

# Sports

Jack McLaren

## Ramblings



Just before the hockey season leaves us for another year, I would like to make a few comments on an aspect of the game which is of high interest to me. The hockey season can really be broken up into two segments — one being the regular season and the other being the play-offs, and they truly are quite different.

In today's game there is greater emphasis being placed on the size of players. More and more we are going to larger players and that has always bothered me a bit because I feel the game is being taken over by muscle and brawn at the expense of speed and finesse. But one cannot argue with success and recent play-off results bear this out.

A good example is the recent Junior A CJHL play-offs between Nepean Raiders and Gloucester Rangers. I am sure this could also apply to many other play-offs as well. During league play, Nepean with their smaller speedsters up front, finished in first spot. Gloucester with their aggressive play and hard-hitting style finished second.

The play-off picture was vastly different. Nepean's smaller forwards were continually being bounced off the puck and one could see frustration setting in. The long season was obviously taking its toll. The bigger boys from Gloucester were much more physical and gradually wore their smaller opponents down as the series went on. This was just one isolated play-off series but this does appear to be the rule rather than the exception.

So where does this leave the small individual, highly skilled yet limited in physical stature? Coaches keep looking for the tough forwards who continually go into the corners and dig the puck out for the big shooters out front. Nepean has a history of being a skating team, small in size and relying heavily on speed and finesse for their successes, but they also have a history, as do other teams of similar character, of being losers when it comes to the season finale. The big physical teams are winning all the silverware.

Don't get me wrong. There are many excellent calibre players on these larger size teams and the Gloucester Rangers are certainly worthy champions. But, alas, I do regret the fact that when the hockey season is over and has been fully analyzed, the losing coaches will vow that they too will go after bigger and tougher players in the off-season so that next year, when the going gets tough, results will be different.

In the long run the spectators could be the losers but one can't argue with success. But I must admit that I get great satisfaction in watching the smaller guys come out on top once in a while.



RUSSELL — Russell elementary school girls here display the silver medals they won at the second annual Russell Invitational Basketball Tournament held April 4. Pictured, first row, left to right: Stacey Hayward, Denise Riou, Tracey McVey, Beth VanVlaanderen, Kerry-Lyne Thompson and Tracey Anderson. Second row: Coach Dave Chapman, April VanVlaanderen, Karrina Eggum, Tracey Mead, Joanne Talbot, Annette Therkelsen and Raye Simpson. Pleasant Corners beat Russell 29-23 in the final. (Castor Review Photo) Garey Ris

### Parents express concerns

On March 16/81 a total of 53 parents, coaches and managers associated with the Metcalfe and District Hockey Association met to discuss the newly written M&DHA Constitution. The meeting was chaired by David Turley and discussions centered squarely on constitutional matters and in no way was intended to focus on the M&DHA executive itself.

In fact those in attendance felt the present Executive had done a commendable job over the past three years but that it was time for

the positions to be filled in a more democratic process. Therefore, there were some concerns about the Constitution as it now exists.

The main concerns expressed were (i) that the Constitution had not been ratified by the general membership of the M&DHA, although the gathering had been informed by CDMHL representative, Bob Ramsey, that a copy had been accepted by the OD-MHA; (ii) that the Constitution reads that the Executive is not obliged to hold general meetings; (iii) that it is vague regarding membership and who is eligible to

vote, and (iv) that the Constitution allows present executives to be self-perpetuating.

As a result, a Committee was formed, comprised of David Turley, Bruce Straby, and Betty Cavan to approach the present M&DHA Executive with the group's concerns. These primarily were (1) the right of the membership to vote at annual and general meetings; (2) definition of membership; (3) clarification of the grievance method, and (4) the advertising of general and annual meetings to be outlined in the Constitution.

### Curling Club Gets Go-Ahead

The Russell Curling Club recently announced BBS Construction Company will build a new clubhouse at a cost of about \$220,000. The club will have to raise about \$73,000 and Wintario will pick up the balance. Club spokesman Wendell Stanley stated the club has already raised nearly \$30,000.

Bids to purchase the old building close on April 15. Construction will begin immediately after the existing building is removed and the club hopes to use the new structure during the Russell Fair.

Fund-raising events will continue during upcoming months. The recent grocery draw proved very successful and added over \$3,300 to the building-fund.

### Notice

All Hunters and Anglers: We would like to start a fish and game club in Russell. Anyone interested, please be at Benny's Hotel in Russell April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

### Volleyball Tournament

The 11th Annual Russell Public School Volleyball Tournament goes May 2 in Russell. Brian Gunnell, coach of both the boys' and girls' teams, says there are seven teams involved in each side of the tournament. The teams are Russell, Metcalfe, Pleasant Corners, Plantagenet, Cambridge, and Rockland. The latter two are first year entries. Russell boys' teams have won the tournament six times and the girls twice. Competition begins at 8:50 a.m.

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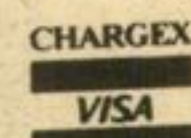
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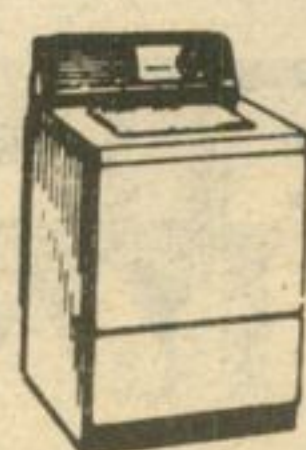
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