

LEAGUE OFFERS "FULL SUPPORT" TO REFEREES

The Prince Rupert Basketball Association executive last night passed a motion of confidence in the Referees' Association, offering the referees "fullest backing in their decisions" and supporting a disciplinary policy designed to raise and maintain a high level of sportsmanship on the basketball floor.

The motion was in answer to a letter from the Referees' Association which contained a recommendation which they felt "would provide sufficient backing to make our decisions absolute and final."

The recommendation suggested that "any player in any league who has been banished by a referee or umpire from a game because of any reason other than five personal fouls, be required to have permission from the Basketball Association before being allowed to play in any subsequent game."

"It is our feeling," the letter stated, "that, if this action is taken, the referees will have sufficient backing to make their decisions absolute and final. The Referees' Association is earnestly endeavouring to give the best possible refereeing in all games, and to do this requires the full support of players, coaches and managers."

The executive was unanimous in supporting the recommendation.

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Today in Sports

HOOP EXECUTIVE CASTS CRITICAL EYE AT "DEROGATORY" PUBLICITY

The current condition of local basketball publicity was figuratively pinned to the floor and given critical examination by members of the Basketball Association executive last night under leadership of the league president Art Murray who invited opinions of the members "in strong language."

Obviously feeling strongly on the matter, President Murray took advantage of his own invitation and proceeded to castigate association members who write "unauthorized" press releases and the authors of "ridiculous letters to the press which are continuously knocking basketball in Prince Rupert."

President Murray asked for, and received, a motion to the effect that "any member of the association who aspires to write to the press regarding basketball be dealt with as soon as possible by the executive if the matter proves to contain unfavorable publicity for basketball."

In the discussion that followed, the members expressed increasing doubt as to the wisdom of the motion and it was later withdrawn when it was pointed out that the constitution of the association made provision for disciplinary action in cases where basketball's prestige is damaged by an association member.

Root of the trouble, according to President Murray, was the appearance in the newspaper of "derogatory write-ups" by persons who apparently claimed to be "experts" and yet who kept their names out of print.

"We want to be sure that the persons who make these derogatory write-ups let us know who they are," he declared. "If a person wants to criticize us publicly, he should at least be willing to back up his opinions with his name."

"I would also like to see a stop to those ridiculous letters to the press that are continuously knocking basketball in Prince Rupert."

Publicity given to basketball should be aimed at strengthening the association and improving the play, Mr. Murray said, and not directed at breaking down public confidence and interest.

Upshot of the discussion was the appointment of Bill Long as official basketball association publicity agent.

LEAGUE CLOSES DECEMBER 23

League Basketball in Prince Rupert will be called off on December 23 for the Christmas holidays and will not be resumed until January 10, the association executive decided last night.

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SHORT SPORT

The prestige and popularity Joe Louis has attained in the last decade through his impeccable demeanor and modest words, may be undermined by his

in the Intermediate league last year which played sportsmanlike ball.

However, they did sympathize with Syd Woodside and his current Intermediate colleagues on their stand that admission of another team to that league would spread the playing out a little thin.

FORMAN - LAVIGNE ARE ELEVATED

A possible solution to the problem developed from a discussion concerning the elevation of Jim Forman and Reg Lavigne, the High School's top players, into senior circles.

High School manager Alex Bill said that he believed that the whole team would be willing to move into the senior league but that the decision would have to be made by the players themselves with approval of Principal A. M. Hurst.

Mr. Hurst declared that he would withhold his opinion until the suggestion was discussed by the High School players themselves. He did, however, say that he was not in favor of pushing players ahead too quickly.

If High School does move into the Senior section, it might be a repetition of last year's league pattern. Last season the students transferred to the Senior League and ended by becoming the champions. However, this year's high school players are considerably younger than last year.

The transfer would give the Senior League four teams and open up a gap in the Intermediate League which could then be filled by Port Edward.

actions and speech since his last title defense. His first error was immediately following the bell ending the fight with Jersey Joe Walcott. Louis headed for the ropes as if the ring was going to explode any second and he wanted to be among those absent. If he was befuddled, but he probably wasn't, there would have been some excuse for it. He must have known it would be a close decision and, if it went against him, the least he could do would be to congratulate the winner and new champion. He said he was disgusted with himself, which is understandable. But that doesn't alter the fact he should have remained in the ring until the verdict was announced. He didn't say anything in his dressing room belittling Walcott, possibly because in belittling an opponent who had given him such a battle would make the champion himself look even worse. He just belittled his own performance. And he needed any help in doing that there were several thousand spectators ready to volunteer.

Louis' statements since then have been slightly out of character, however. Maybe he's been coached to take part in a scheme to force Walcott to suffer to a small percentage of the gate in the next meeting.

Anyway, instead of coming right out and saying he wants Walcott and nobody else as his next opponent, thus proving he fears no man, he says the next opponent doesn't necessarily have to be Walcott and mentions light heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich as a possibility. That's sheer hooey. It's a shame to see Louis a party to it. So many thought that Walcott really won, that if Louis were to meet anyone else he would be accused of dodging the rightful challenger. Louis should have too much pride for that. This isn't the Louis we have come to know in the last 10 years. The Louis we knew asked no questions about any

opponent, belittled no opponent, dodged no opponent. Maybe he should hire himself a good public relations man, or, as he did in the past, just keep his mouth shut.

MITCHAM, Surrey, England @ Handbells, formerly used to sound all clear after a "gas raid" during the war, have been sold to the Missionary Society for use in a Northern Rhodesia school.

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