couldn't beat him until a quick goal in overtime. That effort stands out in my mind. But good.

So, here we go again. Coming up next Monday another week of rink-rattling. It'll be hockey's last big gasp of the season locally and it'll be an exciting one. See you there.

FINAL NOTE

Speaking of hockey, the 7th annual ladies' hockey tournament will be held at Doublerrink Arenas in Vaughan April 26, 27 and 28. This year's outing will feature 50 teams from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, and Michigan. The first puck will be dropped at 6 pm Friday, April 26.

CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

"The Liberal" requires a Correspondent for the Concord area.

If you are interested in serving your home community and earning some extra money then please phone

MARY DAWSON AT 884-1105



PROTESTS ADMISSION FEE AT "FILTHY" ARENAS

Dear Mr. Sports Editor — Can you or any member of the Richvale Minor Hockey Association show justification in charging 75c per person on entering both the Bond Lake and Richmond Hill Arenas to watch so-called playoff games?

If the town charged this amount to clean up the filth in both arenas it may be understood — even to put paper in the ladies' washrooms would be a nice change — but this 75c went to the Richvale Hockey Association.

The playoff was between a team from Richmond Hill and the Richvale Atom OMHA Team who played one exhibition game early in the season. How can it be played when the Richvale Team did not win one league game in the whole season? Play-down maybe, but certainly not playoff as charged.

The main point to be made is how can the average family come out to watch their child play when it can cost over \$5 in one weekend as well as registration in the club (which also works as a collection agency for a photographer) equipment, sticks, skate sharpening, practice time charges and a push for name-brand skates that a growing boy wears only one season?

If the club breaks even at the end of the season that should be enough. Why do they have to end the season with money in the bank at the expense of the player and parent from the previous year? The player pays his fees and a picture he may not be present for, or may be hidden behind another player's head, when he registers.

The boys of the past who walked miles with magazines for pads are the men of today who are making it very difficult for all boys to do what they enjoy most, and that is to play hockey.

(MRS.) FRANCES PURVES, 526 Carrville Road, Richvale

YEA LEGION MIDGETS!

Dear Mr. Sports Editor — The members of the Richmond Hill Hockey Association Board of Directors were most surprised to read the Legion Column in "The Liberal" of February 28.

We have closely followed the progress of the Richmond Hill Midgets this season along with every other team connected with the RHHA. The midgets' conduct both on and off the ice has been exemplary.

In addition we are more than pleased with the performances and efforts of both the coaches and management of the team. There are none finer. We should like to publicly thank them for their devotion and hard work, both on the road and at home, this year.

They, along with the players, are a credit to minor hockey, both in Richmond Hill and in all of Ontario. Congratulations to the midgets on their very fine win in this MAJOR MIDGET TOURNAMENT in Drummondville. Good luck in all future tournaments.

The Board of Directors, Richmond Hill Hockey Association.

IN DEFENSE OF THE MIDGETS

Dear Mr. Sports Editor — As one of the responsible adults with the midget club at Drummondville I would like to go on record as saying how proud I was, and always will be, of the boys' fine effort on behalf of Richmond Hill — on the ice and off it, they were a credit to the town.

I was frankly disgusted to read that they had finally surfaced, won a championship of sorts, and the refer-

ence to the sweat of the brow.

I personally witnessed the blood, sweat and tears shed by those 15 and 16 years olds before 5,000 hostile spectators in the final game. In the words of the greatest Englishman who ever lived, "Never was so much done by so few for so many."

Congratulations to Coach Peter Artemchuk whose knowledge of the game and skill in imparting his knowledge to the team have been the greatest factor in the team's success. My sympathies to Manager Bob Oakley who has manfully shouldered the blame for everything all season including the three hours it took the Legion bus to get to Barrie. Poor Bob did not realize the outside influences he would have to deal with.

I enjoyed the company of one of the larger members of York Region's finest, who was heard to mutter when the Drummondville crowd was acting like ill-bred Oafs, "I hope they have some policemen here." Also, Stickboy Marsh Tonner who refused to sign a contract until he heard from Alan Eagleson.

I would recommend to the author of the Legion Column that the best interest of his 500 members might be served by dropping the hockey sponsorship, and replacing it with a trip to Buckingham Palace, to meet Prince Philip. But there again, this may pose the problem of the members who wanted to know who in the hell is the Richmond Hill Rams, asking who in the hell is Prince Philip. Good luck chaps!

WILLIAM DENNETT, 41 Athabaska Avenue, Willowdale.

Neil Thomas First Local Judo Tourney

Neil Thomas captured first place in the Group I Division during the Richmond Hill Judo Club's monthly tournament.

Mark LeClaire and Doug Inglis were in a tie for second place with third place ribbon going to Jason Matthews. Best technique ribbon went to Doug Inglis and most kiai to David Chalmers. Mark LeClaire was promoted to yellow belt and Neil Thomas to orange belt.

