

# Parents no help



Over the past few years, minor hockey associations across Canada have adopted several sayings to emphasize the importance of hockey in the life of a boy.

Sayings such as: The stars of tomorrow, are here today; Minor hockey is for the kids; Minor hockey builds men; and the favorite, Take your boy to the rink, don't send him.

With Minor Hockey Week just around the corner, the Vernon association might be wise to consider a change in philosophy and adopt a new saying, "Send your boy to the rink, don't take him."

Minor hockey has always felt it is important for parents to take an interest in their boys' activities. Thus, they have urged parents to go to games, and get involved with hockey.

## HOCKEY'S ENEMY

However, parents have become hockey's worst enemy. Coaches are criticized for some boys not playing enough, for their teams playing too rough, for losing, and for playing favorites. And the main critics are the parents.

Most associations, including Vernon, have adopted policies to keep parents from interfering. Any parent abusing a coach or player is barred from the arena and faces the prospect of their boy being kicked out of hockey.

However, after an incident like the one last Sunday at the arena, during a peewee hockey game, it is evident some parents don't respect the rules.

A Kamloops parent jumped over the boards and grabbed a 12-year-old Vernon player. Apparently the parent felt the particular Vernon boy was playing overly aggressive.

## NOT AN ANIMAL

After the incident, if the man has any conscience, he must have felt like an idiot. But, the poor boy will probably not forget the grab for years.

I wonder if the man realizes he wasn't going after an animal, but rather a young boy. If that is how parents help hockey, let them stay home. Luckily, it was a Kamloops parent.

While this is the first physical action by parent this season, there have been numerous times when players and referees have been verbally attacked and threatened by clenched fists from the stands.

Russian goaltender Vladislav Tretiak said this week in an interview that he hopes his newly-born son will someday excel in hockey.

Tretiak said, "Whether he is a goalie or forward, does not matter to me. What is important is that he plays hockey because hockey will turn him into a man."

There is nothing which builds character in a boy better than hockey. It teaches him sportsmanship, how to get along with others, and builds his body, both mentally and physically.

If they never let that parent back in an arena again, it will be too soon.

## CLOSING NOTE

Hopefully, sports fans in this country will never have to be treated as spectators are at soccer games in England.

Fans of a Watford football team stand still with joy whenever their home team scores. In fact, they are afraid to make too much noise or jump up and down because police will throw them out.

Crowd control has been introduced to force fans to cheer quietly and in a reasonable tone of voice.

# Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor



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