

In a word—he's basketball

by Paul Nolan

Special to the Acton Free Press
He's become a fixture at Acton High. No, forget that; a fixture can't play defence. Let's just say he's basketball. In Acton, Rick McArthur is basketball.

But he's not only basketball, he's baseball too. And cross-country running and track and field. McArthur, a teacher at AHS, coaches two boys basketball teams. Since his arrival six years ago, he has transformed Acton High into something of a basketball power in Halton.

"Really the basketball skills were non-existent here when I came because there was virtually no experience outside of Acton in basketball," says McArthur. "And basically that's what I've done. I've developed the skills and developed a bit of interest and the kids have taken it from there."

"He's very demanding," says Redman Gord Glenn, "but he's also a good coach. He knows what he's doing."

In the 1979-80 season, his juniors finished with a remarkable record of 34 wins and two losses, while his seniors finished 19-21; a great improvement

over the previous years. "I think the improvement will continue and I'm looking toward a world championship," predicts McArthur, his tongue only slightly visible beneath the clean-shaven outline of his cheek.

McArthur's coaching counterpart at AHS, Rick Boychuck, assessed the progression. "Before he came to Acton, everybody thought it was easy to come up north and get two points. And now when they come up here they go away with a loss most of the time," says Boychuck. "So he's made Acton a spot on the map."

McArthur still plays basketball quite regularly himself, but not until the physical education and geography teacher begins to recall his school athletic career, is the presence of an athlete confirmed.

"At Stayer High I played football, I was on the cross-country team, I was on the soccer team, I was on the basketball team, the track and field team and I played baseball."

At the University of Western Ontario he played rugby for three years, during which Western won an Ontario championship and McArthur was named to

the provincial all-star team. Not bad. What's the secret? "Desire and dedication," says McArthur. And who was his biggest influence? A high school coach, maybe? "My dad," he admits with genetic innocence, "the only superstar I ever knew." And his coaching philosophy?

"To be able to coach to the specific needs of players involved to the best of my ability." So the ball bounces. And hopefully it will stay below your waist and you'll keep your head up.

After school you will find McArthur down at the gym shooting baskets or maybe recruiting someone for one of the summer basketball camps he coached this year.

"I feel that Rick was a good coach," says Redman Don Weaver. "When I started I didn't know much. At the end of the season, even though I was no Doctor J., I felt I learned a lot about basketball. I think this is because of his demand to win."

After all, Rick McArthur is basketball. But he's not only basketball.



Acton High School teacher Rick McArthur has in a short period improved the quality of basketball played in the school.

Splashes

The second session of the Summer Swim lesson has been completed and we are well into the third session.

Tadpoles

Dale Wallace, Kerri Thomson, Shannon Merritt, Todd Lockhurst, Michele Gibson, Marcus Higgins, Demetra Athanassonis, Paul Gobham, Michelle Beaton, Michael Pope, Karen Pope, Michael O'Leary.

Pre-beginners

Jennifer Foster, Karen Pettipher, Jason Baetz, Paul MacDonald, Donald Haynes, Marc Bielby, Danas Petrillo, Bradley Widish, Jasin Crawford, Tosha Peterson, Joanne Scott, Angela Muggridge, Erika Schroll, Jason Higgins, Tim Briggs, Matthew Marcoux, Krista Hollyman, Greg Johnson, Becky Ralph, George Georgeans.

Beginners

Frank Huarte, Lee Ann Mundy, Deanna Wilson, Anela Nickie, Paul Lynn, Aaron Wedemire, John Kotsilieris, Erin McMahan, Cristine O'Leary, Coline O'Leary, Andrea Gudgeon, Kish Killingbeck, Michelle Heaps.

Survival

Fotis Katsilieris, Anthony Looyenga, Mike Bielby, Scott Nellis.

Pre-junior

Denise Looyenga, Ken Bowers, Patrick Johnston, Mike Nellis, Heather Ormsby, RLSS I

Karen Swackhamer.

Intermediates

Brenda Looyenga, Mike Ormsby, Shannon Johnston, John Benton.

Seniors

Lori McDonald, RLSS II
Tom Nicholson, George Nicholson, Jenny McDonald, Darlene McEnery.

