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Wednesday, October 17, 1979

Field hockey is name of her game

SALLY MANNING
Missed Moscow

It would be nice to start this off by saying Sally Manning of Maple is a member of Canada's field hockey team which will be competing in next year's Olympics in Moscow.

Nice but not so.

Sally, who is a member of the guidance department at Thornhill Secondary School, was with the national team this year but the fates decreed that three other countries will be making the trek instead.

"Getting to the Olympics next year would have been nice," sighs Sally, "but it would have constituted something of a major upset although it was the best showing we've ever made in World's competition."

She was referring to the recent championships held in Vancouver which saw Canada finishing eighth in a field of 18 other countries.

"I really felt we could have done better," states Sally who played the defensive position for her team. It was her third appearance with the national squad in World's competition since she took up field hockey while attending the University of Toronto in 1971.

LOSE 2-1

The Nationals got off to an unfortunate start losing by just 2-1 to The Netherlands who went on to win the championship. They rebounded to beat Bermuda 6-0 and then won out over Ireland via penalty strokes after the first two games ended in 1-1 ties.

Then came the down-spiral as the team lost 2-0 to Germany, 2-1 to England and 3-0 to Scotland. Canada's major accomplishment was making it into the 'A' Pool which consisted of the top two teams from five other divisions.

Sally's debut with the Nationals in World competition was in 1971 in New Zealand where "we finished in 19th place out of 22 positions." Then came 1975 and a 16th place finish in Scotland.

Just what is field hockey?

LIKE SOCCER

"It's called field hockey but it's more like soccer than ice hockey," states Sally. "You play on a field 100 yards by 60 yards with 11 players on each side.

"The areas in front of each goal have striking circles 60 yards in radius and a player has to be in that circle before she can score."

SKILL

Field hockey requires considerable skill, not to mention stamina, in handling a hockey-like stick the blade of which is flat on one side and round on the other.

The puck, or rather, ball you use is "something like a lacrosse ball and is very hard. The goalies wear face masks and elbow pads and such.

"It takes a lot of skill and practice to become adept at using the stick," said Sally, "and learning to receive the ball, driving or flicking it always on the flat side.

Sally adds that the game requires superb conditioning because "you're always running on a field that size. It also takes a lot of team strategy because it is a team sport."

Sally plans on continuing her participation in field hockey with a view to maybe even making the national team for the next World's championships which will be in 1983.

"Of course," she adds philosophically, "I've been around for quite a long time and there are some good youngsters coming up. We'll have to wait and see what happens.

fred simpson

What's in a name?

I enjoy going to press conferences except for one thing. Name tags. Those little plastic-covered cards the girl always hands you as you walk in the door.

They carry your name and job so that total strangers can walk up to you and reel off your name as if they've known you forever.

I don't mind that since I have trouble remembering my own name let alone someone else's. It's just that I've never been able to negotiate the pins that come with them. Just can't pin the damn things on properly.

That's what happened last week when I attended a press conference at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology (phew).

Swept into the room with an air of nonchalance only to be met headon by a girl with one of those name tags. Froze immediately. The day was lost.

OUCH

Should have handed it right back to her. Instead, I gambled hoping I'd get lucky. Plunged the card and pin in the general direction of my lapel and then winced as the point pierced my thumb. A now-breathless room of people were waiting the outcome.

After three futile lunges I managed to get the pin through the cloth and was about to attach it to the clasp when someone came up and introduced himself. Had to shake hands thereby leaving the tag unpinned and soon in danger of falling off.

You might not realize how difficult it is to carry on a conversation with a person when your name tag is drooping. Difficult for the person.

The suspense is unbearable. I've known people to lose their train of thought right in the middle of it. They'd end up staring at the name card waiting for it to take its final plunge.

The only thing to do is to end it all. I did. Made one final grab at the name tag, ripped it off and calmly put it in my pocket, threw the pin in a passing drink. Tension subsided, it was all over. The press conference went on beautifully. Wonder if they'll invite me back again?

WELCOME

Only kidding. The conference was held to announce the appointment of John Cruickshanck as Dean of Physical Education and Athletics at the school.

I mention this because John is a brand new resident of Thornhill having moved there about three weeks ago. He was formerly the Director of Athletics and Recreation at Sheridan College in Oakville. Details are elsewhere but, suffice to say, welcome aboard.

OOOP

Mmmh, now for the bad news. Committed a blunder last week. It had to do with a photo we ran on the sports page showing Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller accepting a check for $5,000 from two local minor soccer youngsters as regards the old CNR railway station.

The first part was all right. It was Dave. We misspelled Rolland Heider's name and, to add further insult, it was mentioned that the other youngster, Mike Kenny, had collected $500 of the total amount himself. Not so. Not so. It should have read that both of them accomplished the $500 total.

Many apologies Rolland, we'll start fresh in 1980, promise.

HOCKEY

Hockey items: The Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association will be holding its annual Skatathon to raise funds November 3 at the Richmond Hill Arena. The youngsters are out collecting sponsorships right now. Be nice, sponsor the kid.

