

SPORT OF KINGS

Neutral Referees Uroed For Hockey Playoff Tilts

By ED CLINTON
Souris Bureau of The Guardian

The inland intermediate playoff schedules will probably be released in the very near future. Here, in Eastern Kings, we'll have at least three entries, one in "B" and two in "C". The Souris Crossbones will be the former, while Morrell and another team from Souris will be entered in the latter group. And by the way if you're wondering about the name above, it is 'or' real.

With the playoffs coming, we are hoping that those in power will finally get around to passing a rule to eliminate a lot of discontent. And that is to eliminate the teams from supplying referees at any or all playoff games. And, that, when the "powers that be" supply the referees that they make sure that the referees they supply do not come from the areas involved in the game.

This idea of the visiting team supplying the referees has caused considerable head feelings both in Souris and Morrell the past couple of years. In both centers they just out, and in both cases laid most of the blame at the feet of the officials. In one case, we had a first hand view of the officials in action, and even trying to be as fair as possible, they agreed that a neutral referee would have made a big difference. In the other instance, we were well behind the scenes and took the word of a team official, but, we felt he was leveling with us.

Now, we are not saying that the referees from this area are not doing the same thing. In some cases they probably are. We do not know that in one case, a referee from this area was unduly prejudiced, and between periods mentioned this. With no chance forthcoming, he took action to favor the local team. The result that a three period resulted in a 3-1 lull. The content was not between two hockey teams, but between two officials. Unless the proper steps are taken, this could happen again.

The weather we are having this winter points directly to the need of an artificial ice rink in the Eastern King's area. If our hockey teams are going to be ready for playoffs, and if the younger generation are going to learn to play Canada's National pastime, something has to be done, but what?

RINK NOT FEASIBLE

Some time ago, we stated in this column that while it would be nice to see an artificial ice rink in Souris, that we felt that it would not be feasible, because it would not receive the support that it would need to pay its way. After that column appeared we received numerous calls and read letters that condemned this writer for stating that opinion, and asking how we could back up such statements. One letter in particular, from a local high school student was especially worked upon, and claimed that the students were well behind the sport program, and hinted that given a chance, so would someone else.

Here are the facts. At a recent basketball game played in Souris, a student from a local body showed up to their team or went off quietly while their team went down to defeat. We understand that the team will have a hard time getting enough players to put a hockey team on the ice. Some of the players told us that they wouldn't even bother with the team, but that they were planning on playing intermediate "C".

SOAKS NIGHT Now there's something that's really well attended. Last year's paid admissions totalled about twenty-five. Intermediate playoffs, which draw the biggest crowds are a lucky to average between two and three hundred people. If the people in this area want a rink, they are a few more better start showing a little more interest than they are doing now. And to finish on a lighter vein, we bid a warm welcome to the hockey world in Roddie MacIver, who will be coaching the Souris Crossbones. Roddie was quite a rugged defenseman in his day (Some reports say that he didn't always play according to the book). He'll not be new at the coaching bit either, as he coached Souris a few years back. Let's hear from you, Rod.

Drysdale Signs For Big Raise

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Don Drysdale became the best paid pitcher in his time ago, when he signed a 2 1/2 year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers that will pay him around \$45,000 and \$46,000.

PAY CONFIDENTIAL

Vice-president E. J. Buzzio said Drysdale's new salary is a boost of \$10,000. The 26-year-old right-hander was last season's leading pitcher with 25 victories.

Details of the contract were disclosed at a news conference in which the National League club also announced the signing of Tommy Davis, Ron Fairly and Willie Davis.

Tommy Davis, 21, who led majors in his and runs batted-in for 1962, also received a \$10,000 raise and his 1963 pay will total about \$25,000.

Bavali said Fairly, 26, signed for approximately \$20,000.

Willie Davis, who received \$11,000 last year, won't know what he's working for until the end of the season. Bavali's personal business manager said the contract is a 2 1/2 year-old center fielder signed a 1963 contract and like it that blank contract and likes it that around \$50,000 under his top contract.

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