

Jack McLaren

Sports Ramblings

Minor Softball

Once again the time has come to pack away the hockey gear and get out the ball glove. With registration completed and initial league meetings already underway it won't be long before the Lions Club ball park will be in full operation. There does appear to be some doubt whether or not a Russell Midget team will operate this season due to lack of interest shown by boys in this age group. Hopefully a sufficient number will express interest before the deadline date arrives so that Russell will be represented in this division of play. Midget teams in the past have produced some fine young players but in recent years with no intermediate teams in town the boys have been lost to neighbouring teams.

Why did Panthers lose?

The Embrun Panthers, undoubtedly one of the strongest Senior teams to come from the Ottawa district, lost out in their recent attempt to bring the Hardy Cup back to Embrun.

After going through a season of playing only exhibition games, most against poor calibre teams and then to face tough competition within a very short period of time proved to be too much for the Panthers. The famous Inkerman Rockets Junior team of a few years back were forced to go this same route playing only exhibition games during the regular season and then meeting the best Junior teams in Eastern Canada in the playoffs. They were always able to engage better calibre teams during the exhibition season and therefore were much better prepared for the playoffs.

Better calibre teams than the Panthers are few and far between so they are forced to more or less go through the motions against a number of the teams they played. As one of the Panthers' players' put it before the team left for the Hardy Cup, "you can't really play the calibre of teams we have encountered all year and expect to put it all together in a one week period against the toughest opposition in the entire country."

If Embrun hadn't assembled such a powerful team perhaps the Ottawa District Senior League might have survived. We all know what the result is when one team dominates a league; fan interest declines, the weaker teams fold and soon the league dissolves. Now the Panthers must be pondering their future and what it might hold for them.



Atom Champs

The Russell Warriors are the 1977-78 CDMHL Atom division hockey champions. Back row, left to right: convener Bob Clark, Brett Middlemiss, Ronnie Roy, Cameron MacGregor, Marc Racine, coach Dan Storrington. Middle row: Glenn Patterson, Brian Carscadden, Darcy Provost, Trevor Storrington, Shawn O'Reilly. Front row: David Bourguignon, Wayne Paquette, Barry McVey, Jeff Thompson.

R. A. News

TENNIS

This year, tennis will take off with a new look. There will be a club formed with a membership fee for families, students and individuals.

PLAYGROUND

The '78 playground program will run from July 3 to Aug. 31 for children aged 4-12. It will include swimming, physical fitness, arts and crafts and cultural activities. Registration will be June 29 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SPRING SPRUCING

Within the next few weeks, the arena hall, lobby floors and rink boards will be repainted, damaged doors will be replaced and the front entrance will be reconstructed.

Dan Thompson
445-2050

Russell Minor Hockey Assoc.

General Meeting and Election of Officers
Mon., May 29, 1978
8 p.m.
Russell Arena Hall.

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FROTHY FUN

The first beautiful weather of spring and the Castor River as its peak proved an irresistible combination for canoeists Doug Cochrane, bow, and

Billy Sherry, both of Russell. The pair are shown here in the frothy, sun-speckled turbulence below the Russell dam. (Suzanne Veh photo)

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