

# Valley Athlete Given College Scholarship

BY PETER LAPINSKIE  
Of The Observer

COBDEN — Sylvia Gould shakes her head and wonders if it is all just a dream. Her long hours of hard work in track and field have paid off with a future she never thought possible.

For the past two years, Sylvia Gould has represented Opeongo high school in track and field as no athlete has done in the school's 17-year history. In this, her fifth and final year at the school, she wrote the final chapter to an illustrious track and field career. She was first in the county among senior girls in javelin, discus and shot put and set records in winning the javelin and discus events at the Ottawa Valley championships. At the all-Ontario meet, she won the senior girls' javelin event with a toss of 42.16 metres, was third in discus and fourth in the shot.

While competing at the all-Ontario meet in Etobicoke, Sylvia caught the eye of Joyce Morton, ladies' track and field coach at Illinois State University. Ms. Morton was at the meet to scout prospective athletes for her team next year, and while Sylvia was an unknown quantity to her, she soon became interested in the Opeongo student after watching her winning javelin throw and displaying her varsatility with strong showings in her other two events.

A meeting with Sylvia and her parents, Arthur and Phyllis Gould of Foresters Falls, was quickly arranged and Ms. Morton offered to fly the family down to the university. There she took Sylvia and her parents on a tour of the huge campus which covers over 700 acres and offered Sylvia a full athletic scholarship.

"I was a little scared about accepting at first," Sylvia recalled, adding that her parents were also skeptical. However, after being reassured by Ms. Morton the Gould family accepted the offer and now Sylvia is preparing to compete in track and field events next year against some of the best athletes in the world.

"In one way it's scary, but I'm really excited about it and I'm looking forward to going now," Sylvia said.

## HIGHLY SKILLED

While Sylvia's pathway to a scholarship seemed obvious to many, the soft-spoken young lady from Foresters Falls held little hope of achieving that goal. She had written to several universities but the return correspondence was scarce, and she was planning to get her post-secondary education in Canada before Illinois State jumped into the picture.

What makes Sylvia Gould one of the most prolific track and field athletes the county has ever produced? According to Tom May, the man who has coached her for five years at Opeongo,

it is her flawless technical style that makes her a winner.

"Sylvia is technically skilled to a high level in three separate events, which is a rarity in this era of specialists," Mr. May said. He noted that she was usually the smallest girl at the all-Ontario meets she attended but came out on top because "her technical perfection and leg speed gave her the edge over the bigger, stronger girls," said Mr. May.

In university, Sylvia will be competing against young ladies three and four years older than she is, some of them on or training for spots on Olympic teams. She is not intimidated by this fact and knows she can become even better.

"I will train harder than I ever had in my life and will work on those areas of my development that need it the most to remain competitive," Sylvia acknowledged.

It is rare any young athlete from Renfrew County gets an athletic scholarship to an American university for anything other than hockey. Sylvia Gould is an exception to the rule - a rare breed who could be a thoroughbred.



SYLVIA GOULD



One of the most successful athletes to don the green and gold at Opeongo has been Sylvia Gould. For the second year in a row she won the Outstanding Athlete Award and later on in the week won the provincial championship in the senior girls javelin. *July 24/85*

## The best in Ontario

Sylvia Gould throws the javelin just about as well as any high school student in the province, and she proved it on the weekend.

Gould a grade 13 student at Opeongo High School, completed a brilliant high school track and field career as she won the senior girls javelin event at the OFSSA Championships in Toronto.

Her throw of 42.16 metres topped all others in her division and established her as one of the premier athletes to wear OHS colours.

Although Gould did not win either of her two other events, the shotput and discus, she did very well.

She spun the discus 38.60m which earned her a third-place finish while her mark of 11.40m in the shotput placed her fourth.

Despite competing against older athletes in the open steeplechase, Terry Burwell finished 11th in the finals. It appears that Burwell, who is in grade 11, has a bright future ahead of him on the track.

He set an Opeongo record in a heat leading up to the finals by registering a time of 6:05.14 minutes.

Ross Stoppa also made it to the finals in the midget boys discus and came in seventh with a good throw of 43.56m.

In one of its heats, the girls 4x400m (open) relay team smashed an Opeongo record with a time of 4:10.7 minutes. Team members are Shelley Burwell, Rachel Valiquette, Connie Afelski and Kelly McHale.

McHale also competed in the junior girls 400m race and Burwell was in the midget girls 400m and 800m runs, but unfortunately neither made the finals though both ran well.

The same sturdy effort was put forth by Steven Cartman in the junior boys javelin, and Lynda Marquardt in the midget girls discus.

*July 24/85*

## Sylvia Gould named to Canadian team

Opeongo's High School's athlete of the year, Sylvia Gould, has been named to the Canadian National Junior Championship team.

Sylvia, who excels in javelin, discus and shotput events, placed second in the juniors at the Canadian National event in Victoria, B.C. on July 13.

"By the virtue of that, Sylvia has been named to the national team," said Opeongo High coach Tom May. "She will be competing against athletes from the U.S., Mexico and Japan."

Sylvia is presently attending training camps in Victoria.