

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Mar. 21, 1969

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Team Sponsor Has Ups, Downs

By NEIL A. MATHESON

I'VE MET many unusual people in the 10 years I've been hunting stories for this column; and so I called this week on my Southport neighbor, Sandy Frizzell. This man has been sponsoring the hockey team "Sandy's Royals" so long that everyone has been taking him for granted.

Sandy took over the team that had been Barry's Flyers – Barry Moore from the snack bar in Parkdale. Sandy has had the team that has kept Intermediate hockey alive here since that time.

The genial Southport man with the happy laugh is "Mister Intermediate Hockey" in these parts. He's consistently had good teams over the 12 years, and right now he's looking for a N.S.-P.E.I. title against Brookfield Elks. A Maritime title hunt is just ahead.

"Maritime Championships"

"WE MUST have had the Maritime title five or six times since 1958", he told me, without bothering to search back through records. The Royals have not always won, but they've been a colorful pack of hockeyists who come up with the sort of competition that fans like.

Sandy has no "Sugar Daddy" for his team, or perhaps I should say he is the "Sugar Daddy".

Sometimes we break even, sometimes we have a little over. "Like last year, we had a few dollars over so we brought ourselves jackets." My neighbor was wearing one when I talked to him at his attractive home earlier this week.

But sometimes the team loses money, expenses run higher than receipts, that's when Sandy Frizzell digs down to pick up the tab. "It costs a lot when you have a bad year", he said without going into what it really does.

Why did you first start backing this team? I asked him. The answer was typical.

"Well, I always go to every hockey game. I've been following the sport all of my life. When Barry gave up, I took over because I feared hockey was in danger of dying out."

It's as simple as that, Sandy likes hockey, so he took over. He's been doing it ever since.

He's as proud of his players right now as Toe Blake must have been of the Canadiens he coached to a record number of Stanley Cup wins.

Royals Are Tops With Him

"I WOULDN'T trade one of my chaps for the best man they have on the Islanders", he said, for example. He's really high on his boys.

Earl Nicholson was rink manager here the first year Sandy had the Royals. He was helpful and did everything he could to assist.

“There’s no regular practice time at “The Forum”, now, it’s mostly sold out early in the year, but Bucko Trainor is helpful. He phones me if there’s a spare hour for us to get in some practice.”

The team must have good legs under them, I ventured, when they play so successfully against teams with regular games.

“They’re all good athletes”, Sandy told me, they play in country leagues, or anywhere else they get a chance; some of them referee, and all of them keep in condition the best way they know how.

N.B. Champs Tonight

THE ROYALS are proud right now, they haven’t lost a game this year, they’d like to maintain that record.

Naturally I asked Sandy “Why have you kept up this team over the years?”

Again that happy grin and a real touch of pride in his voice:

“I like it. When you get a good bunch of hockey players like I have got, you hate to drop them. You like to see them keep going.”

Many players have come and gone since 1958. Angie Carroll perhaps is the veteran, he and Dick Carroll who is the coach, and sometime player.

I saw Angie play with the Montreal Junior Canadiens when I was in Ottawa. Memory tells me I had him as my guest on Parliament Hill at one time; he played a strong game for the “Baby Habs”.

Won Scoring Race

SANDY TELLS me Angie won the scoring race in Montreal at that time. “He had 50 goals and 188 points in all, a record that lasted for 12 years before it was bested,” Sandy reported.

Who are the boys who are seeking Maritime honors?

Donnie Frizzell is in goal – he’s Sandy’s cousin; Butch Ward is spare goalie.

They have Jack MacEachern, Allan Gillis, Mike Kelly, Paul McGonnell, Paul Stanley, Gordon Whitlock, Angie Carroll, Dave Lawler, Dennis Affleck – a St. Dunstan’s boy – Bill Dickie is from Summerside, Lincoln MacKenzie from the South Shore, Stan Peardon is from Montague.

Dick Carroll, Mike MacKinnon, Alfie Flanagan and Don “Hoss” Chandler and Vince Mulligan are some of the others.

Ronnie Carmichael is the trainer.

Everyone who has seen us this year tells me we have a championship club, Sandy told me. He realizes that other teams who have been playing regularly are sharp around the nets, for example. But he’ll back his lads against any of them.

St. Patrick’s Day Story

THE SOUTHPORT man told me some good stories of experience in playing across the Maritimes. I like this one.

Last year they played the Brookfield Elks in Truro on St. Patrick's night. When they came out on the ice to warm up they saw a huge sign:

"We drove the snakes out of Ireland, let's drive the Elks out of Truro". They played and beat the Elks 8-4 and 7-3 in Truro last weekend. "The crowd was with us", he said. "They really let go when one of our chaps scored."

It was a former Charlottetown man, Jack Hennessey who was responsible for the big sign in the Truro rink, Sandy told me. This club should draw big at the Forum tonight. Sandy expects them to win, the team spirit says the same thing.

For my part, the best of luck to you neighbor, and your Royals. May your shadow never grow less.

First Wild Geese

ROLAND MacDONALD called me on Sunday morning to say he and his son, Mack, had seen a flock of geese coming in over the harbor entrance a few minutes before. The old sign of spring is always welcome. It's early for the wild geese but Spurgeon Jenkins tells me it's not unusually so.