

# Gould receives Illinois State University athletic scholarship

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by Lucy Brown  
Mercury reporter

Opeongo High School graduating athlete Sylvia Gould has received a full athletic scholarship valued at over \$7,000 from Illinois State University.

Sylvia recently won a gold medal in the javelin throw at the Ontario provincial track and field finals, plus a third in discus and fourth in the shot put.

Illinois State scouts Joyce Morton and Bob Keefe spotted Sylvia at the OFSAA finals and June 13 Sylvia and parents Arthur and Phyllis Gould were flown down to the campus at Normal, Illinois.

Sylvia was impressed with the facilities at the campus and is looking forward to her move south in the fall.

The scholarship will pay for tuition, residence, books and other related expenses for her first year in the teaching university's four-year program. She plans to major in physical education.

The 19-year-old Foresters Falls athlete has made her mark in track and field ever since grade eight when she first became involved.

Her coach throughout high school has been Tom May. He has watched her advance from being third in Renfrew County in grade nine to best in Ontario in her graduating year.

"She's an outstanding athlete," said May, noting that although her field events involve strength, speed and skill are more important.

Sylvia agrees. "You can be as strong as a horse but if you don't have the technique it won't go anywhere," she said.

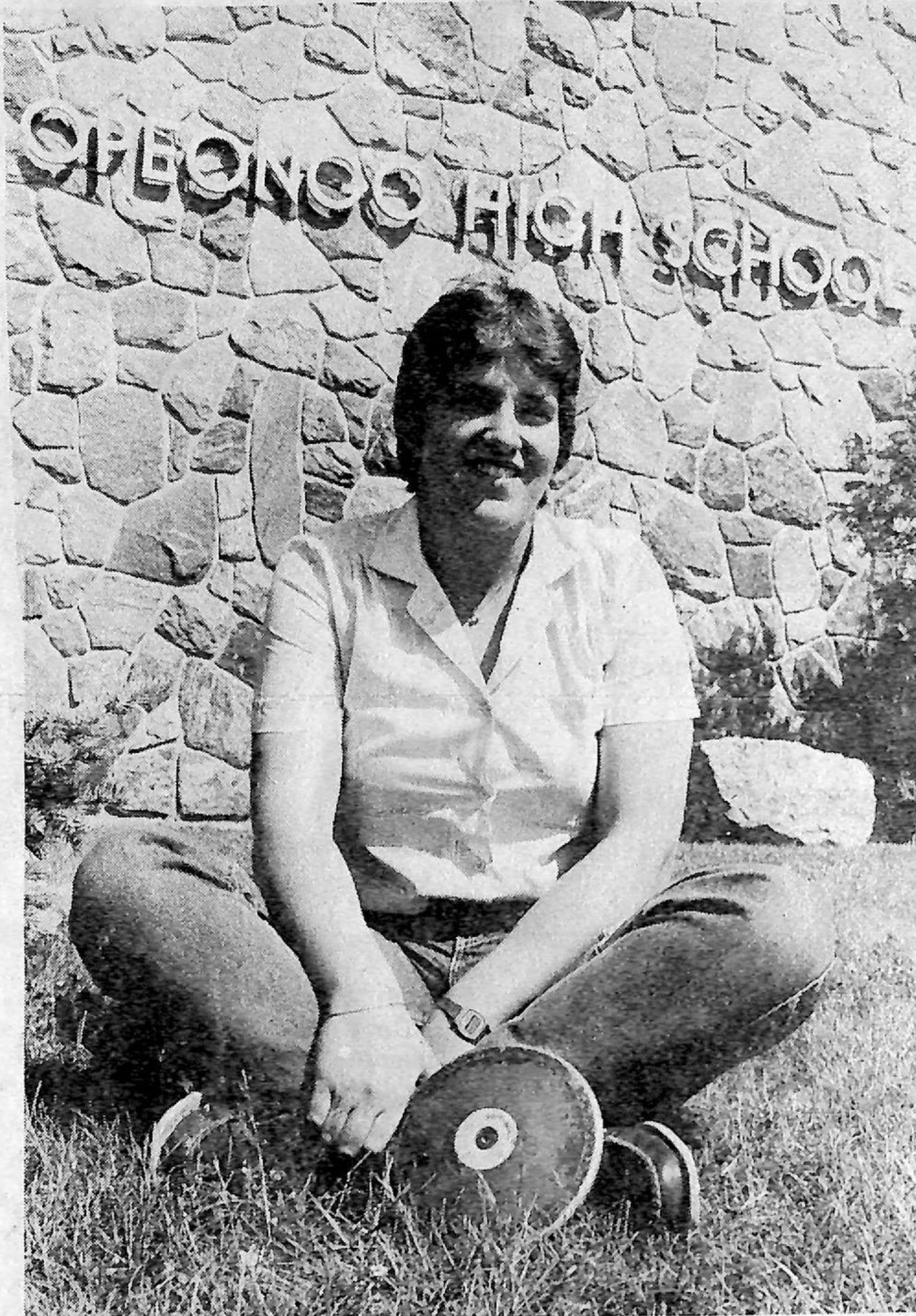
One of her key attributes is versatility. She is skilled in the javelin, discus and shot put. She will likely focus her skills at university in the javelin and discus events, which involve more skill than strength.

Sylvia was surprised and delighted with the offer, though she has contemplated attending university in the United States for the past year.

She plans to move late in August and begin training early in September. Track and field meets begin in January and there will be a total of about 20 events for her to attend.

"Overall I think I'll like it. I'll be doing something I like," said Sylvia.

After coming to Opeongo High School from Ross Mineview Public School, Sylvia set a county record for the discus, placed second in the shot put and was third in the javelin in her first year. At the OFSAA finals she



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placed sixth in the discus and was named the most promising junior girl.

In grade 10 she placed first in all three of her events at both the Renfrew County and Ottawa Valley levels to earn the title of junior girls champion. She finished sixth again in the discus at OFSAA.

In grade 11 Sylvia set an Ottawa Valley record for the discus and won firsts in her other two events. She also clinched her second consecutive Ottawa Valley championship title.

In grade 12 Sylvia achieved first-

place finishes in the javelin, shot put and discus at the Renfrew County and Ottawa Valley track and field meets. She placed sixth in both the discus and shot put that year at OFSAA.

Prior to winning a gold at the OFSAA finals in her graduating year, Sylvia had three first-place finishes at the Renfrew County meet and set records for both the discus and javelin at the Ottawa Valley meet.

Sylvia holds a total of six school, three county and three Ottawa Valley titles.