

Hockey Rams on sudden 'high'

RICHMOND HILL — The Richmond Hill Rams have been hitting more high and low notes than an average orchestra this season but right now they're on a high.

The resilient Rams made it four games in a row without a loss Sunday night here when they edged Ajax 2-1 at the local arena after previous wins by 4-3 over Wexford, 8-2 over Newmarket Flyers, and yet another 6-2 one against Wexford.

It could hardly be described as a drive for first place but four wins in a row was just what the injury-and-suspension wracked Rams needed.

"We finally got most of our players back in the line-up," said coach Carl Brimblecombe, "and that's worth a few victories in itself."

He went on to shrug his shoulders in resignation: "At least we did have a full line-up."

What he meant was that Larry Kimble, just back from a suspension, was on another two or three game one as the result of a squabble at Wexford Saturday night.

Edge Ajax 2-1

Sunday's encounter with Ajax saw the Rams in little real trouble most of the way as they built up a 2-0 lead in the first period and maintained it until the final six seconds of the game.

That final six seconds cost Ram's goal Mitch Lovelock a shutout which must have made him happy. It came with Ajax's goalie out of the nets in favor of a sixth attacker and Ken Clarke put it home on a pass-out from the corner.

Brimblecombe thought Lovelock played a "steady game and he's helped us a lot." He pointed out that regular goalie Brian Stankiewicz was still hurting from a previous injury.

"I've got a lot of faith in these youngsters," said Brimblecombe. "They struggle some but when they start winning they get the taste and there's no stopping them. That's what a young team is like."

"We're still a long way from hitting our peak but this is a good team. We're not afraid of anyone in this league. If they keep working hard and stay away from mistakes we'll surprise a few more people."

Sunday's first period goals saw Dave Robson scoring at 3:10 from Ron MacDonald and Ed Saffery; and Danny Jones popping it home at 7:05 from John Olds and Ken Paraskevin.

Whip Wexford

Rams 6, Wexford 2. Wexford came out of the gate quickly Saturday night in Wexford scoring early with Olds in the penalty box.

A free-for-all ensued at the 9:20 mark when Raider Kevin Shotbolt charged in to goalie Stankiewicz. When the clouds cleared Raider Dan McDonald and Rams' Kimble were banished from the game with double fighting majors.

The number also included eight Raiders who were banished to the dressing room with 10 misconducts each for leaving the bench during the altercation.

When the hockey got going so did the Rams as they rapped in four unanswered goals in the same period

courtesy of two by Frank Nigro and one each by Saffery and Olds.

Wexford got one back in the second but goals by Paraskevin and Olds settled the issue. Rams outshot the Raiders 42-38 on the game.

Bomb Newmarket

Rams 8, Newmarket 2. This Thursday night game at Newmarket saw goaltending making the difference as the Rams jumped into a 5-1 first period lead.

Richmond Hill's Stankiewicz came up with some brilliant saves and his teammates some accurate sniping to

make the difference.

Scoring for the Rams: First period, Ken Paraskevin from Bill Stephenson; John Olds from Stephenson and Saffery; Mike Walker, unassisted; Walker again from Greg Hampton and Kimble; and Paraskevin from Olds and Bill Colville.

Kimble got one in the second unassisted and goals by Jones and Nigro finished it out in the final 20 minutes. Bryan Alexander and Steve Novis scored for Newmarket.

Nip Wexford 4-3

Rams 4, Wexford 3. There was less

than seven minutes left Tuesday night of last week in this one with the score tied 3-3.

That's when Rams' Jones pounced on a loose puck in the Wexford end and sifted it home for the winning goal.

Wexford removed its goalie in the final seconds but Stankiewicz, helped by some hard work by Olds, came up with some key stops despite being shaken up in one of the scrambles around the net.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the first period on a Robson goal from Nigro and Stephenson for the Rams.

Wexford's Jim Wells replied.

