

Hey-rube lowlights Rams game

By FRED SIMPSON

A three-ring circus came to town Tuesday night of last week when the Richmond Hill Rams tangled with the Newmarket Flyers in Provincial Junior A hockey action here.

The "circus" involved players from both teams as they cleared the benches with five minutes left in the second period and indulged in on-the-ice and off-the-ice acrobatics with one another.

A few spectators even got into the slugfest which, with the odd exception, had more sound than real-life fury to it. Oh yes, the hockey game, Newmarket won 5-2.

LASTACT

By the time the last act was over and the "big top" taken down several Rams and Flyers were turfed from the centre-ring.

They included Richmond Hill's Jeff Allen, Mike Walker, and Bob Else; and Newmarket's Ron Stoneburgh, Steve Thompson and John Beukeboom.

All went carrying various sentences from five minutes for fighting, game misconducts, high-stick, you name it.

The game, with the exception of those precious five minutes, was a very tranquil one most of the way. There

weren't enough players out there to start a good fight following the main event.

Warfare broke out with the Flyers leading the Rams 4-2 when Newmarket's Stoneburgh and Richmond Hill's Danny Jones clashed in the Flyer's zone.

GENERAL MELEE

Jones was injured when he appeared to be clipped by Stoneburgh's stick. At the same instant a general melee broke out in the penalty box between Newmarket players serving sentences and the timekeeper.

The show was on with even the timekeeper getting into the act and exchanging punches with the Newmarket Flyers. This was soon followed by the arrival of a spectator who also got into the act.

This cleared the benches and it was up to the spectators to pick their own particular show to watch.

PERSONAL FEUD

Back in the stands a Richmond Hill and Newmarket twosome decided to battle one another and there was simply joy all over the place. This particular duet ended in gentle fashion with one of them getting booted in the

face. Meanwhile, back on the ice, the Rams' Walker was attempting to tangle with the big-sized Stoneburgh as well as seemingly was the rest of the Rams' team.

POLICE ARRIVE

The police had arrived by this time and everyone, by now in various stages of being winded, settled down to some dull roars.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Richmond Hill Rams' coach Ken "Satch" Brookes, who watched the embroglio from the relatively safe confines of his empty bench, received a game suspension for allowing his players to leave same. The same with Newmarket's coach.

"It was just like a brush fire," said Brookes. "I was watching the Jones-

Stoneburgh situation at one end when I heard the commotion by the penalty box.

"By the time I turned around the benches had emptied and things were happening. I didn't have a chance to tell the players to leave the bench, they were gone."

NOW THE GAME

For those who care, the actual hockey game saw the Rams fall behind 3-1 in the first period after taking an early lead on John Hogarth's goal from Bill Colville at 1:44.

Newmarket's Bob Craig scored two of them with Rocky Robitaille getting the other one.

The second period saw Paul Robillard making it 4-1 before Richmond Hill's Mike Walker got one back from Billy Stephenson.

Then came the embroglio and the last five minutes of the period was tacked onto the final 20 minutes as game of-

ficials ordered both teams to the dressing rooms.

Newmarket's Robillard got his

second goal of the night at 12:10 and that ended the evening's celebrations. Tennis, anyone?

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Sports

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R

Nice to win

Rams stage rally to edge Hamilton

The beleaguered Richmond Hill Provincial A Rams won only their second game of the season in 12 starts (including three ties) Sunday night when they edged Hamilton Mountaineers 5-4 here.

The long-awaited second win followed Tuesday night of last week's 5-2 loss to Newmarket (see elsewhere) and a Friday night 5-3 loss to Royal York in a game played in Weston.

And was Rams' coach Ken "Satch" Brookes happy with the win?

Yes and no. "I feel we're a much better team than Hamilton," said Brookes, "but we've been playing under a lot of pressure lately and we're laboring out there. That happens when you're losing."

The Rams were also playing without Mike Walker and Bob Else, still suspended from the previous game embroglio, and defenceman Jeff Allen who has now left for pro hockey camp after being temporarily on loan to the Rams.

"What with injuries and suspensions," said Brookes, "we haven't had a full line-up since the start of the season. This is bound to keep you off-balance."

Despite the injury and suspension drawbacks, the Rams had enough going for them to overcome a 4-3 deficit Sunday to tie the game and win it on captain Billy Stephenson's goal at 11:03 of the third period.

STEPHENSON STARS

"Billy was a mainstay out there for us," said Brookes. "He played 40 minutes out there on both defence and the wing on two different lines. He

played exceptionally well."

Another solid performer was John Olds who got the puck out to Stephenson for the game-clincher as well as Richmond Hill juvenile defenceman Ed Gundert.

SURPRISE

"Gundert was a very pleasant surprise," agreed coach Brookes, "he showed maturity behind the blueline and carried the puck out of his own end in fine fashion."

The Hamiltonians jumped into a 2-1 first period lead on goals by Dan Sheppard and Glenn Edwards with Richmond Hill's Bill Colville replying from Paul Gallagher.

Danny Poliziani made it 3-1 at 5:02 of the second period and that was the start of the Rams' comeback.

Phil Wood led the offense with goals at 9:13 and 10:00 and Richmond Hill started carrying the play.

The Rams suffered a temporary setback on Mike Urquhart's goal just before the second period ended.

It was Danny Jones tying the game early in the third period on assists to Olds and Dave Campbell that paved the way for Jones' winner.

ROYAL YORK

The Royal York game saw goals going to Wood from Olds; Jones from Mike Kruze; and Gallagher from Mike Ham.