Limehouse

Hawks and Oilers take a beating and ousted out of the playoffs. Jays and Rocks advance.

In a closely played game between the Oilers and the Jays, the Jays took the win in the sixth with four runs and a final score of 7-6.

Peter Humley of the Oilers hit a super home run besides getting a single and a double with two RBI's.

Jack Woods on the mound held the Oilers to their five runs with the help of Marty Shortall at second base and Wayne French covering right field.

In the second game the Rocks took the lead in the first inning when Gord Thompson crossed the plate and they held on to make the win 10-4.

Joe Periera had a super all round great night getting a grand slam home run and held down center field making six fly outs. Lawrence Smith also helped defensively making four outs.

Gord Thompson played a good game of catch and had two RBI's. O'Neil and Pete Garden each went 3 for 4 at the plate.

In the second round of the semifinals the Ballantyne Blue Jays meet the Indusium Rockets and the Limehouse Hustlers, on Sunday.

Sunday morning the Rockets and the Jays played a close game with the Rockets getting two runs and keeping the Jays scoreless.

Gord Plinder of the Rockets scored in the first inning on a stolen base and Steve Haines counted for the second run in the fifth.

Rob Campbell went the distance striking out 13 batters against Dan Engleby for the Jays getting eight strikeouts.

Tri-County..

(Continued from Page B 1)

Lee Ann Johnson hit a single in the last inning and got a run in for a total of 8 for Acton to Brookville's 20. The second game was played in Acton Tuesday, August 12th. Annie Grien and Diana Dunn were both on base when Boo hit a double to bring them in. Boo was able to get across the plate herself later to score 3 to Brookville's 1 run in the first inning.

Brookville scored 2 in the second but Boo hit a triple with the bases loaded to bring in Peggy, Annie, and Diana. In the third inning Brookville got in 4 more runners to total 7. But the Family Restaurant Girls fought back with Lee Ann Johnson, Peggy and Annie giving another 3 runs for a total of 9.

Brookville managed 4 runs in the fourth and Lee Ann crossed the plate again for Acton. The sixth inning was 3 up and 3 out for both teams. Unfortunately Brookville scored 8 runs in the last inning and held Acton to just 1 by Diana Dunn making the final tally 20-11 for Brookville.

