

Good team triumphant



By JIM JUDD
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I haven't yet decided whether it was the buttoned-down Calvin Klein shirt and burgundy silk tie with Christian Dior sports jacket or the Bogart hat that accomplished the feat, but yours truly stands here at this moment sporting a record of 1-0 in serious competition as a junior hockey coach.

That's right, guiding a misfit, rag-tag crew of players, haphazardly strewn together at the last moment, this sportswriter proved his worth to the hockey world by posting a very decisive 10-3 victory over a similar team coached (and I used that term very loosely) by CJIB Sports Director Craig Jeffers.

The action took place Saturday night in the first official inter-squad game between two teams of Vernon Lakers training camp hopefuls at Priest Valley arena before a slightly less than capacity crowd which exhibited vocal appraisal of the action on ice.

NARROW LEAD

Nursing a narrow 3-2 lead after one period, in which the good guys (avec moi, of course) overcame a 2-1 deficit, we spread the lead to 6-2 after 40 minutes before retiring to the dressing room. In the third period we opened an 8-2 lead before team "B" managed their third goal.

Now in all fairness I'll admit that Jeffers had to deal with some last minutes scratches from his roster although it in no way constituted the kind of crying that went on at the games conclusion. In a nutshell, he admitted he'd been not only out-coached but had badly under-dressed for the occasion as well, appearing, unforgiveably, in a dirty pair of grey sweats with the knee torn out.

How can a guy expect to win when he dresses in such a fashion is what I'd like to know.

IMPRESSED

The truth of the matter is, however, that both myself and Jeffers were impressed with the kind of talent Lakers' coaching staff has to work with during this training camp and it should filter out into a very marketable and competitive junior hockey team this season in the BCJHL. I'll personally testify to their coachability since the same group I guided to a lopsided victory Saturday night, dropped a 7-5 decision to the same inter-squad group the following morning without the services of a mentor of any sort.

I might also point out that while I openly admitted to paying Vernon Minor Hockey Association five dollars per goal for every goal I lost by, the illustrious CJIB Sports Director backed out of the arrangement when someone multiplied seven times five for him. However, being the big-hearted soul I am, I volunteered to donate the \$35 to minor hockey anyway with the understanding, of course, that since this is to be an annual event, there can be no future welching.

APPRECIATED

The bottom line is that it was a tremendous amount of fun for everyone concerned and my thanks to Don Moores and his coaching staff, as well as General Manager Carl Enemark for the opportunity to take part in the game. Thanks, too, to the players I coached for their support and co-operation and also their dedication to winning so that I might have saved myself the embarrassment of having to write this same column from an opposite point of view.

Despite the lopsided victory, I don't anticipate any teams beating a path to my door this week looking for my coaching services.

Just as well, I suppose.