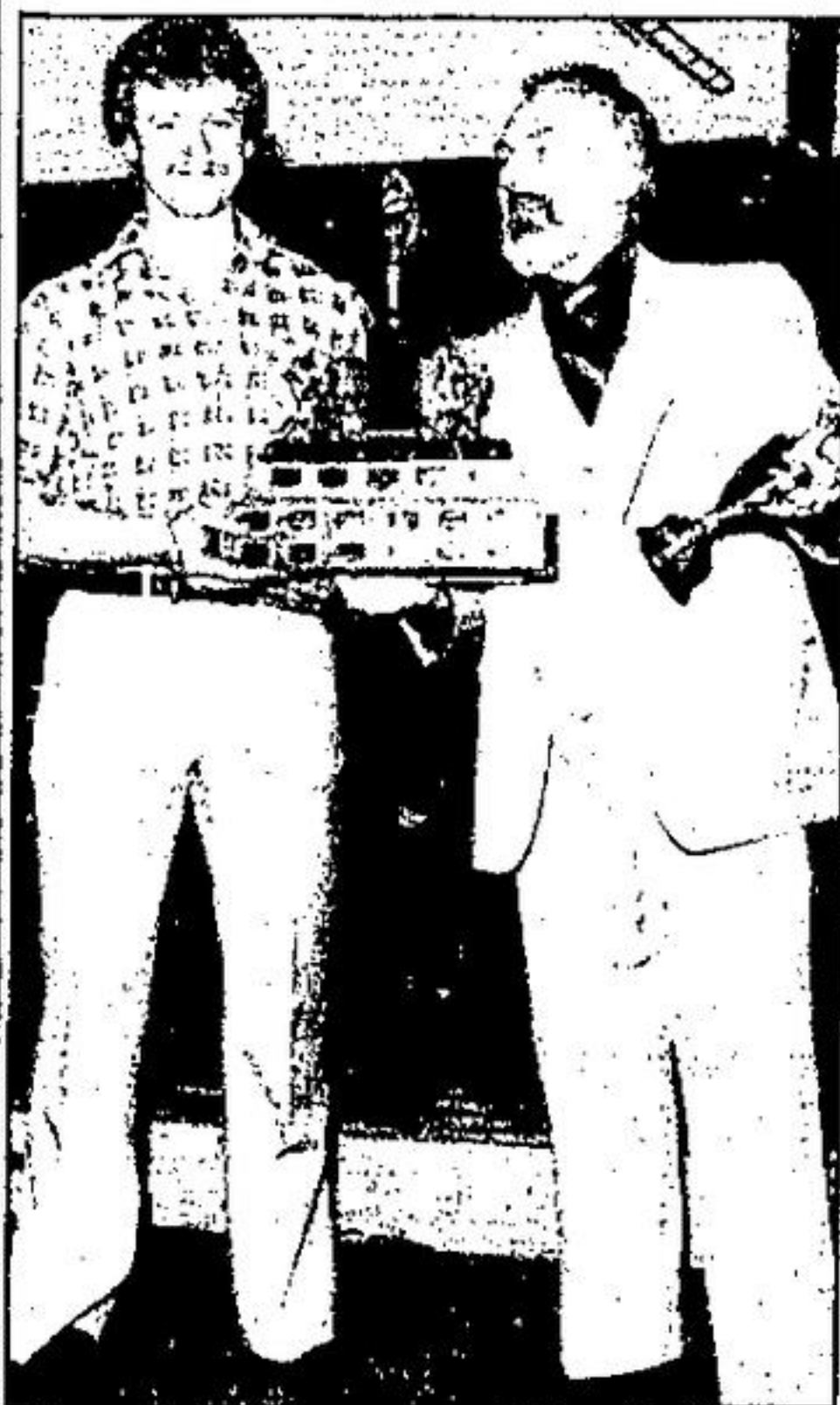


## Fields wins in shinny awards



Family Cleaner's sponsor Ed Wood, right, presents the Top Scorer trophy to Blow Press player Bill Field, left.



Ed Hillier, right, picks up the Lady Byng trophy for his brother Floyd during Friday's awards night. Ken Slaney presents the trophy.



Robin Incoe receives the Industrial hockey league's Vezina Trophy from George McPhail, centre, and Ken Slaney during the league's award night Friday.



Sponsor Don Perry, left, of Lakeview Centre presents Bruce MacPherson with the most valuable player trophy during the Industrial league's award dinner.

## Big-league match kicks off season

Tomorrow's soccer stars reached the big time Sunday, if only for an afternoon, as minor mosquito teams from Georgetown and Acton-Rockwood soccer clubs played to a 0-0 tie at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto.

The exhibition game kicked off both the Georgetown and Acton soccer seasons. It was played in front of a few hundred parents and fans, including Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy, at Exhibition Stadium prior to the National Soccer League's (NASL) match between the Toronto Blizzard and the Washington Diplomats.

The two minor mosquito teams took to the field at 1 p.m. Acton dominated the first half of the game, coming close to scoring on several plays, but were blocked by Georgetown's strong defensive unit.

