



Citizen photo by Brent Braaten

Steve Mamlic of the Barbarians breaks away from a scrum Sunday during his team's 18-15 CIRU loss to the crosstown rival Gnats.

Kickers benefit from missed shots

by GORD HOEKSTRA
Citizen Staff

Garibaldi missed some great chances late in the second-half and had to settle for a 2-2 tie against the Kickers in North Cariboo soccer action Sunday.

Derek Thomson, who missed the first half, sparked the team on his return and almost won it with a header Kickers' goalie Yarinder Brar was surprised to stop.

"Instinct took over — it was just natural reflexes," Brar said.

Minutes before Thomson had hit the post on a rush.

Brar said a drawback of the Kickers' play is it can't put 90 minutes of soccer together.

"We controlled the first half, but they walked over us in the second, he said, adding, "They're in better shape than we are."

The Kickers went ahead in the first half on two goals by Daryl McEwan.

McEwan said the difference in the team's play was due to their having a coach in the last couple of games.

"It's coming together — so hopefully we'll get stronger and stronger."

Garibaldi got into the game late in the first half when they started to outplay and outrun the Kickers.

They got a break when Brar stuck out his arm and knocked down Reynan Johnson. A penalty kick was awarded and Johnson drove the ball low into the left hand corner.

Cam Leverman scored the tying goal in the second half on a deflection off of Johnson's header on a corner kick.

In the second league game, a hard-fought battle between second-place Remco and third-place Labatt's-Honda North ended in a 1-1 tie.

Labatt's Mark Yawney punched in a rebound off a 20-metre shot from Greg Christie for the tying goal.

They had a really bad first half but played better in the second, said Labatt's-Honda coach Mark Thorpe.

"Under the circumstance a tie was an acceptable result," he said.

Labatt's-Honda is missing their goal tender Dave Hughes who was red carded last game which earned him a one game suspension.

"The players themselves weren't very pleased," said Thorpe.

Tom Brkich scored Remco's goal at the 30 minute-mark of the first half. Iain Flannagan, playing goal for Remco, came up with some big saves.

"Goal keeping is a very simple game is you play the angles," he said after the game, adding, "The defence backed me up a great deal."

Remco plays the Prince George Selects team tonight at 7 at Rotary Stadium. The Selects will play the Vancouver 86ers in an exhibition game next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Quesnel split two league games played at home.

Art Renaud led Quesnel with three goals in their 5-2 defeat of the Molson Niners Saturday.

Digger Lacy and Clay Booth each added a goal. The Niners' goals were scored by Dave Fuller and Ken Edzerza.

On Sunday, Prince George Croatia-Fred Walls and Son downed Quesnel 3-1. Nick Vojvodic, Mariusz Berezowski and Pete Brbot scored for Croatia. Matt Cole got the single for Quesnel.

■ Jamie Appleby led Timberline to a 3-2 victory over Tabor Arms in recreation division play Sunday.

Appleby scored two goals. In the second league game, Frank Deni scored twice for Steamers in a 2-1 win over GGST.

CENTRAL INTERIOR RUGBY

Coppin's kicks lift Gnats

Mike Coppin's penalty kick in the last minutes of Sunday's game, gave the Prince George Gnats an 18-15 come-from-behind win over the Prince George Barbarians.

"We pulled it off with a try and a penalty kick with three or four minutes left in the game," said Gnat's player-rep Jim Chernenkoff.

Chernenkoff said the game had actually gone into injury time when Coppin scored the winning points on a penalty kick.

It was a good, hard-fought battle between the crosstown rivals, he said.

Copping hit a total of five penalty kicks for the

Gnats. Ken Thomas scored the try in the second half. Lorne Bernard and Tim Richards scored for the Barbarians in the first half and Brian Hamlin added two penalty kicks.

Hamlin scored another two penalties in the second half.

The regular season for the Central Interior Rugby Union ends next weekend.

The Williams Lake Rustlers play the Barbarians and the Fort St. John Moosemen play the Gnats in Prince George.

Later, Williams Lake will also play Fort St. John while they are here.

Softball titles won

Western Seaboard Transport earned \$800 for going undefeated in the Lad Construction senior B fastball tournament this weekend.

Seaboard defeated CC Industries 6-1 in the Coke (A Division) final. CC earned \$400 for second.

The North Coast Control Juniors edged Dakota's 6-4 in the Sprite (B) final to take home \$600. The Sprite division paid \$400 for second and \$200 for third.

CC Industries, which, finished 2-2 with both losses to Seaboard and a 1-0 edging of the Lumber Kings and 3-2 slip by Quesnel Rangers, led 1-0 after the top of the first inning. Leadoff batter Brian Grantham doubled and was knocked home by Aaron Taylor's single.

