

Reporter reveals gentlemanly nature while scouting girls' hockey games

By PETER JEDICKE
Westlane reporter

Westlane Spartanettes will be in the news again soon as the annual Niagara Falls Powder Puff Hockey Tour-

nament is rapidly approaching. The team, consisting of about 20 girls, has been practising for some months now. Perhaps you remember my reporting on their 5-1 defeat to the infamous Virgil team. I never did say anything about their other game, mainly because I couldn't attend it, but they did win one in Welland sometime before Christmas.

Now they're back on the ice again.

This year, my first "assignment" in covering the team was to check out the opposition at the ungodly time of 1 a.m. Sunday. There was an exhibition game between Loretto and NFCVI, and it was "suggested" I be present. Actually, I felt like quite a hero after what happened. You see, "Vergil" Worrall and I got collared with the job of ticking off the 120 seconds in the penalty box. One of our visitors to the sin bin had a cut on her finger, and I supplied a Kleenex to serve as first aid. And, yes, it was this same Kleenex which was used (ladies and gentlemen, The Secret Can Now Be Made Public!) to dry the eyes of the cheerfully tearful scorer of CI's last goal. Can you imagine how important all this made me feel?

The most entertaining thing about the game, which ended 3-0 for CI, was watching goalie Debbie Gregory, herself quite delirious with ecstasy, get mugged by her teammates at the sound of the final horn. I hope our own girls can show this much happiness about a victory — and what's more, I hope they get plenty of chances to prove it! Incidentally, one such chance might come when the Spartanettes play A. N. Myer in Virgil on Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. Wouldn't it be nice if we had busloads of fans there to support the girls? But I don't suppose

there's any chance of getting enough people for something like that, do you?

Myer, by the way, is reputed to be the power house again this year. To find out if we stand much of a chance against them, I decided to go to the Westlane practice this week, for the first time this year, to see how we were doing. Folks, this year's team looks better than last year's.

Our two super-stars are back with us, Lynn Badger and Beatrice Levesque. Beatrice, our high scoring and high flying centre, still has the Biggest Mouth In Town. Her favorite taunt this year seems to be telling Lynn to stay on her feet. Seriously though, I think Beatrice's skating has improved. If she can control her temper (ah, yes, her TEMPER!) she may do extremely well this year. Lynn still gives any Westlane fan confidence there won't be many break-aways while she's on defence. I honestly think she might be the fastest skater on any of the Powder Puff teams. One girl to really watch for is Debbie Cousineau. This little girl has enough get up and go to make the rest of the team look sick. If only she came in a larger size! She and Beatrice, however, are going to be the stars of the team in a few years (if Beatrice decided to continue her "education").

Writing about the powder puffs might be great but it doesn't make me any friends in the wrestling team, which I always manage to forget. One reason for this, as I said before Christmas, is that I abhor wrestling as a sport. But I have consented to swallow my hatred for this barbaric past-time long enough to write about them. Watch for this exciting article

as soon as I can recover from the wounds I'll receive researching it. I understand there's a novice tournament coming up early next month, so watch for that, too.

My next column will take a lighthearted poke at our Blood Donor Clinic held yesterday.

The Word of The Week is taken from King Lear, Act I, Scene 2, line 22.