

Padre's Corner

Easter faith - personal and alive



Maj Ed Wiley

Not long ago, the most significant celebrative event in the Christian Faith was observed - Easter Sunday. On this day every year, Christians around the world gather to worship with a sense of joy and thanksgiving mixed with a tinge of excitement and anticipation of celebrating something “special,” even “unusual.”

Jesus Christ – a prophet and teacher, a healer and saviour, who had died upon a cross and was buried in a borrowed tomb – ROSE FROM THE DEAD! Upon this central fact rests the foundation of Christian belief and practice. Jesus died, but all the powers of sin and evil could not restrain the life-giving force of God’s love on that Easter Sunday morning when Jesus ROSE TO LIFE! As the jubilant Easter hymn proclaims: “I serve a risen saviour... you ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.”

A unique and powerfully influential characteristic of Christianity is that we serve a LIVING LORD. Faith in Jesus as a Living Lord is something that is *personal* and it is *relational*. You can’t remain anonymous and just “blend into the crowd” when it comes to celebrating Easter. Jesus is a *personal* Saviour whose very life and pur-

pose was to make possible a living *relationship* as an advocate and Lord and friend to each of us. Human nature being what it is, we often do not fully appreciate things of true value – like matters of rights or freedoms or religious faith - until they are taken away from us.

Back in the days of the Soviet Republic, it was reported that on one Easter morning, thousands of Christian worshippers, braving recrimination from State Police, had crammed into an Orthodox Church to observe the Easter celebration. Soviet authorities, however, had decided to use the occasion to promote Communist nationalism and its official atheism.

State officials ran the proceedings and droned on while the Christian priests and obedient masses listened sullenly. At the conclusion of the final speech and as everyone was about to stand and leave, a lone voice from near the back of the church shouted out the traditional Easter greeting to the gloomy gathering – “HE IS RISEN!” And from the throats of thousands of Christian believers jumping to their feet rose a deafening Easter response: “HE IS RISEN INDEED!”

At Easter, we gather not merely to conform to religious ritual nor to share in quaint traditions and holiday festivities; at a much deeper and more profound level, Easter challenges us to celebrate a *personal* and a *living* Lord. May this Easter Season be a time of outward celebration and perhaps inward re-assurance, in the Christian message of conquering life and hope: “HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!”



Despite having significantly fewer players than the other teams, the 19 Wing Silver Totems performed well at the CF Nationals. Goaltender Cpl Pascal Senecal was picked to the CF National All-Star team, while Maj Sean Duffy was presented with the CF dedication award, which is given to the player, coach or official who best exemplifies dedication to CF Sports and CF Hockey.

Silver Totems play well at Nationals

Needless to say, when you decide to dress your coach at the Canadian Forces Old Timers National Hockey championship, you know you are going to have a short bench. Unperturbed, Coach Dix agreed to suit up, and he brought his gear down to Borden to help us fill the bench prior to joining the Men’s Team in Halifax as Coach the following week.

Old Timers is a relative term (35 and older). Dix turned 50 during the tournament, trying to keep up to the likes of the Ottawa Generals. But he did a nice job - some say he didn’t look a day over 40. Besides this, for Dix, age is something that doesn’t matter, unless you are a cheese.

Despite the short bench, Comox put its two lines against everyone else’s three with a typical Air Force “can-do” attitude.

Game 1 of 4 in the Round Robin saw us start Sunday against the Quebec Region champion Ottawa Old Generals. Unfortunately, the game turned into a 3-2 heartbreaker after a third period Silver Totems two-on none went off the Ottawa crossbar and came back the other way to allow Ottawa to “score” a contested goal (kicked in) for the winner with four minutes remain-

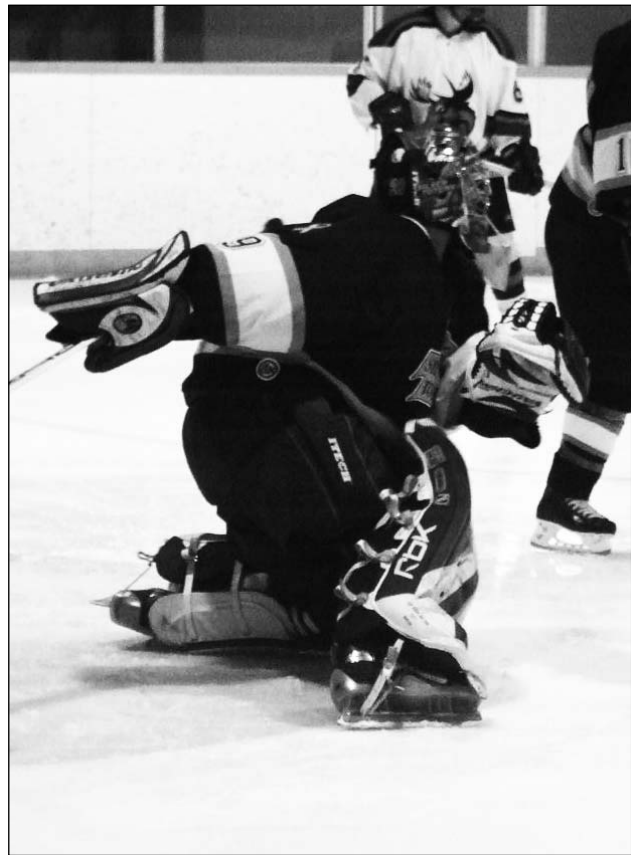
ing.

Monday was a two-game day for the two-line Totems. Game one was against the Prairie Region Champion, 17 Wing Winnipeg. It started out well with a 2-1 first period lead, but the wheels came off in the 2nd, and the game wound up a 7-3 loss.

The evening game was the one we’d suspected all along would be our must-win game through the Round Robin at Borden. It was the one we’d been “saving our legs for” to confront the Ontario Region Champion Trenton Flyers.

For what seemed like the first time in the tourney, the penalties were called evenly for the Totems, and the start of the third period saw it 3-3. But the Totems had to start the period off on the penalty kill, when MCpl Barry Hewer broke the back of the Trenton team with a short hander, his third of the game, and helped Comox coast to a 6-4 victory to all but ensure a semi-final spot. Barry was fittingly selected Game MVP.

The Tuesday game, against the eventual National Champion Halifax team was a 3-1 loss, with too many Halifax power plays and a foreshadowing of the



Cpl Pascal Senecal was chosen as the goaltender for the CF National All-Star team. Congratulations, Pascal!

semi-final match against the same team, which Comox lost 5-1 after lopsided calls put Comox in the sin bin for four Halifax power play goals.

For the first time this decade, the 19 Wing Silver Totems took home some hardware. Goaltender Cpl Pascal Senecal was picked to the CF National All-star team as the goaltender, while Maj Sean Duffy was

presented with the CF Dedication Award, which is given to the player, coach or official who best exemplifies dedication to CF Sports and CF Hockey. Congratulations, Sean and Pascal!

The team would like to dedicate this year’s success to the many Totems players who couldn’t make it to “the Show,” and especially to MCpl Tony Street.



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