Richmond Hill is at Wexford next Saturday and in Aurora Sunday. Sunday's game also saw the return of last year defenceman Greg Hampton following try-outs at a Major A camp.



Clear the puck, uh, ball

Bayview Secondary School goalie Ragan (background) stands stick at the ready in the above goalmouth scramble as an

unidentified Thornhill Secondary School player takes a vicious swipe at the puck, uh, ball. Occasion was the Georgian Bay

Field hockey championships which saw Bayview retaining its championship. See Sports B-4.

Beer blasts Artemchuck

Thornhill Thunderbirds' coach Ralph Beer is "pretty upset" about recent charges by Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers coach Pete Artemchuk that "we have a team of head-hunters."

To put it mildly, Beer is fuming. "You can tell Artemchuk, Beer told 'The Liberal', "that he can take his iron fist, slip it into his velvet glove, and shove it you know where."

Beer was referring to a previous week's article which led off stating that: "The Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers are

going to slip an iron fist into the velvet glove they've been wearing so far this season in the Mid-Ontario Junior B hockey league."

The phrase was the reporter's but Artemchuk did charge both the Thunderbirds and Owen Sound of being "strictly headhunters. That's the way they play hockey and they're not going to get away with it with us any longer. It's tit-for-tat from here on in, payment for payment."

Replies Beer: "What's he trying to do? Scare hell out of us? Forget it. We have a pretty

gutsy hockey club and I just hope Pete has the parts out there to be as tough on the ice as he wants to be."

Beer maintains "we have a good, tough club but not a dirty one. We just play hard hockey to win and we're going to keep on doing it cry-babies notwithstanding."

"Those bearded-wonders on the Jewellers think they're better than every club in the league because they got the jump on everyone last season," he said.

He added that "we don't say we will beat them all the time but they'll know

they've been in a game. This club is better than last year's even though we have a lot of new guys who are inexperienced in junior B or Provincial A hockey."

"They've got a lot of guts, heart and determination and Mr. Artemchuk will find that out as the season progresses." Finally:

"If Mr. Artemchuk doesn't like the fire, he should get out of the kitchen." Incidentally, Thornhill plays in Oak Ridges next Monday night. Game time is 7:30 p.m. in Bond Lake Arena.



fred simpson

Hey, Rube!

I must admit things were getting a trifle dull around the sports scene. A new hockey season was freshly underway and everything was seemingly blissful.

Things were going so well I was beginning to wonder if human beings were actually involved with the new season. We all know that a human being gets a trifle edgy when everything goes too smoothly. Kind of upsets him.

Anyway, I was roused out of my "Indian Summer" lethargy by attending the Richmond Hill Rams-Newmarket Flyers love-in Tuesday night of last week.

And I'm delighted to report that everything's back to normal. Feuding and fighting normal. I got there a little late and thought I'd walked into a scene from the Battle of Bull Run or, at the least, a Friday night at the tavern.

HECTIC

There were bodies rolling all over the ice and, in a few cases, the stands. It was undoubtedly the most hectic scene I've seen at the local arena for the past 10 or so seasons. Almost as bad as the first time Ernie McMeekin (he's the guy who presses the stop-go clock in the announcer's booth) told his first joke.

ALMOST FUNNY

I'm really fumbling for a descriptive word for the occasion. If it hadn't been so serious at the time it would have been almost funny.

Maybe pathetic is a more suitable word but I hate to get too uptight about these things. People do blow their tops on occasions, act irrational, and that'll go on for awhile yet.

But it still has to be condemned when it happens.

I'd like to think most people pay their way into a hockey game to see same and not to be subjected to an orgy of adolescent "sand box" behavior by hockey players and — or spectators trying to dismember one another.

Even the NHL has realized that to some extent albeit via some prodding from the law.

ODD FIGHT OKAY

I don't get too excited about the

odd fight in hockey because they're invariably harmless except to the ego of the fellow who loses.

But when a debacle like this happens you would have to think that the powers-that-be (and I mean the league, team officials and maybe even the police) should step in to assure such nonsense isn't allowed to occur in the future.

What it amounts to is that if the hockey players can't control themselves, well, someone else will have to.

CROWD CONTROL

As for the fans? I saw one scene where two pugilists went at one another. It culminated with one of them booting the other one in the face.

This bothered me because there didn't seem to be any official crowd-control people in evidence. Someone could have been seriously injured.

I'm told it's up to the home hockey team to provide crowd control on such occasions.

There were some other troublesome things including a supposedly "neutral" penalty-box timekeeper fighting with some Newmarket players, etc. I'm not even going into it.

Suffice to say I know the Rams have a very responsible management and also that these things happen. Leave it at that.

STICKE TO HOCKEY

Except to say that the name of the game is hockey and, believe it or not, most fans would rather see hockey than fights.

Generally, both officials of Provincial A or Junior B hockey should be reminded of such. They seem to be forgetting this lately. If they don't, the arenas might become emptier than they are.

Final notes

Some upcoming events to take note of if ye will:

The awards night of the fledgling Region of York Inter District Minor Soccer League will be held Saturday night at King City Secondary School starting at 8 p.m.; and curling really gets going on the weekend at Richmond Hill with the Kent Clothes opening bonspiel.

Finally, watch for the whistler.



Some days....

It could be a thorn between two roses but the above gals from Langstaff Secondary School — Lisa Hudson (left) and Jill Bath-

well, both of Maple, wouldn't likely agree. They're cheering Langstaff on to a minor soccer win over Bayview and in between

them is team mascot Tedricks Beagsley (?). Anyway, it worked. Langstaff finished first. Story is on Page B-3