

Interviewed: May 7, 1976

Tape 68, 1

ASSISTANT COACH: Mr. John Henderson,
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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- 1943, started playing hockey in Toronto at the age of eight; played all minor hockey in Toronto; turned professional eventually with the Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club; was goal tender in 1951.
- Played one year in American league, then traded to Boston Bruins and played two years with them.
- From there went to Hershey American League for one year.
- Retired for nine years.
- 1964, came back and played professional on the West Coast in San Francisco for the San Francisco Seals in the old Western Hockey League.
- Half way through the year, was transferred to Victoria where we ended up winning the championships..."Which was a nice way to return to hockey as far as I was concerned".
- Next year was traded to Hershey where I finished out my pro-career and retired in 1970.
- 1973-74 was Assistant Coach with the Richmond Sockeye Hockey Club, along with Ron Matthews, a ex-Vancouver Canuck defenceman.
- We coached the team for one year, felt we did very well.
- Team ended up in third place, three points out of first place.
- This was done with all local hockey players, we brought no one in.
- This coming year will be head coach of the Richmond Sockeyes.
- Lorne Williams and Bruce Allison started the club.
- Their first coach was Bruno Pasqualotto.
- Bruno asked me to come out and help him with his goal tenders, so went out a couple of times to assist him never thinking I would be back as the Head Coach four years later.
- The maximum age of the players is twenty years as of January 1st.
- There is no minimum level of age; if they are good enough and big enough, we will take them at age fourteen.
- The league was set up three years ago to provide kids in the Greater Vancouver area, a chance to play competitive hockey, a good level of hockey and still be able to go to school while staying at home.

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RICHMOND SOCKEYE JUNIOR "A" HOCKEY

- This is called the Pacific Coast Junior Hockey League.
- The reason this league was formed was once the boys reached seventeen there was nowhere for him to play, so they either had to go out of the city to play hockey or quit altogether.
- There are a lot of boys in this age group that still want to play hockey.
- Mentions one of the problems the club had was not supported by the local people.
- You got most of the mothers and fathers coming out and maybe a hundred other people and that was it.
- Feels people are missing a lot by not coming out.
- You hear people crying about the kids of today and the troubles they get into but yet they didn't want to support them, and yet we're keeping about 150 kids off the streets by playing hockey.
- It helps the kids to have people out there cheering for them; it spurs them on to play better hockey and it's good for their ego.
- In our league, there are six teams with 20 - 25 kids in each team.
- In Richmond, am happy to say there are no bad apples. Really high calibre boys, that is something we insist on. The discipline is never a problem; the dedication is there and more often than not, they are good students as well.
- In Richmond, practise three times a week and play twice a week, this is higher than the average in the league.
- Lorne Williams provides them with one or two extra nights of practise time that you would normally get in the other teams.
- Very much a problem in getting ice time...the demand for getting ice time is extremely high and that's the reason kids are getting up at four or five in the morning.
- Lorne Williams has been fortunate enough to get ice time when it doesn't affect the boys at all; such as school home-work or going out in the evening.
- Practise: Normally from 6 - 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday nights and Sunday morning from 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Games: 8 - 10:30 during the week. There are three periods of twenty minutes each and two twenty minutes intermissions.

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- Equipment: Richmond is very fortunate because Lorne Williams provides 90% of it which is not the case in other teams. He provides under-wear, shin pads, garter belts, goal pads and even skates.
- The kids wear out about one pair of skates per year.
- The only thing these kids pay is "sweat".
- There is no registration fee.
- These kids work hard and they like to work hard, and there is no complaining about it, they put a lot of effort in it and a lot of dedication.

APPROXIMATE COST TO EQUIP A BOY FOR HOCKEY

Skates	\$120.00	a pair
Shin Pads	40.00 - \$50.00	a pair
Under Stockings	1.00	a pair
Stockings over Shin Pads	8.00 - 10.00	a pair
Athletic Support	10.00	
Pants	50.00 - 60.00	a pair
Shoulder Pads	30.00	a pair
Elbow Pads	25.00	a pair
Gloves	50.00	a pair
Helmet	25.00	
Team Sweater	30.00	
Face Mask	75.00	
Sticks (wholesale)	7.50	(each player uses about 144 sticks per year)
Goalies' Leg Pads	130.00	(there are 2 goal tenders so it's \$260.00)

- Goalies mask in our league are now compulsory.
- Says stitches are not serious, in the hockey business they always say "If you can stitch the fellow up, he's not hurt".
- When a boy does get a cut which requires three or four stitches, they don't freeze it, they just take you in and sew you up like you would

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darn a sock.

- We in the league have instigated some rules to hopefully reduce possibilities of any serious injuries. For example, you can not touch the puck with your stick above the shoulder.
- This way no one is going to bring the stick up to hit the puck and hit someone in the face, or hit them in the head with the stick.
- It is compulsory to wear a helmet in our league.
- Most of the boys wear teeth guards over their mouth.
- Most of the players that lose their teeth is by being hit in the mouth with a stick.
- With the goal tenders, it's by being hit in the mouth by the puck.

Junior "A" League Teams:

Coquitlam Comets	Surrey Stampeders
Vancouver Junior Canucks	No-West Caps (North Shore)
Kerisdale Couriers	Richmond Sockeyes

- Discusses the coaching of teams and the coaches' job.
- Won only one semi-final game of the league so far.
- Played forty games last year.
- Had 28 wins, 2 or 3 ties, and about 10 losses.
- The year I was Assistant Coach we lost out to Surrey Stampeders four games to one.
- The same happened this year but to Junior Vancouver Canucks, four games to one.
- It is hard to develop a competitive team when you are just taking from a select area.
- These other teams do get players from outside their own area which Richmond does not.
- Everyone comes up from the Richmond Minor League.
- The league itself has insurance on every player.

Ice Costs: \$40.00 @ hour.....at 3 hours or \$120.00 @ night.

- 1975-76 Richmond Sockeyes went to Anchorage, Alaska, for two exhibition games.

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- 1975-76 Lorne Williams brought in a league team from Spruce Grove, Alberta, which were league champions last year and this year.
- Team colors are black, white and red.
- Stress the need for young hockey players to finish their education.
- Richmond Sockeyes have trophies donated by various business men in Richmond, who are voted on by the fan, some by the players and some by the league.
- Last year all the boys received a blazer so that they could come to the games in a shirt, tie and blazer and all look the same.
- The thing we insist on is the boys come to games neat and clean.
- They are not representing just themselves by the hockey club, and we set a standard they must meet.
- We have a trainer, Harry Minns, and an equipment manager, Bill Knight.
- Harry Minns as trainer, not only looks after injuries but also fixes and repairs equipment, he looks after the boys.
- Harry also looks after coaches sometimes because the coaches get exasperated so he talks to him and cools him down.
- He's a "Jack-of-all-Trades" and a big asset to the club.
- Referees are paid; they are assigned by the British Columbia Hockey Association which is a arm of the Canadian Hockey Association.
- They go to a hockey school every year and they are rated as how well they do and are assigned leagues within their own area of living.
- The club owners pay the referees.
- More often than not, the calibre of referee has not kept up to the calibre of hockey unfortunately.
- We have one referee and two linesmen.
- Referees get approximately \$35.00 per game and linesmen get \$15.00 to \$20.00 per night.
- One of the biggest problems in the club is the parents getting involved with the coaching of the team.
- The boys get very confused by their parents telling them to play the game one way and their coach telling him another way.