In the second half, the teams were more evenly matched. Georgetown started working on their offensive effort and by the end of the game also had several golden scoring opportunities.

But time ran out before either team could connect.

They then met in centre field for post-game ceremonies and photographs.

By this time the stadium was filled with more than 18,000 soccer fans for the Blizzard match, although the weather turned damp and cold. They had come to see number 14 of the Diplomats, Johan Cruyff, a player many consider to be the best in the world.

But the Blizzard, specifically Canadian Mike McLennan, formerly of British Columbia, managed to stop Cruyff and win the game 1-0.

Ivan Luckacevic, who scored the goal for Toronto with just a few minutes remaining in the first half, was carried off the field in the second 45 minute frame with an injured ankle.

Eight boys from the Georgetown and Acton soccer clubs were used as ball boys during the contest, named Halton Hills Day at the Blizzard.

But what caught the eye of many boys were the Blizzard cheerleaders who also signed autographs, Frosty the Snowman and Old Man Winter.

Halton Hills Days at the Blizzard was sponsored by The Acton Free Press and The Georgetown Independent as well as the local soccer clubs.



Close, but no goal for the Acton-Rockwood mosquitos (light jersey's), during Sunday's exhibition match against Georgetown minor mosquitos in Toronto. The two teams faced each other prior to the NASL Blizzard-Washington Diplomat game at Exhibition Stadium. Georgetown and Acton tied 0-0. Blizzard won 1-0. It was Halton Hills Day at the Blizzard.



Off to Hawaii. Ted and Pat Curtis received their award after winning the annual 500 Club draw Saturday. Club organizer Harold Townsley congratulates Mr. Curtis. Travel agent Ted Tyler, right, was on hand to give the couple travel bags. Winning ticket seller Ron McKnight was happy for the couple. Second place winner was Ruth Poulter of Toronto. Marilyn MacEachern sold that ticket. The draw was held at the community centre.

## Rams raring to go

Mark May 12 on your calendar.

That's the evening the Rams lacrosse team play their first home game of their first season in their first oldtimers league. They play it at the Community Centre (game time 8 p.m.) and they play it against Toronto Beaches, one of the three teams in the newly-formed Ontario Oldtimers Lacrosse League.

The other team involved is Mississauga. The Rams Oldtimers are the same C club that withdrew from junior competition two years ago. Since then former players of the team have gotten together to play a few exhibition games.

They had a good team with a lot of talent, says coach and manager Howard Dwyer, but no league to play in.

Mississauga and Toronto Beaches were in similar predicaments, so the three of them joined forces in January to start the new league.

They will be adhering to the oldtimer league rules. That is, says Dwyer, a game with no hard contact.

"In lacrosse there has to be some bodily contact," he said, "but we're taking out all the rough stuff, such as pushing and shoving and cross-checking." He said the game is basically like oldtimers hockey. "Consequently it will be a wide-open game with lots of running and lots of shots," he continued.

"It will be a good fan game." Ticket prices incidentally, will be the same as when the Rams began operations several years ago. Adults will pay \$1, students 50 cents and children 25 cents.

Fighting is a no-no. If players are caught fighting they will be warming the bench for three games. If

they fight a second time, they are out forever.

Each team has their own referee; the league is using only one per game. It's cheaper that way.

"But lacrosse isn't as rough as it looks," assures Dwyer. "It's not rough at all if you're in shape."

They will be playing a 16-game schedule, starting May 6 when the Rams meet Toronto Beaches in their home rink. It will be the first meeting of the two, but the Rams have competed against Mississauga in an exhibition match last year - and beat them 7-4.

It's Toronto Beaches first year of operation and Mississauga's second. Mississauga started their season Sunday with an exhibition match against the Orangeville Seniors. Although they were dumped 15-12, Mississauga is shaping up to be a powerhouse team with 10 former professional players and Buffalo Sabre Rick Dunley.

Of course Dudley is tied up at the moment with Stanley Cup playoffs and it's doubtful the Rams will see him at all during the season.

The Rams have several top players of their own. Doug Taylor and John DeCourcy will be minding the nets. Taylor is a former Ram and Junior A Lakeshore Maple Leaf player. DeCourcy is a former Brumpton player and blocked for the Rams for two years as well.

Bob Turkosz is the local hero. He was the Rams top scorer for two years in a row, netting 132 goals in one year. He also played senior level lacrosse (the top league) in Fergus for three years and was their leading scorer too.

Brother Ron was the Rams top scorer for three years after Bob left. Mike Marcoux was the high (Continued on B2)

## Trainer uses horse sense, hard work to raise winners

When John Burns was 13 years old, he invested \$350 of his and his parents' money into a harness horse named J. R. Spencer.

Burns was a helper at a track near Collingwood and his parents, who were not wealthy, felt that John could handle some responsibility and perhaps make his days at the track more useful.

John broke and trained the horse rather well.

Three years later, J. R. Spencer won his first race at the Collingwood Fairgrounds and won young John, then 16, \$50, a halter and a cooler.

