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SPORTS SLANTS

- By Ray Shank

The Windsor Minor Hockey Association has initiated a unique program this winter which has won national (and even international) acclaim.

The various teams in the league, comprising youngsters in all levels of minor hockey, don't have any goals to reach. That's right, there's no such thing as finishing first, second or last under this system.

As a fellow who always took sports seriously (I always believed in Vince Lombardi's philosophy, "Winning .. it's the ONLY thing), I don't say that I agree with this new type of hockey participation, but then again, it might not be all that disjointed.

Originators of this new Windsor setup say that since they initiated the program,

they discovered that in 'no-standing' leagues the 'sadness' levels and the 'gladness' levels of the boys has levelled off.

It used to be that members of a losing team would skate off the ice, their heads bowed as though they had just lost the Stanley Cup. On the other hand, winning team members whooped it up like they were world champions.

Under the new system, though, it's different. Oh, there's still that 'gladness' level, but the 'sadness' level has decreased considerably. Losing a game no longer means dropping into last place in the standings, or some such thing.

Two University of Windsor researchers, Dr. Richard Moriarty and Dr. James Duthie, found that in the leagues with standings, parents grouped together in cheering for a particular team. In the no-standing leagues, parents from both teams competing mingled together.

Another finding was that among the highly competitive travelling teams in the WMHA, removing the pressure to win helped players relax. Consequently, the researchers say, the players have been doing well against teams from other cities.

A director of the Canadian Mental Health Association has praised the program, saying that in leagues with standings there is too much stress on children.

"Stress is definitely harmful," the director said.

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Ask for this booklet from our representative



Mr. Don L. Muir
who will be at The Imperial
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Tuesday, February 26th,
1974.

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