And the Richmond Hill Atom A's will be collecting old newspapers October 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They'll be going around door to door.

The Richvale Minor Ball League will hold its annual general meeting to elect new officers October 22 at the Richvale Community Centre at 7 p.m. Y'all come. Also the winner of the 150-pound beef draw at the association's big dance was D. Boles of Thornhill.

The response to Ed Sackfield's Ringette hockey campaign turned out to be a ringing success. Ed reports 20 girls signed and he's looking for more to enable another two teams to be added to the present two.

Ringette hockey games are played at the Richmond Hill Arena every Saturday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

UGH

Also with Ed. He'd like to thank all those organizations and individuals who contributed their free time to last week's benefit game between the Rams and the Peterboro Petes.

Proceeds were supposed to go toward the purchase of new seats at the arena. There were no proceeds. Only some 164 souls turned up. In fact the arena lost money, $100 , equivalent of two seats at $50 apiece. Nuff said.

Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers' Brian Risk (20) gets a good view of his shot heading into the Burlington nets Monday night but, unfortunately, it was the last look any of his teammates got at a puck going in. The Jeweller s suffered their first defeat of the season via 7-1. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

That's all

Dynes lose first game

The Oak Ridges Dynes Jeweller Junior B's were flying high with five straight wins without a defeat when they met Burlington Monday night in a hockey game at Bond Lake Arena.

That turned out to be the problem.

The Jewellers were still up in the air while Burlington had its skates firmly on the ice and it resulted in a deflating 7-1 drubbing of the Jewellers.

"They were up for the game and we weren't," said Dynes coach Pete Artemchuk. "You can't get it much simpler than that."

Artemchuk added that "they outskated, outchecked and outhustled us. Even in the pre-game warm-up. And our defence, which has played well in previous games, was non-existent."

He acknowledged that Burlington goalie Bob Ferguson "played very well but we made him look like the Maple Leafs' Mike Palmateer out there. We were shooting right into his pads."

To add salt to the wound the visitors even managed a shorthanded goal in the second period.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the opening period but Burlington piled up a 6-1 lead going into the final 20 minutes and it was all over. Oak Ridges' only goal came from the stick of Brian Risk, his 12th of the season, from Brent Dobson and Karl Taylor.

Derek Murphy and Steve Crocker led the Burlington offensive with two goals apiece with singles to Jim Cochrane, Steve Short and Darin Elsworth.

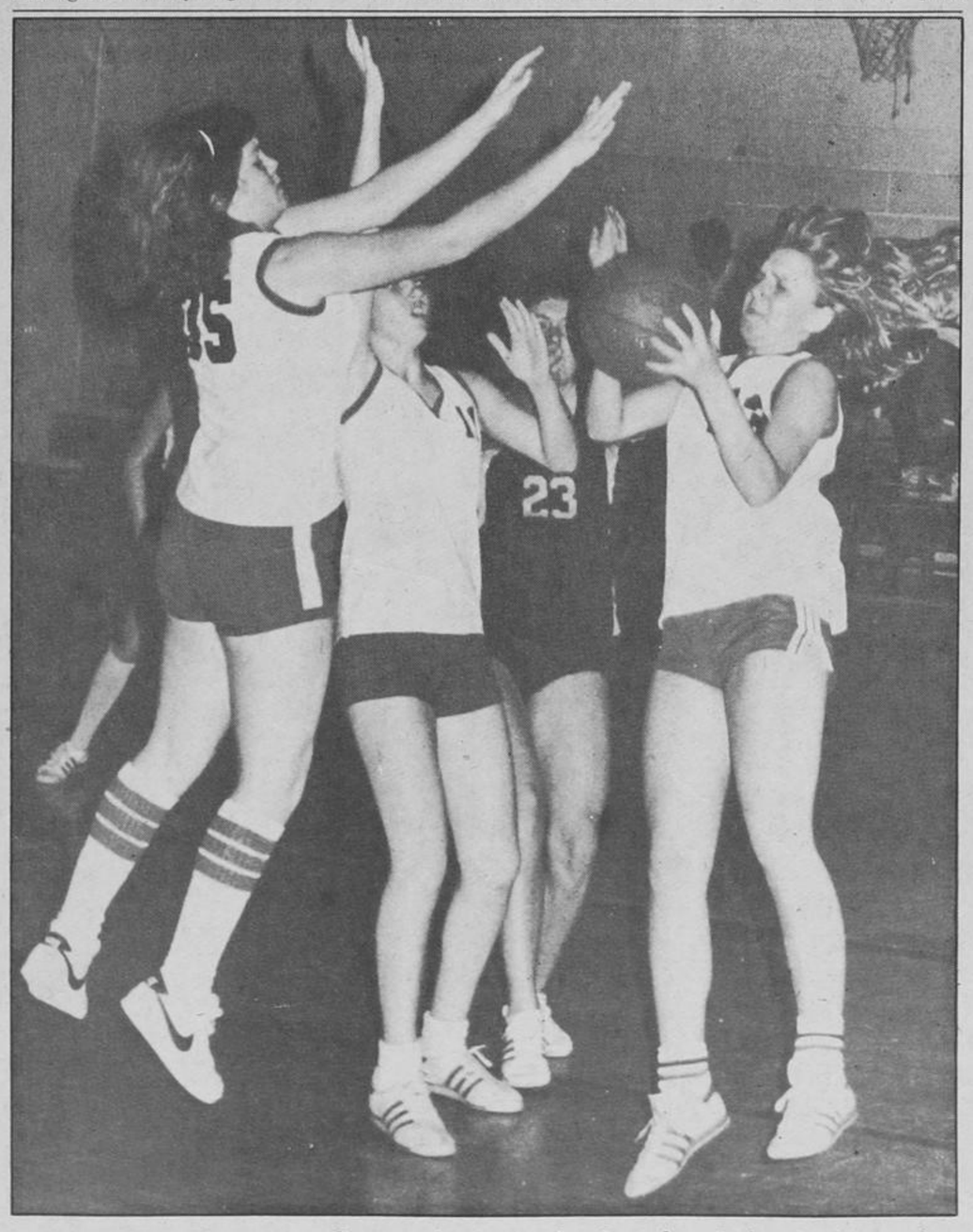
"Well, we have a chance to prove it was all a mistake," concluded Artemchuk. "We play Burlington in Burlington Friday night."

