

# Comic, CFL stars help launch Centennial drive

Imagine a pole vaulter taking a 200 yard approach and leaping to a European record of 14 1/2 feet with the aid of a pole only three feet long. Impossible you say?

Well Monday night's Sportsmen's Dinner audience thought so too and that's what finally led to the revelation the special guest of the night wasn't really who he said he was, world pole vault champion Rick Benjamins, but nationally syndicated cartoonist and satirist Ben Wicks!

Up until the waning moments of the interesting program that followed the dinner, everybody in the auditorium except once Jack Carpenter thought they were chatting, shaking hands with and getting autographs from one of the world's greatest athletes.

Even Toronto Argonaut quarterback Greg Barton, who sat at the same table as Wicks, roared in laughter, when Carpenter finally had to let the cat out of the bag. Wicks' side-splitting interview about his pole vaulting experiences capped off an exciting evening, arranged by the Acton Centennial Commission to launch the drive to publicize Acton's Centennial in 1974.

Stars attend  
Joining Wicks and Barton in mingling with the crowd of 100 parents and youngsters were four stalwarts from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, all-CFL cornerback Garney Henley, all-star tackle Bill Danychuk, guard John Hohman and backup quarterback John Manel, University of Guelph basketball star Wayne Morgan, CFL photographer John Nelson of Waterloo and Scarboro's world famous barber shop quartet the "Treble Makers".

Celebrities sat at circular tables with their admirers for the roast beef dinner, then were called to the platform individually, where they talked football with the emcee and answered questions tossed at them by eager youngsters.

Although astounded when Carpenter announced Acton had formally applied to the CFL to

important game than the C.N.E. pasture, where Argos play their home games.

Shows pictures  
First on the program, CFL photographer John Nelson shared his secrets with interested amateurs in the audience and passed around some of his excellent action shots for examination.

Good-natured ribbing among the players helped keep the atmosphere informal, a situation which pleased both audience and guests. Target for jibes about his

lack of playing time, Manel suggested he might like to take up photography, since he watches most of the games from the sidelines anyway!

Ribbed about the extraordinarily large size of his head, Hohman, who usually uses it to cut guys like Marshall Shirr and John Lagrone in two, conceded he has a stronger jawline, but considerably more brains than his teammate Danychuk squeezes into his helmet.

Danychuk, who took time out from preparatory work in setting

up his new dining lounge and health club "The End Zone", due to open in Burlington soon, denied reports his business partner Angelo Mosca took up professional wrestling to extend his "mean guy" image.

"There's good money in wrestling," Danychuk said. "Much more than there is in playing football!"

Funny story  
The slightly built Henley, who is just three short of the CFL lifetime interception record of 60 held by Don Sutherland, told of the

day he first arrived in Hamilton, after being cut by the powerful Green Bay Packers.

"There was a track meet going on at Civic Stadium the same day I arrived," Henley reported. "When I walked into the dressing room coach Jim Trimble directed me to the room where the track men were dressing!"

Later "Jungle" Jim confessed, "When I first saw this skinny kid with glasses and running shoes walk into the room, I thought Lombardi was playing a joke on me."

capabilities. However, he indicated he'll start working out soon in preparation for next season and forecast Argos will be in Hamilton to meet the best in the west on Grey Cup day.

During his college days at Tulsa University, Barton said he threw the football as much as four or five hours a day, even in the off season.

Best pair of hands he's ever seen on a receiver belong to tight end Charlie Sanders, a former teammate with the NFL Detroit Lions. Another Tulsa grad, Howard Twilley of the Miami Dolphins rates second.

The world famous "Treble Makers" scored a big hit with tunes like "Mr. Bass Man", "Oklahoma" and a hilarious spoof entitled "Pollution".

Ab Sharpe, R.R. 4 Rockwood, was the lucky winner of both autographed footballs, when Barton and Henley pulled two separate tickets bearing his name from the drum in succession.

Girls from Joyce Carpenter's Acton School of Dance arrived half way through the program to give a rousing Centennial cheer "Come on Acton for 100 years more."

Autograph seekers had a field day chatting with the stars after the program.

Organizer Jack Carpenter said the evening successfully launched the '74 Centennial drive.

"It was huge success in that it was really a promotional deal. I hope the commission can maintain the standard of excellence and work throughout the next three years," he said.

"We had fantastic co-operation from both guests and audience during and after the dinner. The players' candid comments and natural conversation made it an easy and enjoyable evening of entertainment," the emcee offered.