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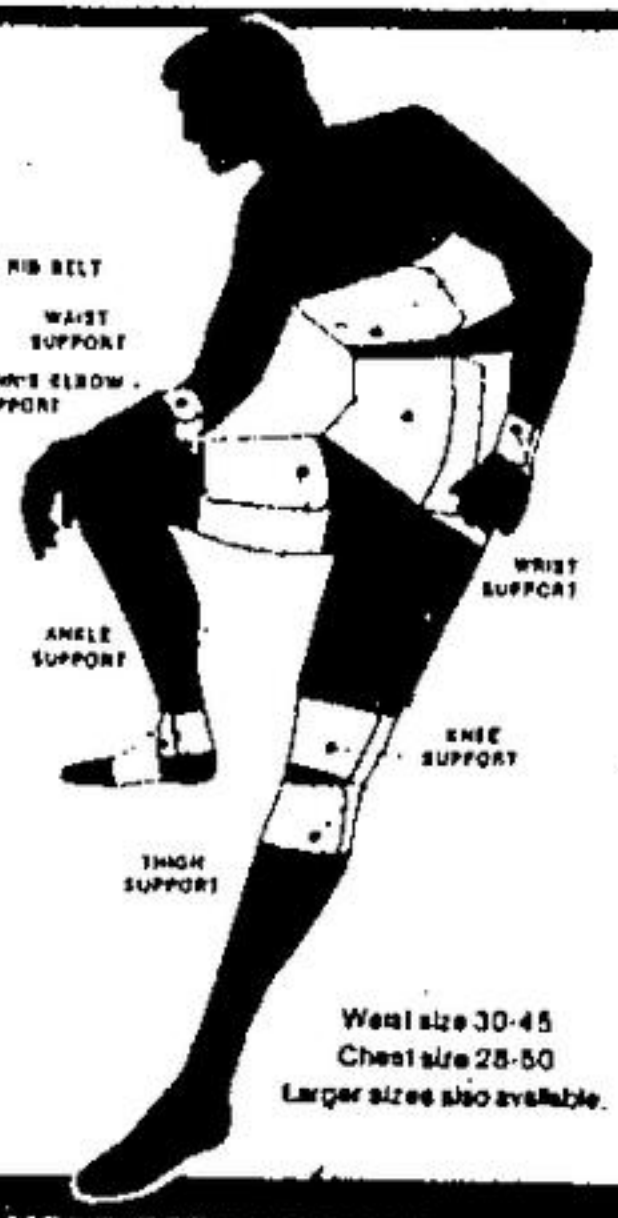
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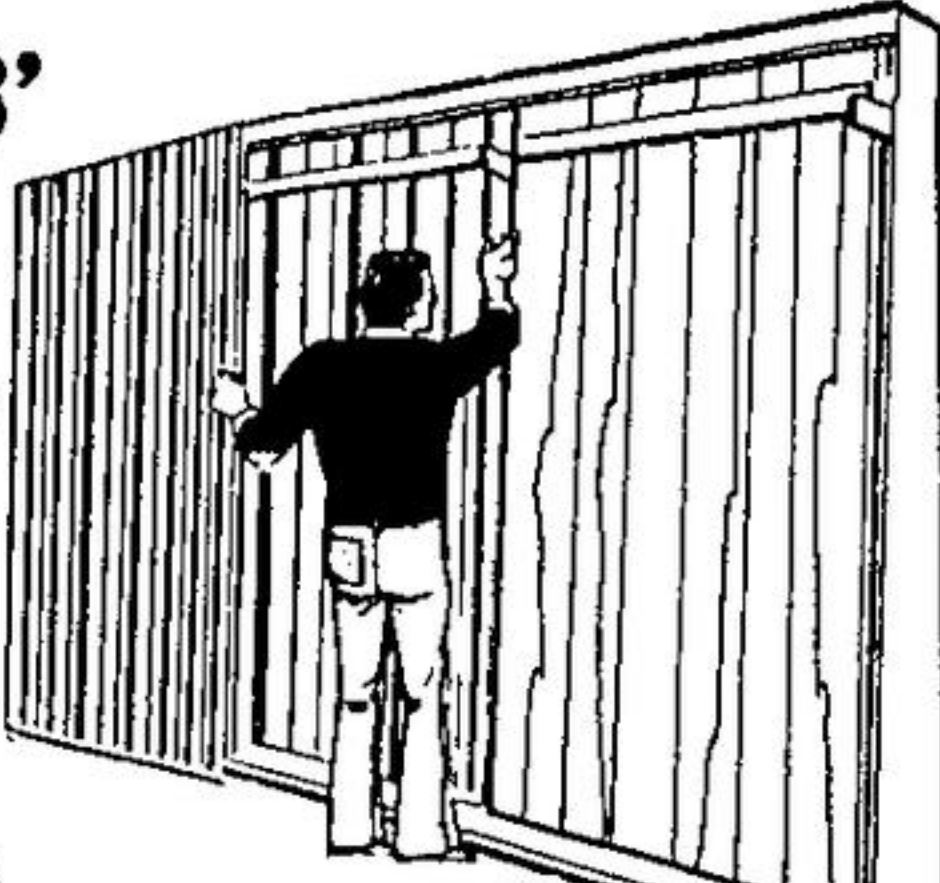
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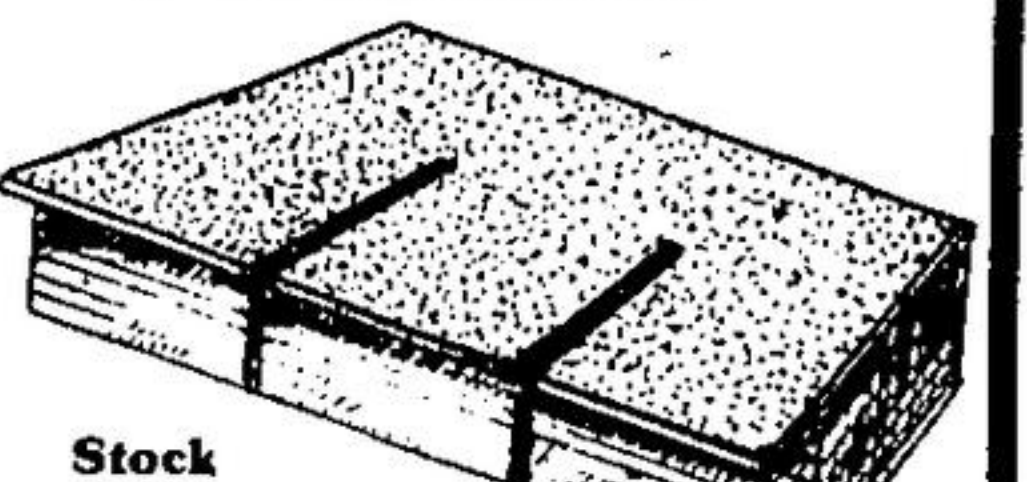