The Rams moved into a 3-1 lead early in the second on two goals by Olds but Wexford's Mike Collings got one back.

Wexford tied the game at 3-3 on a low screen shot at 4:49 of the third by Conrad Wiggins.

Olds managed to hit the post shortly before Jones became the hero.

Coming up: The Rams are at Ajax tomorrow (Thursday) and at North York the following night and, yes, at North Bay next Sunday before coming home Tuesday night for a game against Royal York at 7:45 p.m. Wow.



Photo by Hogg

Stay away from my door

Wexford Raider goalie Vince Fiorelli kicked this one out with Richmond Hill Rams Mike Walker (11) and Dave Baker

(20) breathing down his doorstep but he didn't get to do it on enough of them. The Rams downed the Raiders 4-3 Tuesday

night of last week at the Richmond Hill Arena in Provincial Junior A action and the win was the start of a four-game streak.

Thunderbirds down Dynes

RICHMOND HILL — The Thornhill Thunderbirds celebrated their second straight win over the Mid-Ontario Junior B league-leading Oak Ridges

Dynes Jewellers Thursday night. They celebrated by losing 5-4 to Orillia Saturday night in Orillia. But they had a good excuse.

The Birds were playing without six of their regulars. Despite this, almost came up with a final period rally to win it all.

"We outshot Orillia something like 18-3," said coach Ralph Beer, "but we just couldn't get the puck in."

Injuries
A combination of injuries and, yes, suspensions plus a player or two who couldn't make the trip, added to the Thornhill problem against Orillia.

"We were hurting, said Beer, "but the six replacements from the minor system in Thornhill came up with a fine game and almost pulled it out for us."

On the injury list was Glen Daurio, Ed Stankov, and Greg Chappel; Rocky Pantalone and Kerry Pimm were still sitting out suspensions; and Ernie Takeuchi couldn't make the game.

Rally
Despite this, the Birds rallied from a 4-1 deficit to almost catch up.

Whip 'Ridges
It was a different sequel Thursday night of last week at Richmond Hill Arena as the Birds chalked up a 5-3 win over the front-running Jewellers.

Thornhill led 2-0 at one point on a first period goal by Takeuchi from Scott Howson and Bruce Clatworthy; and Takeuchi's second goal seconds later from Rob Browning and Howson.

The Jeweller's got back in the game with two minutes remaining in the same session with Jim Clement scoring on a power play from Greg Bogaerts and Mike Carnevale.

No comeback
A goal by Dynes' Carnevale in the second temporarily tied the game but Thornhill's Bob Hunter made it 3-2 from Al Cook and Mark Steele.

It looked like Oak Ridges was going to make one of its patented third period comebacks when Steve Sherman scored around the seven minute mark of the final 20 minutes from Dale Roffey to tie it at 3-3.

But Johns put any such notions out of the Oak Ridges minds when he broke in on a power play goal and blazed a ringer to the top corner behind goalie Doug Brumwell. Steele got the assist on the play.

It was the same Johns who added insult to injury with a little more than a minute remaining and his team playing shorthanded. He scored again from Bud Shirley. Dynes over.

Good game
"They played a good game and they were up for it. You can't take anything away from them," was the way Dynes' coach Peter Artemchuk phrased it.

In the same instance he felt his team just "didn't have that mental uplift going for us. That mental attitude going into a game is all important. We were just beaten by a team that wanted to win more than we did tonight."

He noted that Thornhill was playing with six players brought up from "their minor system but I don't agree that necessarily hurts you all the time. Those guys are trying to prove

something, they're hungry, and they can kill you."

Doing fine
Artemchuk, however, feels his team is going just fine adding that "when you lose you have to ride with it. Maybe it's good for you to lose sometimes. It keeps your head screwed on right."

Artemchuk has added juvenile Shawn Parker to his defence stating that "Shawn's a big, rugged kid and we need the muscle back there."

