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SPORTSBRIEF

► First for Foster

Audrey Foster has known a lot of firsts during her years of involvement with Little League baseball. Yet another first for Foster came a few weeks ago, when she was given a national posting.

"I've been elected a director for Little League Canada, the first time a woman has been elected to the board," says Foster, president of the Nechako Little League for 13 years.

"I didn't think about it at all until the meeting. There are ten directors total in Canada. Being elected to the B.C. board five years ago was a great honour."

Foster is the only person in Canada involved at all four levels of Little League baseball. She is president of the Nechako organization at the league level, assistant district administrator, director and secretary for B.C. Little League, and now a director for Little League Canada.

Foster was instrumental in landing the Canadian Little League Championships, which will be held here in August 1996.

Foster:
Only
person
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all four
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Little
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Canada.



► Condorette Cakewalk

A stroll through the hills, a walk in the park. The Duchess Park Condorettes encountered little opposition at the provincial AA high school girls volleyball championships in Kimberley this weekend, claiming the provincial crown.

The Condorettes, the top ranked team in B.C. all season long, showed why they deserved respect, prancing thought the tournament undefeated and sweeping Lambriek Park of Victoria in three straight sets in the final by scores of 15-9, 16-14 and 15-3.

The Condorettes won all ten games at the tournament in Kimberley to give the school its first-ever AA volleyball title. The team was led all weekend by tournament most valuable player Jay-Anna Major and all-stars Natasha Johnson and Emily King.

Anneck answers critics

'My role is to get points, score goals and set guys up.'

By JIM SWANSON

Prince George Free Press

The WHL has only been in town for three months, and Dorian Anneck already has a title - Most Maligned Hockey Player in Prince George.

Bar none.

Considering the verbal abuse he takes at home games, Anneck probably deserves a chance to answer his critics. The 18-year-old Prince George Cougars' centre has faced the ire of the paying public, and some members of the media. Anneck's heart and determination have been questioned since the Cats dragged that oh-and-ten start into the house, fouling their record. Fans have wondered out loud why he's on the ice taking key faceoffs or filling a defensive role late in the game. Anneck's physical dexterity and willingness to take the body have been far from lauded, but his point total, an average of one per game, has been conveniently ignored by most.

For his part, Anneck has indeed noticed that he's far from winning Mr. Congeniality, but quickly notes it's not important. He also strongly disagrees with claims of uninspired play, written in a Free Press sports column a month ago.

Anneck also flatly denies a recent report out of Regina claiming he was looking for a trade out of Prince George. According to The Maligned One, three things are important to him - winning games, clearing up his contract situation with the Winnipeg Jets and ensuring the fans and media that negative remarks don't bother him.

"I thought it was brutal (what you wrote)," Anneck told the Free Press following last Saturday's win over the Swift Current Broncos. "When they're bad-mouthing me and when the team is losing it's easy for everybody to get on us, to look for excuses and blame a player, the coach or whoever. The fans don't bother me at all. I think (the column) was wrong, and I think the fans are wrong."

To the credit of Anneck and the Cougars, they did not elect to use injury as a crutch for the Jets' third round draft pick, refusing to list him as day-to-day. Anneck injured his right ankle in a game against Kamloops over a month ago, and had to use tape to support the joint. The medical attention restricted flexibility and range of motion, causing him trouble when turning and stopping.

"I started off the season not too well, but after I twisted my ankle I think I started pick-



Anneck: 'I think (the column) was wrong, and I think the fans are wrong.'

ROB BIRON/FREE PRESS

ing things up," says the six-foot-one, 183 pounder. "It hurt for about two weeks, and I had it taped up. I was able to skate, but I was probably playing at 70 per cent because it still hurt. I couldn't skate as well as I could because I couldn't put all my weight on it. I'm not using it as an excuse - I think I've still got to pick my game up a little more still."

The loudest complaint hurled by the paying faithful revolves around Anneck's lack of physical play. This accusation has given birth to some of the most colourful one-liners heard in awhile, but Anneck isn't laughing. He says one of his jobs is to take the man and handle the puck in traffic, no matter what detractors think.

"My role is to get points, score goals and set guys up," says Anneck, who racked up 79 points in his draft year. "If the fans don't like the way I play, I can't do anything about that. I'm not saying it's not my style (to hit), but my strong point is my offensive play. If some people don't like the way I play, there's nothing I can do."

"Half the people don't know anything

about the game anyway when they're talking like that. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, and I guess people have their own opinion."

Anneck spent time over dinner in Seattle recently with Randy Carlyle of the Jets, something he calls "a good meeting," and not necessarily the pep talk that was reported.

The Maligned One has goals for this season, claiming that the welfare of the team is utmost in his mind, even if he does spend time thinking about his status with Winnipeg.

"The team's got to come first, and make the playoffs. For myself, I'm hoping to sign a contract with Winnipeg soon - at the end of the season or whenever. I want to get that cut of the way. I'm also hoping for a 100-point season."

The outspoken fans only look at the standings, wanting to experience the WHL playoff run promised by management. If Anneck contributes his share to the team, helping break a five-year playoff slide, season ticket holders will stop hanging him in effigy.

Maybe.



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SANDY'S CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The staff at the Tabor Arms Pub will be donating all tips on Wednesday Dec. 14 to the Salvation Army Christmas Tree of Lights. The Tabor challenges all other pubs to meet or beat their 1993 total of \$1310.



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