

IN THIS CORNER

DICK AYRES

As we sat fighting for elbow room in the board room of the Civic Centre last Friday night (all 19 seats were occupied) we became aware that for the past while we have been gently banging our noggin against a stone wall in trying to help matters in the Prince Rupert basketball world. It was quite apparent that those who play basketball and also those who govern it are on opposite sides of the fence to us.

First, the lack of attendance of players showed that there is nothing wrong with basketball that a couple of fights a game or a grand-standing referee wouldn't cure. There are no beefs against the referees, what few are left, because no-one voiced a single complaint and all agreed to struggle through the remainder of the season with the few still willing to don a striped shirt for \$1.50 to \$2.00 a game.

As proof of the amount of interest shown in this general meeting scheduled to make decisions for the large number of players now taking part in city basketball, there were present four coaches (one was away on a course), four commissioners, four referees (one a coach), and another the Civic Centre sports director, two Senior B players (one a coach) and the remainder were Inter A and Inter B players.

The meeting was conducted with all the finesse of a junior boys' explorer club. It was opened with a discussion of referees, wandered off to poor gate receipts, touched on the BCBA semi-finals, went back to referees (and a motion was passed) and the small gathering heard from two of the commissioners as to their idea of what the league really lacked.

What the Senior B league lacks, Commissioners Bob Armstrong and Rusty Ford asserted, is color. There was no lack of crowds when Jack Lindsay was playing and Sev Dominato was refereeing, we were told. The public clamored to get into the Civic Centre and before that the Armories to see just what antics these two lads and others of that day would pull off. Those were the days, so we're told.

And what's the matter with the referees, the two commissioners and coach Minor Simundsen wanted to know, that they can't take a bit of abuse. Surely the referees could take a lot of foul language and swearing in the spirit of good clean fun? Why in the old days the referees never gave it a second thought. Not in the good old days, the days you tell your kids about.

Yes those are the days, only a few years ago too. But that apparently is what is wanted of the lads playing basketball today. More color, more laughs from coaches jumping up and down committing technical fouls, the commissioners said. Others want less whistle blowing and more wide-open rugby games. Let 'er go boys, the referee is only there earning a couple of bucks. Don't bother about the rules, either, they must be there for laughs too. Don't know what you're going to do about those "most sportsmanlike player" awards, maybe you'd better scrap those too. It's a great heritage to hand on the generation coming up.

Seems as if we have one person on our side anyway. Magistrate William Praby of Kemano sent this verse along to us. It apparently has and still is serving him as a code to live up to during his life. It's entitled the "Sportsman's Prayer," and goes like this:

"Dear Lord, in the battle that goes on through life,
I ask for a field that is fair;
A chance that is equal with all the strife
A courage to strive and to dare,
And if I should win let it be by the code,
With my faith and my honor held high;
And if I should lose, let me stand by the road
And cheer as the winner goes by."

More of that spirit was evident Saturday night when the Bo-Me-Hi boys and girls were hosts to the two Kitimat teams. The crowd, one of the larger ones this season, especially took the visiting girls to their hearts. Those seven girls (one an ex-Prince Rupert girl) were so nervous they were shaking. One of them, Mary MacDonald, was so scared of taking free throws that she kept insisting that someone else had been fouled, not her. But with the crowd cheering them on, the young visitors pulled off a comeback that sent them almost into joyful hysterics at the end of the game.

Of the boys' game, we can quote Don Forward who saw the game and also helped arrange it. We agree quite heartily with him when he said about Don Hartwig's combination Inter-B and Junior boys, "That team is the most promising crop of youngsters I've seen in years."

Turning to the coming spring and baseball, Harley Lewis dropped in to see us today to let us know that a move to help the boys ousted from the Little League class because of age, is definitely under way. Harley wants any parents who are interested in forming this unofficial league for 1954 to notify him at Jerry's Barber Shop or at home at Black 339. The same goes for the boys who want to play in a Pony league for lads 13 and over, put your name down at Jerry's and it will give an idea of how many are truly interested and want to get a ball loop started. When all the names are collected and enough parents have signified a willingness to pitch in and help, a date for a meeting will be set.

Patterson Not Too Impressive In Victory Over Canadian

BROOKLYN (U.S.)—Undefeated Floyd Patterson has 10 straight victories and is the fifth ranking light heavyweight contender of the world, but manager Custer d'Amato is in no hurry to push his pugilistic prodigy.

"No Joey Maxim for him," said d'Amato after the 19-year-old Olympic champion punched out a unanimous eight-round decision over Canada's durable Yvon Durelle at Eastern Parkway arena Monday night.

It was a clear-cut win for the Brooklyn Negro, but he was far from impressive and as wild as a southpaw pitcher on an off-day as he downed the Baie St. Anne, N.B., fighter.

"He'll fight someone at the parkway on March 15," said d'Amato, "but it won't be Joey Maxim or any top-ranking light heavyweight. If he managed to beat Maxim, who would he fight? Moore? Light heavyweight champion Archie Moore. Let's not kid anyone. Floyd has a lot to learn."

Patterson, who weighed 167½,



ACE BAILEY (with overcoat and muffler) shakes hands with Eddie Shore (No. 2) to close one of major-league hockey's memorable incidents. This photo was taken 20 years ago this month in Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens at a benefit game for Bailey. Two months earlier in a National Hockey League game at Boston, Shore, Boston Bruins defenseman, tripped Bailey. Toronto Maple Leaf forward, Bailey suffered head injuries which ended his big-time hockey career and the incident sparked one of the most boisterous brawls in NHL history.

Wings Down Cellar Dwellers To Boost Lead to 10 Points

DETROIT (CP)—Beating the weak Chicago Black Hawks these days isn't a feather in anyone's cap, but to the powerhouse Detroit Red Wings it's an easy way to another National Hockey League championship.