Continuing to train J. R. Spencer although he was offered \$1500 for

him, Burns turned the horse into a gold mine and when his horse finished his last race, he had won a remarkable \$59,000 for his owner.

Although J. R. Spencer has since been retired, Burns continued in his new love to the point where the Halton resident is one of the best, if not the best, harness horse trainer in Ontario and North America.

He trains between 55 and 60 horses scattered in tracks at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville, Roosevelt Raceway in New York and Meadowlands in New Jersey. He's come a long way from being a groom

and if success stories ever applied to anyone, they apply to John Burns. Born into a family of modest means, Burns is proof of his theory that hard work coupled with a little luck will bring dividends to anything one tries.

"I don't think it matters what you do," he says, "if you don't take it to heart, you won't be successful."

"If you want something, they don't give it away. You've got to put a lot of hard work into it."

"In this business, it's 60 per cent hard work and 40 per cent luck. You've got to have an eye for a

highly competitive industry.

"I pride myself on being the best," he adds. "There are better horsemen here in Canada than in the United States and if you can win in Ontario, you can win anywhere."

"I was brought up the right way. I was taught the difference between right and wrong and if you're happy in what you're doing that's important."

Burns played Junior C hockey with Collingwood and had what he called a possible career in professional hockey when he decided at 17 to pursue harness racing full time.

After working with his horse, J. R. Spencer, at Greenwood in Toronto, Keith Waples took control of the training and eventually Burns moved to Montreal in 1968 when Waples decided to race the horse with his at Blue Bonnets.

Burns worked with Waples for several years and after a series of moves and marriage, Burns settled in Halton.

He worked with Milton Parks and Recreation for a while stabling his horses which had grown to eight at the Milton fairgrounds before renting the 73 acre Don Joyce farm where his family of four make their home.

His career has blossomed since then. He two biggest winners are Fight The Foe which he claimed for \$25,000 and won \$217,000 and Dangerfield Bruce which won \$186,000 last year. Fight The Foe has the fastest time of any horse he's trained running the mile-long race in 1:56 and two-fifths.

The large stable coupled with the various tracks they race make things difficult for Burns.

"I try to be on top of every horse I train. I ride each one. Every owner wants to know everything about his horse - how he ran, why he raced the way he did, etc. You've got to have the answers ready when they phone."

Much of his time is spent on the telephone, either at home or at one of the various tracks Burns will be found at any given day.

Outside of hard work and desire, Burns credits several other reasons for

his success. At the top of the list is his family who have learned to go much of the time without him at home. He also credits several Million and other racing people who have taught him the ropes of the trade and the help he receives at the track.

"My wife (Sandra) is a hell of a worker. She keeps the books and runs the farm when I'm away. Without her help and understanding I might not be anywhere."

The Burns' have two children. Derek is six while Rodney is two.

Burns' work with Keith Waples was also instrumental in his success. "I couldn't learn from anyone better than Keith. There'll be nobody to replace Keith."

And with respect to his grooms and assistant trainers, Burns says without them he'd be hurting.

In the final analysis, he says, "I'm really devoted to horses."

It's not hard to see.

## Extra training pays off as Renton finishes first

Acton High School gymnast Trish Renton captured over all first place in the Peel-Halton gym meet last week, thanks to her high standings in four events.

She collected two ribbons for third spot on the uneven bars and fifth in vaulting as well as two seventh-place finishes on the floor and beam.

There were an estimated 20 to 22 competitors per event from 33 Peel and 14 Halton schools.

She received a plaque for finishing first overall, and was chosen as alternate competitor at the Ontario finals Saturday at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Coach Ann Lepik said she was extremely pleased with Renton's performance. "We're pretty thrilled," she said. "Trish has only been involved in gymnastics for basically two years with the high school."

Renton will only compete at the OFSAA meet Saturday if another girl in the bars event from Peel-Halton county is unable to attend. But both she and coach Lepik will be there to watch.

## Gold looks good to local swimmer

Acton Swimmer Mark Bray brought home two gold medals along with a silver and bronze for good measure from the Regional of Waterloo Invitational Meet recently.

He won his first place medals in the 100 metre and 200 metre butterfly. The silver came in the 200 metre freestyle and he won the bronze in the 100 metre freestyle.

He swims with the Guelph Marlin.

Adrienne Kovacs also competed in the first long course invitational relay. She swam the fly for her portion of the race, along with Jennifer McElroy,

Lara Doherty and Maureen Hurren.

Canada landed in top spot on the international swim scene as well. Bray was a member of the Canadian team, which participated in a meet in West Germany.

Canada came first with 290 points, passing West Germany and Russia. Bray swam his personal best in the 100 metre and 200 metre butterfly with times of 1:04.2 and 2:24.1 respectively.

The next big event for Bray and the Guelph Marlin is the Guelph Invitational Swim Meet this Friday and Saturday.



The Best: Milton trainer John Burns spent last Friday morning at Mohawk Raceway training several horses in his stable. Last year, Burns was voted Ontario's trainer of the year. He also has horses in New Jersey and New York, spending at least a couple of days a week training and checking on the 55 horses which comprise his stable.