

RICHMOND SOCKEYE JUNIOR "A" HOCKEY

Interviewed: May 14, 1976

Tape 68, ~~122~~ 2 + 3

MANAGER: Mr. Bruce Allison,
328 Francis Road,
Richmond, B. C. (277-9201)

Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Born in Edmonton, Alberta, March 23, 1929.
- Played minor hockey in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Coached Minor Hockey "A" teams for many years for Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey.
- Worked with the British Columbia Hockey Association for coaches clinics.
- Attended national clinics.
- Past President of Minor Hockey Association and past President of Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association Minor "A" League.
- Resigned to assist in building the present Junior "A" Hockey team.
- When we first started the Junior "B" Hockey team, didn't have a name so we run a local contest in the Richmond Review called: "Name the Team Contest".
- This was to get the local people interested in the team.
- This way they would come to the games, pay at the gate, then we could pay our bills.
- One of the fellows who worked very close with me was Jona Friesen who was my Treasurer and Secretary.
- Discusses in great length how the team got started.
- Tom Shaw who was then President of the West Coast Junior "B" League, wanted to expand their league and he felt Richmond would be a good area.
- Richmond didn't have a team at this time although they used to have Junior "B" teams years ago, but they folded because people used to get together and they had misunderstanding and they got mad and quit.
- Tom Shaw asked me two or three times in July of 1972 to run this team.
- So I set the team up and got it started and got Bruno Pasqualotto for coach.
- Bruno Pasqualotto had played for the Trail Smoke Eaters and the Nelson Maple Leafs and European leagues.

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- September 1972, was the first try outs for the team which was then called the Richmond Juniors.
- We went with the "Sockeye" name because of the Steveston canneries, Fraser River and fishing boats --- it's a fishing area, and the sockeye being King of the Salmon, the name seemed to fit the appropriate area.
- The original money to start this team came from the Richmond Minor Hockey Association.
- The \$500 we got was part of a \$1,000 draft.
- Our first sweaters which were given to me by Gil Lundean were from the old Vancouver Centennial Hockey team.
- In the beginning of the season the boys bought their own pants, but at the end of the season I put some money into the club and bought the boys some new pants.
- That first year cost me \$200 out of my own pocket.
- The boys bought all their own equipment that first year.
- We paid for ice time, referees fees, league fees, etc.
- We were buying hockey sticks for \$2.50 each and the boys paid \$1.00 towards the sticks.
- My stick bill was very low then, around \$300, now it runs around \$2,000 per season.
- That basic \$500 that came from Minor Hockey was really the key in getting the club started.
- Jona Friesen and I were the ones who came up with crest for the team.
- In the first year standing, we ended up second to last place.
- Didn't have a very good year although we had a lot of local boys who had all come up through minor hockeys.
- The original boys who started in the team were:

Dennis Minns	Wayne Friesen
Allen Lacroix	Ken Brandle
Paul Tompkins	Terry Dennis (affiliate)
Doug Paterson (Captain)	Ron Beamon
Jim Lang	Donnie Taylor
Gary Nedelak (affiliate)	David Donnelly
Doug Corbett	Dave Fairey
Charlie Briskham	Clark Mitchell
Bob Hall (trainer)	

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- We had three or four boys from out of the area because we just didn't have enough bodies to make a team.
- The following year Mr. Lorne Williams phoned me and asked if the Fraser Arms could sponsor the team.
- After the financial problems we had the first year I thought this would be good, so I gave them one-third each and I kept one-third.
- Discusses the meeting during the summer of 1972-73 with B. C. Amateur Hockey Association trying to get a "A" status.
- Got a "A" status during that summer but only a B. C. Amateur Hockey status not a Canadian Amateur Hockey status.
- So Seattle and Portland came into the league then.
- There is a lot of politics involved.
- We were told by B. C. Amateur Hockey that if Seattle and Portland came in to our league it would be a lot easier for us to get a "A" status so we went for that.
- In fact, during the summer of 1973-74 we set up a Pacific International Junior "A" Hockey League sanctioned by B. C. Amateur Hockey but not sanctioned by C.H.A. which simply meant we weren't a real tier two league, we couldn't go for a national title like the B. C. Junior "A".
- The 1972-73 Season was a good year. We went to first place and maintained first place until late in the season where we finally ended up in third, one point out of first.
- We had good crowds that year.
- In 1974 summer, we went to Winnipeg with Sandy Michey and Fred Page to persue our "A" status which we finally got.
- Stresses the main reason for starting the team and Junior "A" Hockey for boys from 17 to 21 years old is so they can stay at home and get an education while playing competitive hockey.
- Emphasises the importance of hockey players getting a good education.
- Discusses his philosophy on todays hockey.
- Ron Matthews coached the team in the 1974-75 Season - he was very good.
- Ron Matthews is an ex-pro, who played 20 years as a professional hockey player.
- He played for the Vancouver Canucks; Portland Buckaroos; Edmonton Oil Kings, and the Toronto Marboroughs.

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- Ron had the professional background as a coach and fundamental teacher's but he was ideal person for young people.
- Ron was quite a soft spoken man, not rowdy, didn't use a lot of profanity.
- The referees are paid \$30.00 a game and linesmen are paid \$15.00/game.
- The referees clinics of today are first class.
- We had a referee chief within the Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey League by the name of John McNeil who sets up clinics in the Lower Mainland.
- Explains the referee's and coaches clinics and how they are run.
- Coaches on Junior "A" teams are paid a retainers referees, mostly just ot pay for gas.
- Never had any difficulties getting ice time for the Sockeyes.
- The co-operation of the Recreation Department and with the Richmond Minor Hockey Association in my day was just outstanding.
- Without the co-operation of the Richmond Minor Hockey Association, the Recreation Department, the Mayor, along with Jona Friesen, and these kind of people, the "Sockeyes" would never got off the ground.