



A Hockey Glance Over The Ocean

I guess the extra long lunch breaks can still be as informative as a hidden "mike" on the pitcher's mound in the ninth inning with two outs and the bases loaded.

Bob Griffin, local sporting goods dealer, had just returned from a 12 day tour to Stockholm, Finland and Leningrad, Russia so I figured it was about time for one of those "extra long lunch breaks."

I couldn't have asked for three hours of more interesting straight talk from a man who is doing so much for sports in Livonia.

Koho Hockey Stick Co. in Forssa, Finland invited dealers from the United States and Canada to be its guests and observe hockey across the ocean and of course to look at its equipment.

"I was just tremendously impressed with the hockey facilities overseas," said Griffin. "And all players are treated like national heroes."

Bob's greatest thrill had to be the opportunity to get behind the Iron Curtain.

"We stayed in Leningrad two days and what a feeling of uneasiness for us," he said. "But we had the chance to see the Russian national team play Finland at the Yubilev Ice Palace which seats about 12,000."

At this time Bob shuffled over some colorful post cards of the palace which looked like something out of a Disneyland picture book.

"I couldn't get over how clean it was and of course there is no parking problem because there are hardly any cars."

"Here it was, two national teams playing and the people just didn't seem to show any emotion. They acted like they were all in limbo or something."

The Russians appeared intense but they sure didn't display it.

"Except for when they scored a goal, they would all stand up and applaud and sit back down."

"The amazing thing I found was that before you got to your seat, there was a booth with a girl where you checked your coat. There was one of these for about every 100 people. So about some 12,000 people check their coats before entering the arena to watch the game."

"Could you imagine checking your coat to watch a game at Olympia? You have a hard enough time keeping it with you when it's on your back."

"There are no vendors in the Russian arena. With a small amount of refreshments sold in the corridors but nothing of an alcoholic nature," added Bob.

"You know, you just have to be impressed with their discipline. Even the players stay away from a violent aggressive style of hockey. In the two games I saw in Russia, I didn't see one stick broken."

"The Russians play like a well-oiled machine with limited body contact," added Griffin.

Bob stayed at the Astoria Hotel in Leningrad, the same site where Hitler had planned his victory party after a victory that never came.

Sight-seeing was on a limited basis, with the guests told of a radius that they were not to cross so Griffin concentrated on the activities around the ice rink.

"The people are so intent on watching the game -- there's just no other 'mikey mouse' stuff going on. You go to a game to observe and that's just the way it is."

Bob saw Russia beat Sweden, 5-1, and Finland, 6-2.

"Now right across the border the entire situation was just the opposite," said Griffin.

"Everything was colorful in Finland. People are hockey crazy and aren't afraid to show it. Little kids even walk around with Boston Bruins jerseys."

Bentley Baseballers Upend Andover, 9-4

No sooner had Bob Wasilewski taken off his ice skates than it was time to slip on the baseball spikes and make Bentley High and Wasilewski a winner again.

The Bulldog junior was selected to the All-Observer hockey lineup, scoring 22 goals and 19 assists, and was picked most valuable player in the George Gee suburban tournament.

With a quick change of uniforms, Wasilewski cracked out two home runs, a double and a single, collected five runs batted in, and scored three himself to account for eight of Bentley's tallies in the Bulldogs' opening baseball rout over Bloomfield Hills Andover, 9-4.

"Bob has to be and is the best ballplayer I have ever coached in my nine years at Bentley," said Bulldog mentor Marty Kozik, whose squad finished 5-8 in the Suburban Eight title.

Bentley plays at Thurston this afternoon (Wednesday), hosts Churchill tomorrow (Thursday) and entertains Franklin on Monday (April 9) before its Eight opener with Edsel Ford on Tuesday (April 10) on the Bulldog diamond.

The Bulldogs jumped to a three run lead over Andover in the first stanza.

Doug Macklon singled and stole second and third. Brent Boegler followed with a walk and stole second.

With one out, Wasilewski connected on a 310 foot drive over the left field wall for a three run home run, his first trip to the plate in '73.

The top of the third saw Wasilewski power another over the wall in left, this one a line shot down the third base line and Bentley was up 4-0.

Andover came back with one in the last of the third on a hit and two errors to make it 4-1 after three innings.

A walk to Dave Waldeck and a double by Mark Newell made it 5-1 in the fourth with Andover scoring twice in the bottom of the stanza on two walks a hit and an error, to make it 5-3.

A two out double by Wasilewski and single by Bruce Boudnek pushed the margin to 6-3 after five.

Andover added another in the sixth on a hit, sacrifice, walk and fielder's choice.

Kozik called on four of his hurriers in the opening clash of '73.

Boegler got the starting duty and picked up the win, retiring the six batters he faced all in a row, striking out one.

Dan Vizina followed with two innings of work, striking out three and Archie Welch worked the fifth when Andover collected three of its five hits.

Wasilewski finished with a perfect afternoon, four for four, and Kozik couldn't have thought of a more perfect way to start a new season.

Duprey worked the final two innings for Bentley, striking out the side in the last of the seventh.

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BOB WASILEWSKI Smashes Two Home Runs

The Bulldogs completed their offensive assault in the seventh with three tallies.

Dan Cramb and Tom Duprey walked, Wasilewski collected a bunt single and with the infield pulled in, Boudnek lashed a single into right to score Cramb and Duprey with Wasilewski scampering around to score on a throwing mishap.

appearing at PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER 525 FARMER STREET PLYMOUTH

APRIL 6, 1973 7:00-9:00 p.m.

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LETTERS to Sports Editor

My Kid Didn't Politics At Have A Chance! Franklin?

Sports Editor: Since this seems to be the week for baseball gripes, I wonder if I may sound off a bit.

While others are complaining about not getting their favorite man on the all-area first team, we are concerned about our kid not even getting a chance to play on the high school baseball team!

All winter, the boys have been looking forward to playing in the spring. They know the game -- play it very well -- have not missed a single practice session as the hard nosed coach insisted, having no consideration for boys attending driver's training classes and yet they were cut from the team.

One of my sons has a case full of trophies, played on tournament teams ever since he started in the Little League. He can play any position well including pitching and the coach has the nerve to tell us the boy is not qualified to play.

If the man was honest with us and admitted he had to make room on the team for friends of friends and favorites from his football team, I would admire his honesty but I cannot accept his decision on the basis that our boys are not good enough.

Oh yes, they say go out for sports. Thank you for listening.

Irate Farmington Parent

EDITOR'S NOTE: I am sure most parents who have their sons cut from the squad feel this way but one must remember that as an individual climbs, the steps become steeper and the competition tougher. Past trophies don't mean a thing.

Thank-You, Plymouth

Sports Editor: A note of thanks to the many Plymouth people who have sent words of congratulations to us regarding Churchill's basketball season. Their thoughtfulness to us at this time reflects not only good manners but fine sportsmanship. It is with pride that we speak of teaching in Plymouth and it's nice to know that old friendships are still intact.

PAT & DIANE MONTAGANO Churchill Basketball Coach

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