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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Minor Hockey 1965 Contrasted With '34

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

MY MIND went back more than 30 years when I talked with Ivan Doherty, president of the Charlottetown Minor Hockey Association a few days ago. My thoughts went back to the Island's junior Abegweit hockey team of 1934 that won the Maritime and the Maritime-Quebec titles, and then went to the Eastern Canadian finals where they lost to the St. Michael's College team that was practicing that year at times, we were told, against the Toronto Maple Leafs. I know that their top line of Pep Kelly, Art Jackson and Nick Metz went intact to the Leafs' NHL team the next year, also Reg Hamilton their big defenseman. At least four or five other members of the squad went to the NHL and minor pro teams the following year, including their goalie Harvey Teno.

But it's the contrasts between then and now, that I thought of particularly when I talked with Ivan. I was the secretary of the Charlottetown Hockey League that winter. There were four or five intermediate teams in it, and the main idea of the organizers was to provide season-long competition for the best junior team we could gather in the province.

GORDON STEWART, one of the junior Abbie forwards that year, told me yesterday "we also used to practice at times against the Senior Abegweits".

The Charlottetown Minor Hockey Association now looks after the finances for the minor teams. They provide ice time – pay for it – and are responsible for getting coaches, referees and other officials.

There are 748 boys playing in four divisions. There are 54 teams and a total of 84 volunteer workers. Nobody gets paid, Ivan told me, and again my mind went slipping back to the days in the 1930's when I refereed football and basketball games, for example, as did contemporary athletes of my time. Nobody ever offered to pay us for acting as referee. Nobody had any money in those days to pay anyone.

Frozen Faces In Sub-Zero Weather

I REMEMBER for example that we couldn't get enough people into the Forum to pay for ice rental. We bummed some money from leading business men of the time to buy sticks and pucks. Finally we were so far behind, that we moved to the Holy Redeemer parish's outdoor rink which was much cheaper. Everything went fine for a few nights. Then we struck a spell of sub-zero weather, several of the boys froze their faces and we had to go back to the Forum.

Finally the Junior Abbies met the Amherst juniors – they had been the toast of Maritime Hockey for several years, and defeated them here in the first game of a two-game, total-goal series.

The town suddenly went wild and Bill Gillespie came into my office next morning and said "Tiny, will you go to Amherst and broadcast the game for us, if we make the

arrangements?”

“Good Lord, man,” I retorted, “all winter we couldn’t get enough support to pay for ice rental time, and now you’re talking of sending men to broadcast a game. Where are you going to get the money?”

“You leave that to me. All I want to know is will you go?” was Bill’s retort. Well the game was broadcast. John B. (Buller) Murley worked with me. Our boys won the game and from there they never looked back as they took the best in the Maritimes, held the Montreal Cranes to a 4-4 score in the first game here, then ran away from them 8-1 in the final game of the two-game series.

Team Personnel Is Recalled

DON BAKER, Kensington was the goalie with Neil Price, Charlottetown in reserve. At defense were Lowell Simpson and Harold Gaudet of Charlottetown and Jim Cousins, a Darnley boy I believe, who was working in the Bank of Nova Scotia here and Irwin MacKie, of Southport.

Up forward were “Pud” Whitlock, older brother of Buck; Harry Currie and Gordon Stewart, all of Charlottetown. The other line – there were only two lines in those days – had Clarence Steele, Summerside; Tic Williams and Rowan “Bunky” Fitzgerald, both of Charlottetown.

Coaching duties were shared by Lou Campbell, veteran of many an athletic coaching job with West Kent School teams, and Harry Richardson, since deceased.

The youngsters of this period have a good organization behind them, with money supplied by the Recreation Council. Parents of the youngsters are pleased with the arrangement. One of Charlottetown’s best known professional men says, for example, it’s helpful discipline to have the boys obey the referee’s whistle. It helps them to recognize more easily the parent’s commands when they are issued at home.

But it might also be helpful to stop and think that the youngsters of other years did not have the benefit of such organizations.

Tonight is the big one at the Forum for the youngsters and president for this week is John Kipping, and all of the boys would like to see that Forum really filled for once with parents, and older sisters and brothers. Why not give the boys your presence for tonight. They would appreciate it tremendously.

Sew Hubby Up And Whup Him

HERE’S A story sent to me by Mrs. Viola Taylor, Canaan, New Hampshire, which was told to her by her grandmother, Ellen Lanon, who married Cullen MacDonald – I do not have his address.

A man and his wife lived upstairs over the MacDonald home and they had plenty of trouble. The man would get drunk and would beat his wife. Sometimes the beating would be really bad.

But Grandmother advised the woman “next time your husband gets drunk sew him up in a strong sheet.” They had those heavy sheets of unbleached cotton at the time, Mrs. Taylor explains.

So next time the husband came home drunk, the wife proceeded to do just that. After he had beaten her badly he went to bed and fell into a cross between a sleep and a drunken stupor. So his wife got a heavy sheet and some stout string, pulled the sheet around him and sewed him up tight.

When he awoke and showed signs of being fairly sober, she beat the tar out of him and gave it to him really good, until he promised to keep sober and no more beatings.

And it worked, Mrs. Taylor tells me, which may or may not give a bright idea to the wives of some modern day husbands who drink too much at times.

Churchill Letter Is Treasured

NOWHERE ELSE in this entire country did the people follow the news of Churchill's illness and subsequent death with closer attention and deeper concern than the residents of Churchill on the Charlottetown-Borden highway. And the flag there is being flown at half-mast this week in tribute to the man for whom the district was named more than 60 years ago.

And one of the proudest possessions of John Allan MacKinnon, the only man now living who attended the meeting at which the name was chosen, is a letter he received over the Churchill signature back in September 1952.

The trustees of the old Presbyterian Church there had written Mr. Churchill inviting him to attend the 100th anniversary service. Obviously Sir Winston could not attend but he did appreciate the honor enough to write a note of appreciation and best wishes:

"I AM indeed obliged to you for your letter of invitation. It was a source of regret to me that I could not be present at the Centenary ceremonies of your church. None the less, your invitation has given me great pleasure, and I send you all my warm good wishes for the happiness and prosperity of Churchill and all who live there."

It was addressed to John A. MacKinnon, Esq., Elder and Trustees of Churchill Presbyterian Church.

The district was named for Churchill around 1900 because of his daring escape from the Boers in the South Africa war 1899-1902. The idea was proposed by Jim MacFayden at the meeting which was held in the tailor shop of M. F. MacKinnon. It is at the end of the Riverdale Road and the farm is owned now by Robert MacKinnon.

The Churchill [Black Site](#) letter came from Hyde Park Gate, London S. W. 7 and the listed telephone number was Knightsbridge 7673(?).