

RICHMOND JUNIOR A SOCKEYESInterviewed: April 22, 1976Tape 67, 24MANAGING DIRECTOR: Mr. Lorne Williams

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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Started playing hockey at 12 years old in Winnipeg in 1942.
- Explains the different levels he went through.
- At eighteen, signed a "C" form for the Montreal Canadians.
- Names some of the famous players who played with him at that time.
- Didn't finish junior year (had a bad year) and was dropped.
- Played intermediate hockey around Winnipeg and Pine Falls.
- Then went into senior hockey in the States.
- In 1952 signed again a "C" form with the New York Rangers, but had to quit because of his wife's illness.
- Always played as a goalie.
- Had to quit hockey because of a nose operation.
- Tells some of the mistakes young kids make today: they figure they're going to become N.H.L. hockey players and they don't want to further their education.
- Came to Steveston in 1952 and played hockey with Richmond Intermediate team.
- From 1957 to 1970 didn't have anything to do with hockey.
- Then people around asked him to come out to coach an intermediate team, which became the Fraser Arms Canucks.
- Mentions the different people associated with the team.
- Explains how the Junior "A" Sockeyes got started.
- The Junior A Hockey League was founded in 1972-73.
- Before this all there was, was B. C. Juniors which was controlled by the Western Canada league.
- The leagues that were formed here included: Nor-West Caps; Coquitlam Comets; Surrey Stampeeders and Richmond Sockeyes.
- Live in Richmond so I use all Richmond boys "I don't say we are going to stay on that level but we just can't seem to get by the semi-finals"
- These were boys who were coming out of the Midgets...the ages are from 17 to 21 years.
- Last year B. C. Juniors wouldn't play our league as they felt we were not good enough (a lot of politicing going on).

- Last year our league made the finals and was beat out by the Bellingham Blazers, which was quite a thrill.
- There never was any problems in getting boys to play hockey because they went from Junior "B" to the Junior "A" level.
- Explains the difference between "A" and "B" teams.
- We have pretty well all the same players now as we had when we started the club..."It's been beautiful!"
- I believe in running a team like a pro-hockey club.
- I spend more money on equipment than am supposed to according to league constitution.
- By the league constitution you are supposed to supply sweaters, socks and helmets.
- I, myself, dress the team the way that supposed to be dressed up, such as padding and sticks.
- There is registration fee for the boy to pay to belong to other club.
- Discusses the talent of the boys on this club.
- Always have problems getting ice time.
- The team plays forty league games during the season.
- In September to get into shape, the team practises four times a week then during the season, we practise three times a week plus two games a week.
- Ice is very expensive, forty dollars an hour.
- In Richmond training camp, ice alone was sixteen-hundred dollars.
- Practise ice was around another four-thousand dollars a season.
- The contract I have with junior hockey the arena gets 20% of the gate.
- Each team must have a light and dark uniform.
- The team colours are red, black and white.
- We have an equipment manager who looks after all the gears and responsible for them.
- He starts at 4:30 p.m. and by the time the game is over and the equipment is put away, it's around 1:00 a.m.
- We supply him with a truck which has "Richmond Sockeyes" written on it.
- Talks about Bill Knight, their equipment manager.
- From our team the boys can go to "Western Canada" which is the top team.
- There are boys on this team who will be going to "Rookie" camp.
- Our top scorer this year was fifteen years old.

- Discusses some of the problems the clubs had with coaches.
- Mentions "Long John Henderson".
- One of the biggest problems is with parents: parents usually feel that their kids are better than what they really are.
- We feel that we have had very good coaches.
- Speaks on Doug Morrison, possible N.H.L. material.
- Believes education is very important.
- Discusses the different trophies.
- There is a trophy that the fans vote on..."The Most Popular Player", which is given out every year...this year it was won by Jay Rumley.
- This trophy is donated by the Fraser Arms Hotel.
- We had a Fraser Arms trophy for conduct on and off ice, which will go to both our goalies; trophy is also for leadership, sportsmanship and dedication.
- We also have a trophy donated by Champion Sports for "Rookie of the Year" which will go to Doug Morrison.
- We have a Awards Dinner every year which the parents come to...we sell tickets for it and we break even every year.
- There are usually 250 people that come to this.