

Soccer league not intimidating

Stories by
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Citizen Staff

Rick Siebel isn't worried playing in the newly formed North Cariboo Senior Soccer League.

Siebel's Timberline team meets Green Machine Sunday in the first round of the 1991 season. For Siebel and most of the other players, the amalgamation of the Prince George Senior Soccer League into the expanded NCSL, doesn't make a difference.

"I have no problem with it," said Siebel, 35. "Although I am getting up there."

The new 12-team league begins play at 11 a.m. Sunday at Rotary. Labatt's Honda North will play Quesnel in the other 11 a.m. match. All teams will play in Sunday's round.

The North Cariboo has traditionally represented the city's highest calibre senior soccer while the other league stressed a more recreational flavor. The new league will feature two divisions meeting in a series of interlocking exhibition games.

The difference in outlook doesn't bother Siebel or other players preparing for Sunday's start.

"I think some of the roughness has gone out of both leagues in the

last few years," Siebel added early today. "We are out to play soccer, not roughhousing."

Glen Thompson, NCSL president, said the games between the Cariboo division teams and the recreation division will be purely on an exhibition basis with no goals or scores recorded.

"I think the main challenge this year will make a go of this one league, two division trial basis," Thompson said Thursday. "There isn't anything definite yet."

Thompson is leaving perennial powerhouse Labatt's of the Cariboo in favor of Steamer's. He divides his time between refereeing and playing. There shouldn't be any problems matching teams on the field, he added.

"It's like any other game, you have to have control," said Thompson. "This year as far as officiating goes it will be a lot easier."

"You only have one schedule to deal with."

Unlike previous years where the youth team from the previous season was divided up in a talent draft, last season's youth team has opted to stay together as Remco, said Thompson.

League play continues Tuesday and Thursday evenings with the Cup finals scheduled for September 22.



Jim Eisenreich of Kansas City gets tagged out at second by Toronto's Roberto Alomar.

Jays rebound from no-hit game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — With nine more hits and 16 fewer strikeouts than the night before in Texas, the Toronto Blue Jays seemed to be telling Kevin Appier he's no Nolan Ryan.

But in beating the staggering Kansas City Royals 3-1 immediately after Ryan no-hit them, the Blue Jays were telling themselves something, too.

"Last night it was Nolan Ryan's night," said Roberto Alomar, who struck out three times, including the final out of the game, in Ryan's 3-0 no-hitter Wednesday night. "Tonight was our night."

Alomar did not have a single strikeout against Appier (1-4) or reliever Jeff Montgomery. But he did have a sacrifice that set up a run in the first inning, a double in the third and a homer in the sixth.

"I feel good about what I did," Alomar said.

In only other major league game Thursday night, Milwaukee beat Minnesota 5-1.

The same team that struck out 16 times against Ryan did not fan once against the Royals and quickly put to rest any thoughts of a second straight no-hitter when Devon White doubled leading off the game. Alomar sacrificed him to third and the Blue Jays seized a 1-0 lead on Joe Carter's sacrifice fly.

One might think the leadoff double must have been particularly relaxing to the Blue Jays.

"Relaxing because of the no-hitter?" Carter asked. "It didn't mean a thing. It meant he was on second base and Robby gets him over and I get him in."

"Nobody was thinking about what happened last night. The no-hitter's out of the way. It's a different night."

The Royals' sixth straight home loss leaves them two shy of the club record.

Todd Stottlemyre (3-0) pitched seven innings of two-hit ball. Mike Timlin pitched a hitless eighth and Duane Ward picked up his sixth save with a hitless ninth off a team mired in a deep and disturbing hitting slump.

The San Diego Padres visit the Montreal Expos at 10:30 a.m. Sunday on CBC French (channel 4, cable 5). Boston visits the White Sox or Cleveland visits Oakland at 11:30 a.m. Sunday on KIRO (cable 7).

Skavlebo scholarship established

The Spruce City Men's Fastball Association and the family of the late Ray Skavlebo have established a scholarship fund to honor the former fastball player and sports enthusiast, who died in a logging accident Jan. 29.

Nino Fabbro, president of the SCMFA, announced the establishment of the fund with Ray's wife Debbie and brother Mark, who helped set up the fund.

He said contributions can be made to the Bank of B.C. in Ray's name.

"We set up the memorial fund in order for it to be available for this year's graduating students," said Fabbro.

Fabbro said any donations made to the Bank of B.C. in Ray's name will be held in a bursary to be given on a yearly basis to one male and one female high school graduate active in Prince George softball, the sport Raymond devoted so much of his life to.