Coach Beer agreed that "my team was up for the game against Oak Ridges but why not? You always like to beat the top guy. It's always a bonus point when you beat someone ahead of you."

Coming up
Coming up for the Birds is a game next Friday in Midland and a home game Monday against Owen Sound.

RICHMOND HILL — That snowstorm we had Monday, remember, caused a couple of cancellations of junior hockey games in the area.

To wit:
Midland was slated to play at Oak Ridges in a Mid Ontario Junior B game.

Owen Sound was tabbed for a contest at Thornhill against the Birds in the same league.

Midland and Owen Sound? Enough said.
The games will be rescheduled at a later date.

For the Dynes: They are in Owen Sound next Saturday and back home Monday to Orillia. The following Tuesday they go right back to Owen Sound.

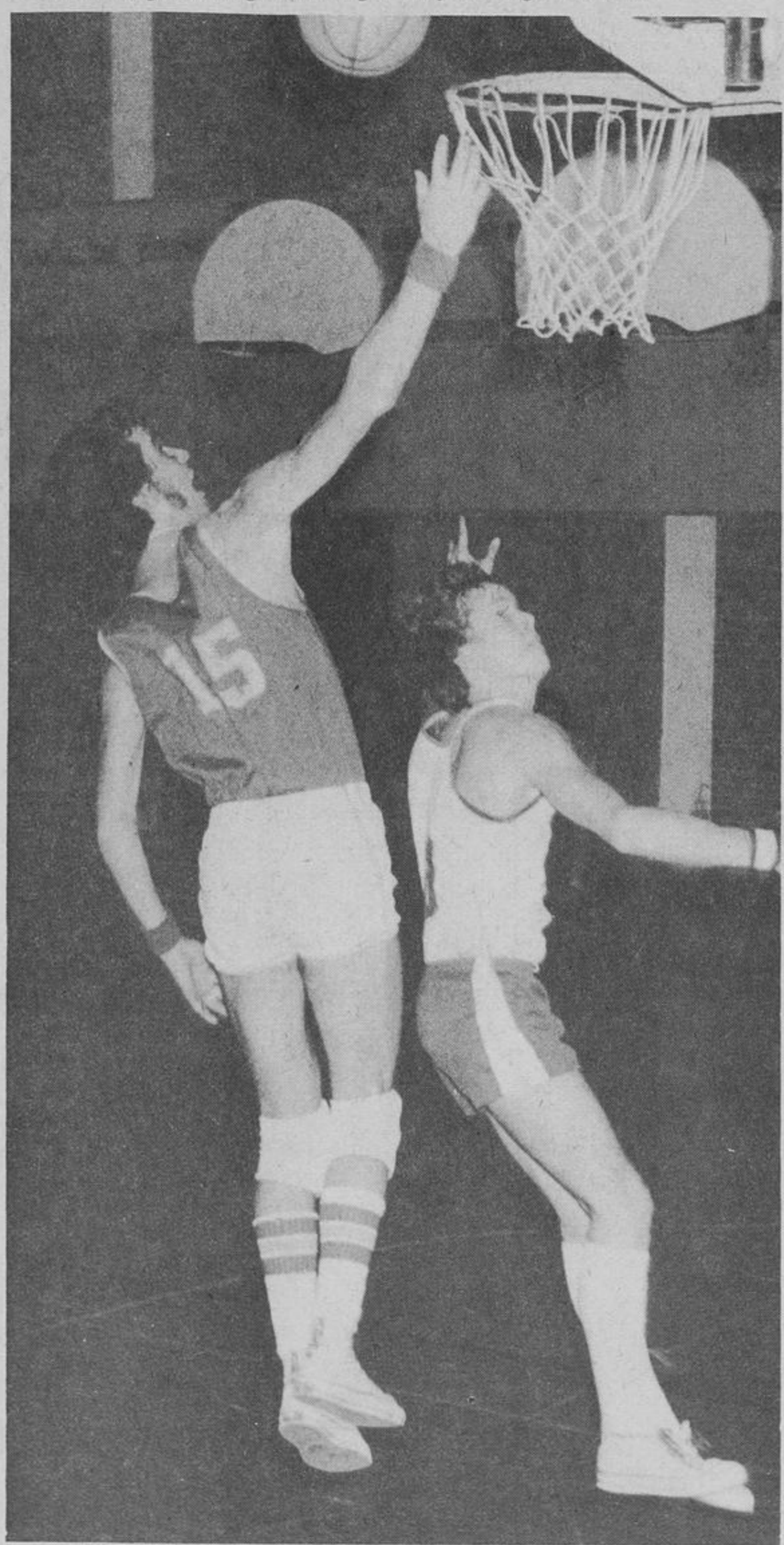
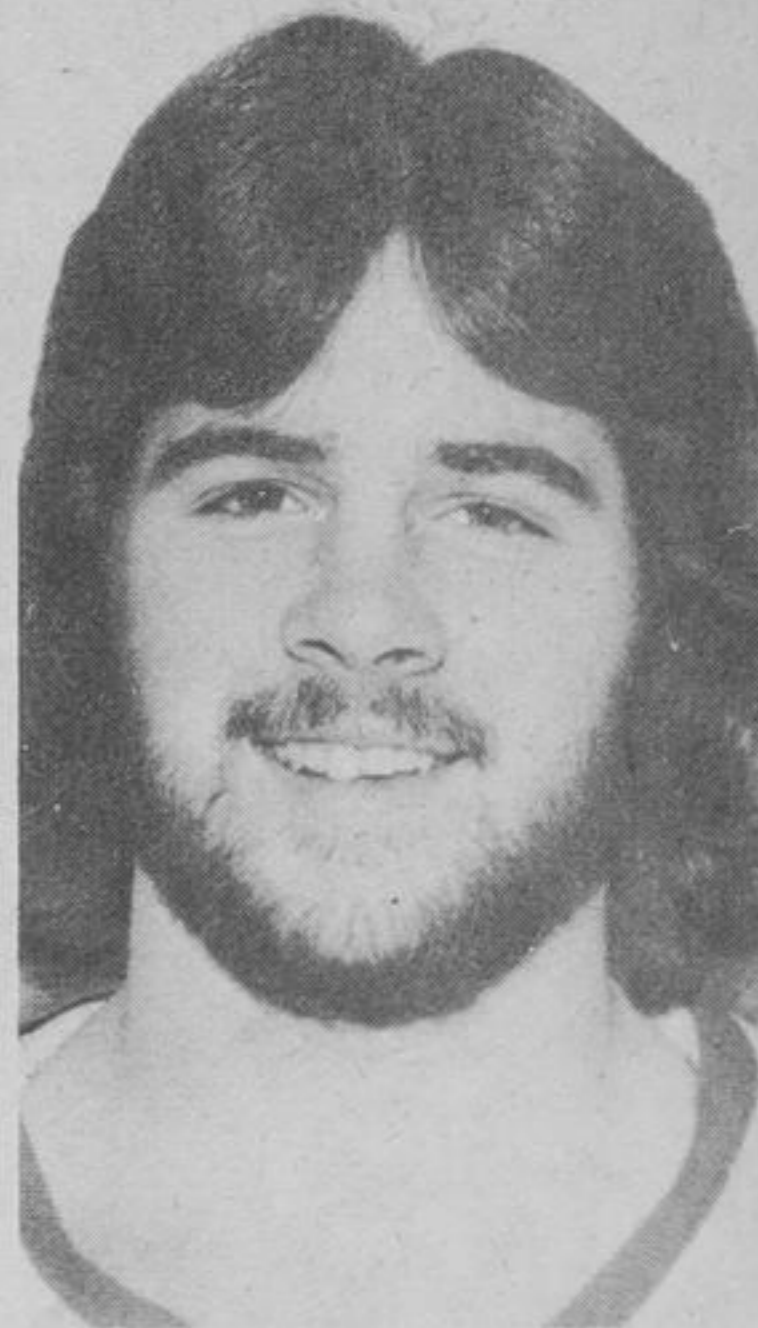


Photo by Hogg

Up she goes

David Poore, (15) of Langstaff Secondary School Seniors goes up for a shot while unidentified Richmond Hill High player looks

on concernedly in York County basketball Friday. Richmond Hill won 55-39 for first win in four starts.



