

KENDALL'S KORNER

No tourney for Knights

Penticton Knights, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, may have earned themselves a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Their claim to fame will read, "Hockey team travelling the farthest for no particular reason ... Penticton Knights, November, 1985."

The defending Western Canadian champions left Penticton last Friday, bound for Prague, Czechoslovakia and the prestigious Rude Pravo Hockey Tournament. Knights were slated to take on teams from Poland, West Germany, Soviet Union, and of course Czechoslovakia.

A funny thing happened on the way to Prague ... somebody cancelled the tournament and neglected to tell the Knights. Knights arrived in Czechoslovakia last Sunday and on Monday were informed that the tournament had been called off.

Penticton isn't scheduled to return to B.C. until Nov. 22 so they have another 10 days to enjoy the sites of Eastern Europe. To fill in their idle time, Knights are playing a series of exhibition games against Czech junior teams.

Besides the disappointment of not being able to compete in a world-class tournament, the players must also swallow the financial pill. Each of the 24 players who made the trip paid about \$1,000.

There have been some strange happenings involving Canadian teams visiting Eastern-block countries in recent years. One of the strangest occurred last November at the Rude Pravo Tournament.

Nanaimo Clippers, of the BCJHL,



by
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represented Canada and won the tournament. However, Clippers attracted worldwide attention for something other than their performance on the ice.

Nanaimo forward Al Chatlain was charged with assault after striking an elderly usher while watching a game in Prague. The usher suffered a serious eye injury and Chatlain was arrested. After much controversy on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, Chatlain was released and permitted to return home.

Chatlain finished the 1984-85 season with Clippers and at last report was on the roster of Fort Wayne, of the International Hockey League.

The usher recovered and has been the target of several peaceful jesters by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association including the offer of a tournament pass to the world championships last spring, in Prague.

But, all is not forgiven and forgotten in Czechoslovakia. The incident left a scar that may never heal. You have to wonder if Czech officials didn't get the last laugh, and a little revenge, by cancelling this year's tournament and purposely not telling the Knights.

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Editor—DON KENDALL

Penticton juniors post exhibition win

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — The touring Penticton Knights of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League defeated the Czechoslovakia national 18-and-under team 5-3 Tuesday in an exhibition game at Louny.

It was the second straight victory for the Canadian junior 'A' team after an international tournament in Czechoslovakia was suddenly cancelled last weekend.

Bill Thomas led the Knights with two goals, with singles by Scott Rawson, Lee Davidson and Peter de Graaf.

Mixed emotions

MILWAUKEE (AP) — U.S. tennis star John McEnroe says recently announced drug testing of male tennis players isn't necessary, but it may be good for the sport in the long run by discouraging drug abuse by youngsters.

"I have mixed emotions," McEnroe said Tuesday night after he defeated retired Swedish tennis great Bjorn Borg in an exhibition match.

"I don't think there's a problem in our sport," McEnroe said of the decision last week by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council to randomly test players at two selected world-class tournaments beginning in 1986.

"I don't feel really good about it. But maybe in the long run, it's good to show the kids."

Penticton goaltender Warren Sharples had a strong game as the host team outshot the Knights 37-30.

The Knights defeated Slaney Juniors 6-0 Monday. Penticton plays two games against the national junior team, which will play in the world championships late this year in southern Ontario, this weekend at Slaney.

A Penticton team spokesman said the Knights, who left Vancouver last Friday, arrived in Czechoslovakia to find the sponsor of the tournament had cancelled the event, apparently because the sponsor was tired of foreign domination of the tournament.

Nanaimo Clippers of the BCJHL won a junior club tournament a year ago in Czechoslovakia, but the victory celebration ended in controversy when a Nanaimo player was arrested for striking a 78-year-old usher in the stands while watching a game.

Allan Chatelain of Prince Albert, Sask., was jailed in solitary confinement for nearly a month before his release was secured by federal government officials.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

NOV., 1980

Vernon's Kelly Olson has earned a starting position with the Calgary Mount Royal College Cougars Basketball Team.