Debbie Skavlebo wants the fund to stress sportsmanship.

"I think this scholarship should be awarded to someone who demonstrates good sportsmanship and community participation, not just for outstanding grades," said Debbie.

Fabbro said all SCMFA players will remember Ray in the coming season by wearing his No. 10 on their jerseys.

The league will also present an annual memorial trophy for dedication to be awarded to a player, coach, manager or anyone else involved with the league, said Fabbro.

Women's league prospers

Patti Smith says she never played soccer until she moved to Prince George.

But Smith, 29, is now a seven-year veteran of the Prince George Women's Soccer League. She credits a good first coach and a friendly league attitude as she and the 80 other members of the league prepare for Monday's start of league play.

"Back in 1984 I had a friend who was coaching the one team in town and I came out," said Smith. "I had never played before."

The four-team league has attracted players of all ages. Last year a city team finished fourth in the B.C. Summer Games in Prince George.

What was once a single team that played inter-squad pickup games between travelling to Quesnel is now a self-supporting organization with players ranging in age from 19 to almost 40 years.

Part of the growth has been the city's large youth soccer league, the biggest single participation league in Prince George. Another reason is the attitude of the players, added Smith.

"We are trying to develop soccer on a recreational level and trying not to be too competitive," she said. "Leaving the door open to people who have never competed before and anybody who is interested in having fun."

Steve Lambie was Smith's first coach. He coached his women's team in the city in 1983 and watched it expand into a league in 1987.

This year he is leaving the women's league to coach his daughter's team in the youth league. The Vancouver native once coached Vancouver 86ers' star John Catliff in the city's youth league.

Women's soccer is not unlike any other form of the game, Lambie said early today.

"The game appeals to the whole spectrum of capabilities," he said. "It can be enjoyed by people just starting out for the first time."

"It has that appeal."

Myatovic Construction meets Canadian Woodworks and Pacific Western Brewery meets B.X. Pub in Monday's 7:30 p.m. start. All games are at Prince George Secondary School.

Sponsorship isn't any more difficult for women's teams than any other sport, said Smith. Myatovic Construction has been sponsoring the league since it was formed.

An all-star team travels to Williams Lake for a July long-weekend tournament.

Homer helps in slo-pitch win

Lance Bulmer's home run made the difference Thursday as Video Pop defeated Mr. G 8-7 in Prince George Men's slo-pitch.

Bulmer went two-for-three at bat and earned four runs-batted-in to give his team the single-run margin.

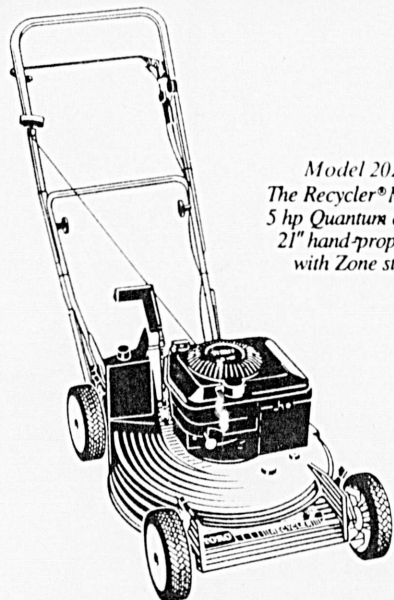
In other games at Kenworth Field Thursday, it was: Coach's Corner 19, Ironhorse 12 and Blue Jays 18, Teamsport 3.

Coach's blasted 26 of 47 hits in Thursday's slugfest against Ironhorse.

Blue Jays' Brent Norum slammed two home runs and went three-for-three to earn five RBIs.

Play continues tonight with the Blue Jays meeting Yellowhead Mack at 6:20 and Reimer Crane playing the Firefighters at 7:40.

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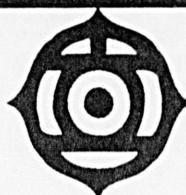
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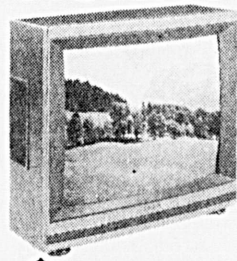
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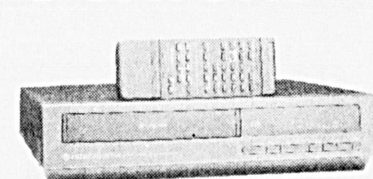
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