Mike Johns ...gets winner

The Liberal Section B
sports
Classified

Wednesday, January 12, 1977



fred simpson

The worm turns

I'm going to be kind to everyone this week (including myself) by shutting up. For the most part, anyway.

Simply because I received a copy of an interesting letter as penned by Carl R. Griffith of Oak Ridges who is (or was) an OMHA referee and has been for the past six years.

Griffith, obviously fed up, writes in his letter to Albert Watkins, Supervisor of OMHA Referees, that, in a word, he's through.

He also sent copies to an E. McFadden and H. Saunders who I presume are connected with the OHA.

He provides a lengthy preamble to the meat of his disenchantment which states his reasons for becoming a referee in 1971, his reasonable competence as a referee, and his general good feeling for most of the young players and spectators.

The crunch
Then he gets into the 'cruncher' part of his letter which follows:

"Unfortunately the minority of parents are totally biased, defensive, rude and have strong resemblance to the avid wrestling fan who is using this hockey game to somehow justify name calling aimed at the players on the opposing team.

Little Johnny
"This invariably occurs when that player has administered a beautiful hip check to 'Little Johnny', or threats of violence to the referee who has just penalized 'Little Johnny' for attempting to remove his opponent's limbs with his stick.

Call me...
"Some parents have called me 'stupid, blind, crazy, homer, dumb,

idiot, etc., which I feel is part of the job — I suppose?"

"However, as a 6'1", 210 pound father of five boys, all of whom are, or have been in hockey, I take exception at being called G—D—A—H —, queer, faggot, stupid donkey; at being spat upon by mothers and threatened by some 5'1", 120 pound father who feels big while standing in the back row, yelling with a tone of voice which completely demoralizes his son and his teammates and severely hurts the game of hockey."

Done best
"Myself: I feel I have done my absolute best every time I hit the ice. I feel I have been fair, strict and absolutely accurate with my calls and the handling of penalty situations.

"But, because of my most uncontrollable desire, recently, to leave the ice and engage in fisticuffs with the aforementioned type of parent, I feel I must stop officiating at once.

"Unfortunately, too many good officials of late, hold the same feelings. Regretfully yours... Carl R. Griffith, Card No. 1072.

Disenchanted
Not much you can add to that letter. Just about says it all for Griffith. Disenchanted but good.

It would be interesting to find out how may refs and/or linesmen feel the same way. Very few of them (none that I can recall) have ever answered their tormentors back in public.

I should emphasize that Griffith did go to some lengths earlier in his letter to commend the majority of the players and parents.

Majority good
The players on the whole "are respectful, quite knowledgeable and most are very talented, regardless of age. They are driven by a desire to participate; a desire to win and, unfortunately, a desire to please a parent or parents."

The "majority of parents are fairly knowledgeable, although some are not up to date, wish to see good, clean hockey, and want their offspring to have fun and a somewhat successful game."

My only comment is that I've never felt competent enough to criticize game officials so I generally keep my mouth shut.

I've certainly heard lots of coaches and/or spectators do so. But I really don't know if they're right or wrong.

Maybe a little of both on some occasions because, after all, refs are human like most of us.

Scapegoats
I sometimes get the feeling, though, that refs are handy scapegoats to hang losses on whenever your favorite team can't do the job itself. Not all the time, but more than enough I suspect.



Carl Griffith ...ex referee