Al Van Heften of Guelph provided excellent sound equipment for the evening. Films and slides of CFL action were also shown.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER for the audience and visitors. Sharing the comments are Greg Barton, Toronto Argos Quarterback and his favourite receiver Garney Henley of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Wayne Morgan U. of G. Basketball centre uses the camera angle to match the height of guest of honor, nationally acclaimed cartoonist Ben Wicks. Ben outshone the other sports stars with his obvious prowess as a

pole vaulter. He won the hearts of all present with his ready wit and crazy humour. Only Ben could get dizzy spells and nose bleeds, when high jumping. His 200 yard approach to jump 13 feet and a masterful effort to vault with a two foot pole was so believable, he could easily have been voted sportsman of the year.—(Staff Photo)

## A-B's climb to top rung

First place in the Waterloo-Wellington novice league now belongs to Acton, thanks to a pair of clutch victories the local A-B's came up with on the weekend.

Trailing first place New Hamburg by three points, A-B's knocked off the fourth place Kitchener Komets 4-1 in Kitchener Saturday night, then travelled to New Hamburg Sunday afternoon and upset the league leaders 4-2.

Acton now has an impressive record of 13 wins, three losses and one tie, including two wins and a tie in four games against New Hamburg, the team they must face in the O.M.H.A. playoffs.

"Our third line salvaged everything for us in the New

Hamburg game," coach Barry Insoe commented.

The third unit, made up of George Brown, Shane Withers and Wade Vickery accounted for three of the four Acton goals. Brown scored twice and Withers once. Bert Post netted the other goal and captain Scott Malcolm, a tower of strength throughout the game, contributed three assists.

Acton's second line of Steve Van Der Eyken, Bert Post and Todd McKinley did an excellent checking job.

"We were two men short for six minutes and New Hamburg couldn't score," coach Insoe explained.

Chris Swetman played the first two period and part of the third in

the Acton nets. Derrick Neeley shut the burgers out for the final 10 minutes.

Scott Malcolm scored two goals and George Brown and Wade Vickery netted one apiece in the 4-1 win against Kitchener Saturday.

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TWO MILES WEST OF ACTON—SOUTH SIDE OF HIGHWAY

**Legion town league tallies**  
ATOMS—A third period goal by Rivilyn Kennedy from Mark Staley gave Brampton a 1-1 tie with Dixie. David Brown scored the Dixie goal unassisted in the first period.  
Weston defeated Guelph 3-1 on goals by Jeff Sargent, Ted James and Gordie McArthur. Gary Lumbers drew an assist on Sargent's goal. Mike Strong scored for Guelph.  
NOVICES—With Dean Boles scoring four goals and assisting on the fifth by Laurie Smith, Peterborough squeaked past Niagara Falls 5-4. Don Brouillard also earned a pair of assists for the Petes.  
Steve Lumbers fired a hat trick and Steve Tremblis tallied a single goal for the Flyers. Assists went to Rob Renshaw, Mike Dawson, Wayne Thomson and Tony Geng.  
Sparked by Mike Nicholls' hat trick, St. Catharines downed London 4-1. Steve Trotter also picked up a goal and an assist for the Black Hawks.  
Jim Upton scored the London goal with John Woodman assisting.  
Goalie Dennis Emond barred the door and Randy McIntyre and Nick Humeniuk took care of the scoring in Hamilton's 6-0 shutout victory over Oshawa. McIntyre and Humeniuk each scored three goals and one assist. Brian Hogan and Jeff Hamilton also drew assists for the victorious Red Wings.  
P.E.E. WEES—Springfield grabbed a 3-0 first period lead, then coasted to a 6-1 win over Cleveland. Brian Moore paced the Springfield attack with two goals. Cliff Britton, Greg Johnston, Ray Kingsmill and Ron Kuiken were solo shooters. Moore, Johnston, Kuiken, Simon Wilson and John Galt collected assists.  
Jim Matthews scored the Cleveland goal on a pass from Peter Brouwer.  
Ford Alton's five goal effort carried Rochester past Baltimore 7-5. Mark Hamilton and Mike Morris were the other Rochester marksmen. Top playmaker in the game was Norm Thornhill, who earned three assists. Frank Andrews collected a pair and Ford Alton notched one.

## Bants battle for W-W lead

Acton firefighters bantams return to action, after a 10 day layoff, when they host the league leading Elmira bantams at the community centre, Saturday afternoon at 3:30.

Firefighters were in first place, but Elmira snuck past them with two wins last week. Acton are tied for second place with New Hamburg, but can move back into a tie for first by beating Elmira Saturday. Firefighters also play in Elora, Monday night and return home to take on Orangeville, Tuesday, January 25 at 7.  
Waterloo-Wellington league bantam standings are listed below.

P W L T Pts GF GA

Elmira	15	9	2	4	22	57	36
ACTON	15	8	3	4	20	41	38
New Hamburg	17	9	6	2	20	60	59
Kitchener	14	9	5	0	18	58	28
Fergus	13	5	3	5	15	36	25
Orangeville	13	6	5	2	14	47	33
Elora	14	3	10	1	7	35	81
Erin	15	0	15	0	0	19	90

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**400 club winners**  
Lucky winners in last week's 400 club draw were, Andy Williams, Cam Fraser, Joan Ford, Grant Usher and Duac Anderson.

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