William Lang led the way in Group II followed by Kirk Thompson in second and Susan Alexander in third. Promotions went to Kirk Thompson and Susan Alexander, yellow belt, William Lang to orange belt. Susan Alexander also took best technique ribbon.

First place and best technique went to Jim Fortin in Group III with Ron Donoghue, Roland Schmid, and Tom Jellicoe sharing second place honors. Don Petroff placed third. Promotions to yellow belt went to Jim Fortin and Jerry Kerr. Bryan Downey was promoted to green belt and blue belt promotions went to Russell Denby and Greg Strauman.

Group IV saw David Hughes leading the pack and also taking the best technique ribbon with Karl Wolfer in second and Bobby Petroff third. Most kiai went to Tina Brillinger. Promoted to green belt were Bruce Strain, Mark White and Frank Houston.

The senior division saw Ken Harmon capturing first place with David Betts second and Tom Jellicoe and Brian Empringham taking thirds. Most kiai went to Tom Jellicoe with Brian Empringham receiving best technique ribbon. Promoted to yellow belt were Ken Harmon, Ron Fawn, David Betts and Empringham.

SELL YOUR UNWANTABLES PHONE 884-1105



Soccer Tour Of England

These are the 14 young soccer players who are now representing Richmond Hill in a series of exhibition games over in England. Their tour started March 9 and will last until March 23. Back row (left to right): Graham Rowe, Brian Hobbs, Jeff Briggs, Peter Bufon, Kenny Main, Kevin Kernohan, and Chris Arbuckle. Front row (same order): Alan Lynden, Bruce Buchan, Paul Beckwith, Mark Kernohan,

Danny Iapano, Mike Kirk, Scott Patterson. In the background is Coach Sam Johnston.

The boys, ages about 12, are using Sevenoaks as their base and are the guests of the Amherst School at Riverhead. They will also go on a sight-seeing trip to London and visit the Tower of London, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and Trafalgar Square.



RICHMOND HILL CURLING CLUB

By RON TAYLOR - 884-7817

Shillelagh Bonspiel

The Business Girls Provincial finals were held here last weekend and the many spectators were treated to some excellent curling, particularly in the final games on Sunday.

The Sarnia Golf and Curling Club foursome went undefeated Friday and Saturday to qualify for Sunday's final. Lesaidie, however, lost their first game on Friday but qualified for the finals against Sarnia by winning Saturday.

They proceeded to down Sarnia in the first game but were required to whip the latter team twice in the double knockout.

Lesaidie also won this one on an extra end to become the provincial champions. The success of this event was due to the hard working committee of Kay Harcastle, Eva Walker, Marion McGill, Marnie Ferguson, Gloria Croftin, Jane Gillespie, and Phyl Richards and other "hostesses".

Thanks also head waiter and referee Lou Croftin and his "waiters," Don Rallies, Ron Taylor, Tom Harcastle and Rob Roy McGregor.

JENNER LEADS

In the men's Monday night competitive curling Doug Jenner is the leader in the first division with three wins with Don Richards second. Bob Thompson leads the second division while Bob Galway and Harold Loudon remain undefeated in the third division after three games.

In the Tuesday league, Gerry Cole and Peter Dewsbury are the leaders after three games.

Doug Jenner leads in the Thursday schedule after six games with five wins and a tie with Ralph Harley and Murray Meeres next with five wins and one loss apiece.

JUNIOR RINK

A junior rink of Sue Lamb, Dianne Diggins, Mary Weiss and Donna Buchan were in a round robin series with Thornhill and Unionville recently and emerged as division representatives in the Toronto District Playdowns at the Terrace last weekend.

Unfortunately, they lost their first game and were eliminated in the single knockout event. At the Barrie Curling Club on March 2 and 3, in a four-game spiel, Gord Brown with wife Sylvia Murray and Doeren Meeres, won all four games to take the trophy event.



bowling Results

ABC BOWLING

The final series is featuring a close race with the Killers leading with 15 points followed by the Pooch Bears with 14. Tigers and Gamblers, 11 points.

Bernice Hellmich led the ladies with a 698 (259, 216, 223) Diz Lasrie had 646 (232, 172, 242); and Cloria Byer 632 (228, 151, 253).

For the men it was George Stepanous with a grand slam 800 (255, 255, 290). Ian Lawrie had a 730 (176, 250, 304); Ron Preece 732 (197, 249, 277).

The Professionals lead for the President's Trophy with a total of 76,398 followed by the Killers with 73,888; Pooch Bears 73,287; Amateurs 72,734; The Gamblers 72,305; Tigers 70,655.

Our congratulations to Janice and Mike Lambert for a charming little daughter.

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