Monday night's finale was a lot different than the one in Acton Saturday night which saw the Jewellers go into the third period trailing that club 6-3.

They proceeded to ram in six unanswered goals to skate away with a 9-6 verdict.

Leading the assault troops were Risk, Robin Searle, and Brent Dobson with two goals each. Other goalscorers were John Murphy, Ed Gundert and Taylor felt it was his veterans who "let us down. The rookies hustled out there particularly Robin Searles and Mark Roberts." The latter was the pick on defence along with Tom Graham who was only playing his second game.

The Jewellers are in Burlington Friday night and at Thornhill Sunday night for a 7 p.m. game with their rival neighbors. They are at home next Monday night for a 7 p.m. game with Acton.



Crowded

Gangway for the Bayview Secondary Junior girls here as they gang up on the basketball in game with Thornhill. Bayview's Melanie Ryland is on the left. The juniors won the game 10-2 and the seniors came on to win handily by 37-7. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

Petes whip Rams

When things are going lousy they get, well, lousier.

At least that would seem to be the case with the Richmond Hill Provincial A Rams who, winless in six starts in their own league, met up with the Provincial Junior A Peterboro Petes Tuesday night of last week.

The Petes, defending Memorial Cup champions, did what was expected in beating the outmanned Rams by a gentle 13-3 but it wasn't the loss that really hurt.

It was the attendance or, rather, lack of it.

The exhibition was staged by the Rams and the Petes to help raise funds for the purchase of new arena seats by the local arena board.

DISASTER

Richmond Hill Arena Adminstrator Ed Sackfield said it all when he said: "It was a disaster. The attendance was so poor we actually lost two new seats."

What he meant was that only 164 patrons paid their way into the game which represented something like a $100 loss or two seats which were selling at $50 a piece.

"We actually took in $321." Sackfield said, "and it cost us $425 to stage the game what with paying the ice-time, advertising and such. I'm disappointed, to say the least."

The game itself was an interesting-enough affair with the powerful Petes showing too-much of everything for the Rams including poise, execution, talent and fire power.

They led 5-1 at the end of the first period and increased the lead to 7-2 going into the final 20 minutes.

Dave Beckon and Dave Morrison led the scoring with three and two goals respectively with the others strung out among different players.

The Rams got good mileage from a line consisting of Andy Hawe, Peter Glynn and Steve McAleese who accounted for all their scoring.

Hawe got two of the goals with Glynn getting the other one and McAleese assisting on all three.

The Rams started goalie Bruce Bell and he looked impressive against the Petes until he pulled a groin muscle at the 16 minute mark of the first period and had to leave the game with the Rams trailing 3-1. Ian MacDonnell finished the game.

Losing to the Petes was the least of Rams' manager Sil Steffan's problems as he tries to figure out how to get the team its first victory in the Provinical A league.

MORALE LOW

"I'm concerned with the morale of the club right now," he said. "It's tough on the rookies. They tend to get down on themselves and that's fatal. They just have to go out there and keep slugging and the goals will come."

Steffan is still on the lookout for help figuring he is in need of "one or two defencemen and definitely a good goalscorer up front. We're always keeping our eyes open but it's not that easy to find the player who can help you."

Steffan's line-up aggravations have been furthered by the loss for two games of Glen Oliver and Reiner Pleschberger who are sitting out suspensions for fights in the previous Belleville game.

Injuries have also hampered rookie Paul Harrietha, Doug Jones and Doug Dunec.

The Rams are at Newmarket tomorrow night (Thursday) for an 8 p.m. game and are back home the following Tuesday for a 7:45 p.m. game against Guelph.