The next two batters flied out and pitcher Gord Gervais struck out Ralph Suther to get out of the inning. Leadoff Seaboard batter Gibby Chase doubled. Ken Dalziel doubled for the run batted in and tying the game. Kirk Gaboury singled driving home Dalziel for what stood up as the winning run.

Dalziel homered in the bottom of the second driving home Chase who had reached first on a walk. Dalziel was named the Coke Division most valuable player. Dalziel batted .500, scored five runs and had five RBIs.

Gervais went the distance striking out six and giving up six hits as the winning pitcher.

In the B final, Doug Rogers hit a two-run homer in the third and a solo shot in the fifth for the juniors.

Also-rans praised in lacrosse

by ED MILLS
Citizen Staff

It's not often the fourth-place finishers in a five-team tournament are congratulated, praised and looked on as the next up-and-coming team.

But that's exactly what happened at the Prince George senior B lacrosse Sportsman Tournament here last weekend.

Minute Muffler, a team that hasn't won a game since it became the fourth team in the Prince George Senior Lacrosse League two years ago, had fans, coaches, players and even the league commissioner saying they were the story of the tourney.

The fact that Tyers Transport beat the Kitimat Bushmen 10-8 in a tremendous final game Sunday afternoon at the Coliseum wasn't lost on those who attended the tourney.

And it didn't go unnoticed that Blake McIntosh scored three goals, including the winner, and set up another two to lead Tyers to the title of the second annual tournament.

It's just that the underdog, underrated and unassuming Minute Muffler team stole a large portion of the spotlight by going toe to toe with the top teams in the area and coming away with, if not wins, at least a new respect for their abilities.

"It was like watching a different team out there," said Jennifer Picker, girlfriend of one of the Muffler players who has seen all eight of the team's losses in regular season play.

Picker was there Saturday as Muffler opened the tourney with an 12-4 win over Mackenzie and then was just edged 14-11 by Kitimat in its second game. That put the team in the consolation final against Cap-Abilities — which leads the league and has walked all over Muffler all season.

And it was there that Muffler had its finest hour of the tournament, in a back and forth game



Citizen photo by Brent Braaten

George Prince of Tyers chases Keith Riblero of Kitimat.

that was only decided when Cap-Abilities' Dan Eyles scored 1:19 into overtime to give them an 8-7 win.

"I would have to think they are the story of the tournament," said League Commissioner Glen Scott. "They weren't expected to do anything at all and all of a sudden they turned it around and gelled as a team."

Muffler coach Doug Jeffrey said the tournament could be a turning point for his team.

"We've got a lot of young players that are learning the game real fast right now," Jeffrey said. "We're finally starting to play as a team, they're doing exactly what we're asking them to do."

Jeffrey said the goal is to peak for the playoffs and his team is right on track now.

But player Scott Morash says Muffler isn't going to wait for the playoffs to capitalize on what transpired at the tournament.

"You can bank on it," Morash said. "This has really brought our team out of a rut and that's what we needed. So when we come back into the

season, for sure we're going to be coming out hard."

Tyers, which is in third place in the four-team league, might be on a bit of roll of its own after going 4-0 to take the tourney title.

That roll was almost ended by Kitimat in the final. Kitimat overcame a 5-1 first-period deficit and led 8-7 by the middle of the third period.

But McIntosh scored a pair of goals in the last eight minutes to put Tyers back in the lead to stay.

"It was kind of tense there on the bench, (after Kitimat came back) but I knew we had a lot of good goal scorers on our bench that can put some goals in," McIntosh said.

Butch Stewart had two goals and four assists for Tyers in the championship win, while Jerome La Marre had two goals and Neil McIntosh had three assists. Steve Johnson, Shawn Ingham and Jason Wolitski also scored for Tyers, while goaltender Bill Woodcock made 39 saves.

Blizzard still hot

by Canadian Press

Toronto fortified its position atop the Canadian Soccer League standings as the Blizzard blanked the Winnipeg Fury 3-0 at the Winnipeg soccer complex Sunday night.

Meanwhile, North York posted its fourth consecutive tie of the season as the Rockets were held to a scoreless draw by the visiting London Lasers.

After a scoreless first half in Winnipeg, the Blizzard's John

Fitzgerald opened the scoring with his first goal of the season 12 minutes into the second half.

Paul Peschisolido doubled the margin at the 72-minute mark as he netted his second goal.

Midfielder Frank LoFranco sealed the game for the Blizzard with a crack shot struck from 30 yards out, two minutes from time.

The win improved Toronto's record to 3-0-2 as the Blizzard stretched its unbeaten streak to five games.

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