



Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Ashley Gandy and the Panago Tween B ringette team skated against the Quesnel Tween B squad during the Joy Hoffman Memorial Ringette Tournament on the weekend. Panago finished the event with a 1-2 record, its lone win a 9-6 decision against Quesnel. In its other games, Panago lost 9-3 to Terrace and 11-3 to Quesnel. Yvonne Stolk led Panago's offence in the tournament with four goals and two assists.

Diggers find winning enjoyable

by JASON PETERS
Citizen staff

Prior to the Joy Hoffman Memorial Ringette Tournament, the White Spruce Diggers had never before played a game as a full team. Now, they have played three and won three.

The Diggers, a local novice team, went a perfect 3-0 at the annual Joy Hoffman tournament, played Friday through Sunday at the Coliseum and Kin Centre. First, the Diggers beat Quesnel White 7-4. Next, they outscored Terrace 10-8. In their final game, they had just enough offensive production to get past Quesnel Blue 10-9.

"Every one of those little girls and boys played their hearts out," said White Spruce coach Grant Rerick.

"They were just dead-dog tired after every game. They did everything they could to win."

The weekend record for the Diggers is even more impressive considering their relative inexperience. The team consists mainly of novice players (ages 8-9) but also features four bunnies, who are just seven years old. The four seven-year-olds on the roster are Nicholas Bernier, Megan Hickey, Kelsey MacDonald and Riley Brennan. Two other team members — Chase Pidherny and Hannah Maidment — are in their first seasons of ringette.

For each game, the Diggers used a different goaltender. Bernier wore the pads in the first game, Cassie Rerick was between the pipes for Game 2 and Hickey did the ring-

stopping in the third game.

"We traded off, just to give everyone experience at goal-tending," coach Rerick said. "They all played extremely well."

The Diggers were one of two Prince George teams that went through the Hoffman tournament with an undefeated record. The other was the P.G. Belle squad, which recorded 10-2 and 8-2 victories against P.G./Quesnel Open and downed the P.G. Junior All-Stars 7-3. Players on the Belle team range from 16 to 18 in age.

"They are really a strong team this year," said Ray Dussault, president of the Prince George Ringette Association. "We're really hoping the best for them."

In total, 45 games were played in the 27-team tournament.

"We had some very, very high quality ringette played," Dussault said. "Everything went off without a hitch. It was quite a fun weekend."

Hoffman, who passed away in 1992, was a major force behind Prince George and provincial ringette for 15 years. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the Northern B.C. Ringette League in 1985.

The first Joy Hoffman tournament was played in 1990. It became a memorial event in 1992.

The next tournament action for local players is the Quesnel Goldpan tournament, slated for early January.

On Friday at the Coliseum (6:30 p.m. start) the P.G. Belles will face off against the P.G. Junior All-Stars.