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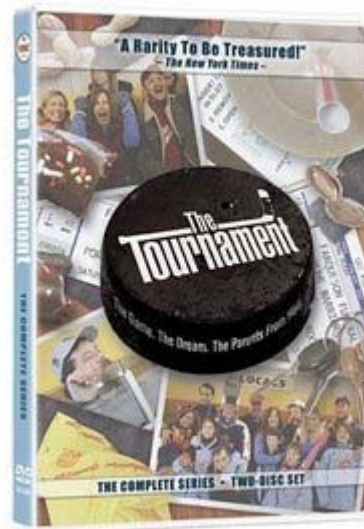
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The Tournament (Mockumentary Canadian TV Mini-Series/Hockey)

Picture: C+ Sound: C+
Extras: C+ Episodes: C+

Mockumentaries are a somewhat hot cycle, but they have not become the rage and many are just plain dumb. The Canadian TV series **The Tournament** lasted two seasons and took the country's love of hockey to looney new directions, as seen through a dysfunctional family that may be obsessing just a bit more than they should about the sport.



Though not a laugh riot, the show is amusing and has a certain energy that makes all the situations tenable. While the case names SCTV/Christopher Guest send-up feature films, the one show this actually reminded me of was **The Red Green Show** (reviewed elsewhere on this site) in its unique absurdity. Canadians seem to see some things with less of a BS factor than their U.S. and U.K. counterparts, but also with a practicality that in itself highlights that something is obviously wrong and the only way to become a victim is if you are dumb enough to deny it.

That serves the series well enough and though two seasons may stretch the idea out a bit too much for most, the show is liable to find a cult following outside of Canada now that it is hitting DVD. This 2-DVD version includes uncut footage.

The 1.33 X 1 image is soft, but colorful and solid enough to be enjoyed, though noise can be annoying in shots. The Dolby Digital 2.0 sound is simple stereo at best and combination passable. The only extra is interviews with the cast, crew and guest stars, but it gives clarity to the culture and production that will enhance the show for fans.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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