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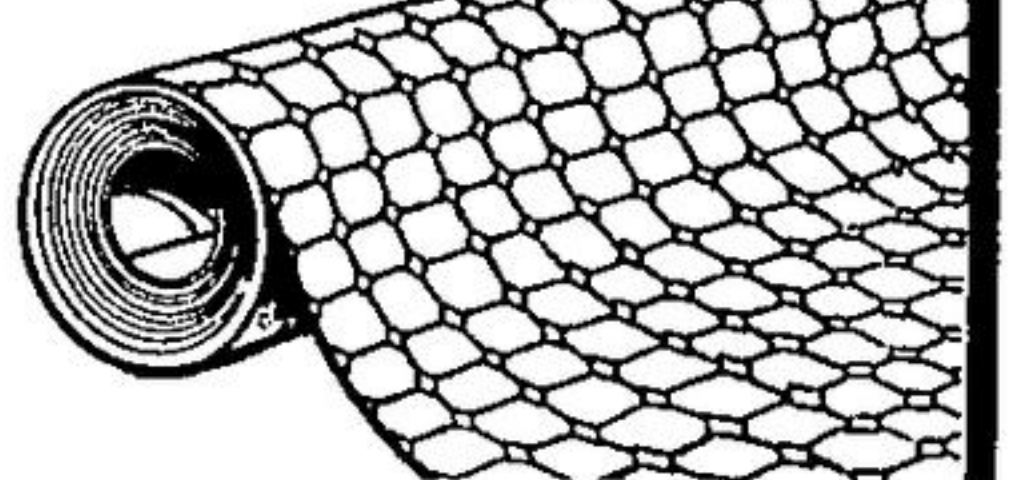
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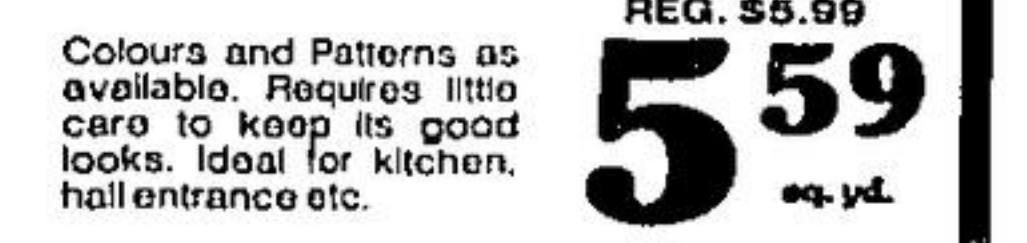
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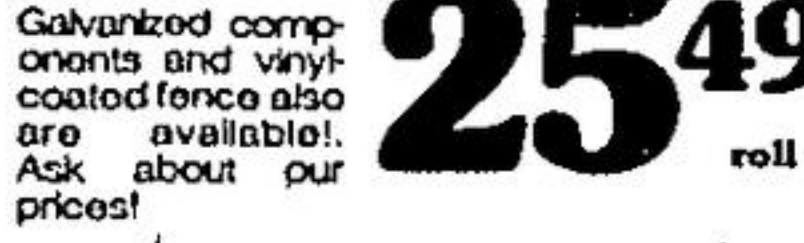
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