

sports

MAHG: A very popular method of teaching hockey in Quebec

by HENRI ROY

For six years, the FQHG (Federation quebecoise de hockey sur glace) has been offering MAHG (Methode d'Apprentissage de Hockey sur Glace) to minor hockey organizations throughout Quebec. This method is now being used in the 15 regions of Quebec, and the 1983-84 season will see its implementation in more than 150 organizations.

Why this method of instruction?

The growing popularity of hockey, the repeated failures on an international scene, little available ice time, the lack of competent instructors, the comments made by the youth themselves, are among the main reasons for the development of a teaching method.

What is it?

A series of 20 graduated programmes for youngsters 5-16 which aims to maximize the development of the qualities and attributes that will allow each youngster to achieve his potential. Recognizing that not everyone has equal talent, MAHG promotes the instruction of basic techniques of hockey in accordance with the ability level of

the youngster, not his age. To this end, each programme has specific objectives which are appropriate for the youngster involved.

The Programmes:

Level 1: Skating, Beginners 1, 2 and 3 aimed at the majority between the ages of 5-10 years.

Level 2: Advanced 1, 2 and 3 designed for those who have attained certain skills and who are eager to develop their expertise.

Level 3: Expert 1 and 2 Team Sport which are designed to satisfy the more talented players.

At each level the programme consists of 20 one-hour lessons. During the 1982-83 season, 21,000 children participated in these programmes and an additional 1,900 people worked directly with the children.

Advantages of MAHG

Thousands of volunteers do their utmost to provide the best possible instruction and support to young hockey players.

However, the implementation of these programmes provides other important advantages to the organizations who use them.

These are:
 • the children are active for at least 30-45 minutes per hour rather than the usual ten

minutes in a regular game;

• the players receive instruction from several certified instructors, with each instructor responsible for approximately ten players;

• ice time is used to maximum effectiveness which results in three times as many players using the same space, so the problems of ice time are obviously reduced;

• for children under 7, the weight of the puck is reduced to 4 oz., which is better suited to their ability level without hampering their learning; and

• for 8 and 9 year olds, we encourage the use of a 5 oz. puck;

• the players in each

group are matched in skills which allows each player to enjoy his participation to the fullest;

• volunteers pass on their skills and ensure the survival of the organization.

Quality of Instruction:

Our Priority

Recognizing that the instructor is the cornerstone in the training process of young hockey players, the Federation has developed an instructor training programme. In this, the instructor takes courses of 15-20 hours each, which relates directly to the programmes outlined above. In addition, there is a supervisory system which ensures the on-going quality of in-

struction and aids the instructors themselves to achieve their goals.

Services Offered

All the organizations within the provincial network have access to the following MAHG services:

- 1) Training of instructors.
- 2) Certification of instructors and distinctive crest.
- 3) Uniforms for the instructors.
- 4) Information on the teaching method.
- 5) A technical manual for the instructors.
- 6) Supervisory system for local, regional and provincial levels.
- 7) Training of supervisors and officials.
- 8) Rating of the players.

9) Appropriate teaching material.

Conclusion

In the past six years, over 100,000 children have participated in the MAHG programmes. It is a complete method which follows the young hockey player from his first steps on ice to the

Advanced and Expert programmes.

It is also an important element of the overall programme of the Federation, and for two years has been influencing the CAHA research into programmes specifically developed for young hockey players.



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Mainstream Canada

New Year's Resolutions

by W. ROGER WORTH

At the start of another year, it is perhaps time for a little wishful thinking about some New Year's resolutions that would make life a little easier for all of us.

Canada Post, for example, could announce there would be no more postal rate increases for at least three years. In tandem with that good news, the postal unions might agree to accept wage cuts from their \$25,000 per year salaries, with union leader Jean Claude Parrot preaching that strikes by public sector unions are irresponsible.

Then there are the politicians. In addition to following the postie lead on pay cuts, they might also resolve not to fight with each other. Instead, Parliament would become a kind of love-in. Friendly discussion would take the place of heated debate. There would be no personal slurs, no catcalls and the Speaker could use the restful interlude to catch up on her reading.

Creating positive new policies and updating older legislation would become simple. Unemployment Insurance, for instance, could be tightened to save taxpayers \$2-billion per year.

What's more, all governments could resolve to provide greater support for the small

and medium-sized enterprises that are even now creating most of the country's new jobs. Payroll taxes for small companies would be reduced, and the maze of red tape and paperburden would be eliminated. Tax forms would become so simple that even the least mathematically inclined would be able to complete the return.

Ottawa, of course, would become honest and forthright with the public, shunning such propaganda endeavours as the recent Throne Speech filled with so many promises the government simply won't be able to keep them.

Consumers, too, could resolve to change their ways. Indeed, the Consumers Association of Canada could team up with farm organizations to lobby for higher food prices, assuming farmers received the benefits. In some cases, farmers might actually earn enough to start paying back their bank loans.

Is all of this really wishful thinking? Of course it is.

Nevertheless, the recent improvement in the economy is no dream, and while 1984 may not be spectacular, it should at least be better than last year, a point that is certainly worth noting.

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