

Friendship thrown out



One of the prime purposes of athletics is allegedly to promote sportsmanship.

Luckily, very few minor soccer players were on hand to see the sportsmanship at the conclusion of the senior soccer tournament last Sunday at McDonald Park.

The tourney, featuring three Vernon teams, ended with no one knowing who had won the trophy.

In the end, Vernon United was presented with the trophy, but by then most of the people in attendance had left the park in disgust.

Between the time the game ended, and the time the trophy was presented, there was more name-calling and arguing than on a television soap opera.

And the sad part is, the teams were not from different cities. In fact, many of the players, on competing clubs, grew up and went to school together.

But, the friendships all seem to end when the soccer uniforms are put on.

Often local senior soccer people wonder why more people don't go to their games on Sunday afternoons.

One answer could be that people just don't want to hear constant complaining, and often swearing, from the players.

The only solution to that problem appears to be a strong executive, not involved with any of the teams, which is not afraid to impose suspensions.

BOOSTER CLUB

A group of fans is getting together to form a booster club for the Vernon Vikings.

An organizational meeting for the club, will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Village Green Inn. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Maurice Hawley, spokesman for the group, said he hopes the club will grow as the year progresses and help attract spectators out to the games.

For further information, phone Hawley at 542-8623.

COACH NAMED

Meanwhile, Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant has announced that Dave O'Krenic will coach Vernon's farm team in Grand Forks this season.

O'Krenic played for Tennant, in 1973, in Kamloops, and last year played with Nelson Maple Leafs. He was drafted, after his junior career, by Vancouver Canucks, but did not try professional hockey.

Tennant said, "O'Krenic will be a good coach. He is very mature for his age and he'll work the kids hard."

Vernon will be stocking the Border Kings with about 14 young players, mostly 15 and 16 year olds.

Tennant said, "By the time O'Krenic has coached them for a year, we'll have plenty of good prospects."