Monday night the Red Wings edged the Black Hawks 3-2 on home ice to boost their first-place margin to 10 points — their greatest this season.

All the scoring came in the first 23 minutes of play Monday.

Black Hawks took an early lead on Jack McIntyre's first of two goals.

McIntyre notched his first goal in the initial session while Detroit's Glen Skov was in the penalty box. Johnny Wilson evened the count for the Red Wings at 9:05. Less than two minutes later Gordie Howe got his 25th goal while Gus Mortson was in the penalty box.

Bill Dineen made it 3-1 for Detroit early in the second period and a minute later McIntyre rapped in his second goal.

Terry Sawchuk of Detroit made only 17 saves to 27 by Al Rollins.

	G	A	Pts
Howe, Detroit	26	38	64
Richard, Montreal	32	22	54
Lindsay, Detroit	18	29	47
Geoffrion, Montreal	25	21	46

Clare Bellamy Sets New High

Clare Bellamy set a new high single in the Local 708 mixed five pin bowling league last week when she crashed the maples for a 345-count.

She also took honors for high three games, with 785.

B. Williamson set the pace for men with a high game of 261 and high three of 638. Hotshots had best game of 493 and Maniacs, with 373, tied top three. Standings: Woodchucks 41; Maniacs 41; Handicaps 37; Powerhouse 36; Hotshots 34; Boom Cats 32; Shearpins 29; Sparks 26; Digesters 22; Maniacs 19; Gremlins 16.

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	32	18	10	153	95	74
Toronto	27	17	10	123	93	64
Montreal	26	20	7	133	149	63
Boston	24	24	7	132	145	55
New York	21	26	8	125	153	50
Chicago	10	41	6	109	192	26

Last Night's Fights

By The Associated Press

Miami—Harold Johnson, 174½, Philadelphia, stopped Doc Williams, 186, Newark, N.J., 8.

Portland, Me.—Jimmy Beau, 159½, New Canaan, Conn., stopped Joe Grimard, 156½, Bath, Me., 8.

Providence, R.I.—Denis Pat Brady, 139½, New York, decisioned Ben Miloud, 140½, French Morocco, 10.

Holyoke, Mass.—Harry Smith, 130, Brooklyn, decisioned Meryl Olmstead, 127, Springfield, Mass., 8.

Hammond, Ind.—King Solomon, 160, Chicago, stopped Jimmy Guy, 155, Detroit, 2.

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Canucks, Quaker, Fans All Battle to 2-2 Tie

By The Canadian Press

Saskatoon Quakers, Vancouver Canucks, sundry fans and the odd police officer, battled to a 2-2 Western Hockey League decision in Monday night's only WHL action.

Norwegian Wins Ski Jump Title

FALUN, Sweden (CP)—Sverre Stenersen of Norway jumped 73½ metres on his third trip down Kallviksbacken today to win the jumping competition of the Nordic combined event in the world's ski championships.

Stenersen's point total after three jumps was a healthy 215. His previous two jumps carried 71 and 72 metres. Only the two best jumps for each of the 31 competitors from 10 countries counted.

Simon Slattvik of Norway was second and Eero Kempainen of Finland third.

The jumpers become cross-country racers Wednesday when they go 15 kilometres in the second and final phase of the Nordic combined. The man with the best average performance in jumping and cross-country will win the Nordic title.

Canada's only entry in today's competition, Clarence Servold of Camrose, Alta., withdrew without explanation this morning.

Servold, a member of the Canadian ski team which has been beset by injuries in training for the championships, dropped out just before the first leap. Officials at the last moment had decided to shorten the slide by five metres and thereby shorten jumps off the high, tough hill.

Servold is better known for his cross-country work than jumping.

The refereeing caused some raised eyebrows.

Take the goal which gave Vancouver the tie. Canucks were behind 2-1 in the third when defenceman Mid Houghton scored. He could hardly miss.

Team-mate Carl Kaiser and Saskatoon's goalie, Chuck Rayner, were going two-best-fall-out-of-three off to one side at the time. Quakers claimed Kaiser was holding Rayner.

Referee Lou Ferelli allowed the goal to stand and Saskatoon manager Norm Couch lodged an official protest.

The call brought Rayner and Kaiser to their feet where they turned from hockey and wrestling to boxing. Both were cooled for 10 minutes.

Police had to be called to break up a brawl featuring Canucks' Harry Dick and a man-and-wife tag team of spectators.

Kaiser, the all-around athlete, scored the other Vancouver goal. Vic Howe and Jackie McLeod were the Saskatoon marksmen.

The single point moved Canucks three games ahead of Calgary Stampers and moves Saskatoon only one game behind Stamps.

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Don't delay

WRITE SEE OR PHONE

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Royal Canadian Navy

Warren, Moore Meet in Finals

The Ken Warren rink meets the Neely Moore rink tonight at 8 p.m. in the finals of the George Choke trophy competition.

In other play at the Prince Rupert curling club, Rowbotham meets Scott and McKenzie plays Berg in the Grotto competition at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m. Osterlag plays Parker in the Grotto and Stewart plays Eysolfson in the Rupert Motors trophy competition.

Results of Ladies Curling play in the Art Murray trophy competition.

Hartwig Tops Ten-Pinners

Play pepped up in the mixed 10-pin bowling league last week with better scores being posted.

Don Hartwig rolled a 206 to top the men, although Bob Rutherford chalked up a 202-game in his high three of 533.

Ann Petroff led the women with a high single of 193 and Dot Marshall had high three of 488.

Timberticks set a new high for the season with their game of 715. They also rolled high three of the night with 1898.

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