

Jogging, biking and dogging

Ouch! The joys of spring

By Colin Gibson
Herald Sports Editor

As readers will realize, we are now in the interim period between winter sports and summer sports. For highly respected sports writers, this interregnum can prove a very trying time.

With little going on, one can either relax for a while and enjoy the calm before the storm or entertain creative thoughts and start digging for juicy tidbits with which to fashion a literary feast. Finding myself somewhat at odds with both these trains of thought—although I think I might tend to lean more towards the former category than the latter as even the spectre of digging oft-times brings callouses to my fertile mind—I have come to the decision, after much soul-searching, to bare the facts concerning one of the most embarrassing and degrading days of my life.

The day in question concerns three of the so called joys of spring: jogging, bicycling and owning a dog. Actually the dog is the central character in this tale of woe, so let me digress somewhat.

I own a dog, name of Patti, who can be described in one word, retarded. She is part Spaniel and part visitor.

The visitor breed is not an uncommon one but it came as something of a shock to myself and my parents when we learned that Patti's mother was "with child."

Hours of questioning, the forlorn beast led nowhere but

when we finally relented and allowed her back into the family fold, she broke down and uttered one bark. The bark was emitted when someone knocked on the door and after a family discussion we came to the conclusion that this was Laddie's (yes, the mother's name is Laddie, but that's a story in itself) way of telling us that she did not know the name of her erstwhile suitor.

The pups were born and I brought one home with me, the aforementioned Patti. I rue the day.

I get little respect from this four legged companion, she insists on eating my food, although I have a standing invitation to dine at her bowl should I so desire, and every now and then she goes into one of her mad moods and dashes hither skelter, regardless of obstacles, until she drops, dripping with perspiration. One of her mad moods caused me some embarrassment as she was in a friend's yard and ran full tilt into their Gazebo, not once but three times. To cap the fine impression she made, on the way out, she ran into the fence.

Now on to the eventual day. Since I was involved in the accident, I have had to slow down somewhat but I have been looking for ways to slowly round back into shape. I have a ten-speed, which had been in mothballs for two years and a track suit, similarly relegated to sight unseen. I decided to refurbish the two and embark on a leisurely fitness program.

The "Day" dawned, warm and sunny and even Patti was in a good mood as she only bit me twice. As I struggled to get the bike out the door, Patti issued a disadful bark, which I took to mean, "You'll be sorry." Little did I know. Before embarking on my Olympic bid I had promised myself that I would forsake smoking, so with one last longing look at the packet of nicotine tempters, I embarked.

With a kick that would have done motorcyclists, Yves Duhamel justice I zoomed out of my gravelled driveway. My bike changed to doom however as to my horror I realized there was a car blocking my escape route. Reacting with lightning-like reflexes, I applied my brakes. About 20 seconds later I finally came to a stop, thanks mainly to the braking power of my body on the gravel. I could hear yelps of hysterical laughter coming from my apartment and this only increased my black mood. After picking bits of gravel from my hand, arms and other extremities I once more mounted my trusty steed and set off.

My route was downhill for the first little while and I took the opportunity to peruse the poor pedestrians I passed. "Ah, the joy of feeling free," I thought.

My thoughts were rudely interrupted however by the appearance of another car. I swerved to avoid disaster, mounted the curb and found myself face down in a bit of God's little greenery. "That's

it, so much for the esoteric joys of bike riding," I thought. "I'll just jog."

I returned home to put on my track suit and discovered that "man's best friend" was beside herself with hysterics. I swear, the mongrel was laughing at me. She was rolling on her back, pawing the air, completely out of control. As I was wiping the blood and grass stains off, I felt a paw at my leg. Patti had taken the track suit off the chair and deposited the pants at my feet. Her duty done, she trotted out of the bathroom, her sides shaking with merriment.

On the road again, this time jogging, I wondered why I hadn't begun my crusade in such a leisurely fashion. Then I had visions of myself as Jim Ryan, Frank Shorter, even Georgetown's Mike Dixon. This proved my undoing.

While competing with the gods of running I had inadvertently and unknowingly run onto a lawn. I had no sooner come to this realization than I tripped over a garden wire and once more as they say, "Bit the dust."

"Aha," you think, "not to worry, the landing was soft." It was soft alright, mainly because the gardener had just deposited a fine load of manure into his prized plot. Undaunted I carried on. "I must look like a real athlete now," I mused. Sweat soaked, muddy, bearing the wounds of battle for I spotted to this moment, I allotted two honey-bunnies and decided I would

sprint for home. My feet disagreed. My ankle turned, I stepped into a puddle of mud, bounced off an errant telephone pole and once more found myself gazing at the heavens.

As I dragged myself through the door of my humble abode, who should greet me, but my beast of burden. A kind word, a sympathetic look was all I really wanted, instead I was greeted by the sight of this curse of the canines, encircled happily on my couch, eating my shoe and yes, chuckling.

The onslaught of yet another wave of winter weather forced the cancellation of last Sunday's GDMHA Support Group Annual Meeting but Group President, Bob Thompson, reports that other arrangements have been made.

The annual meeting has been rescheduled for this Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Cedarvale. At the head of the meeting's agenda will be the election of officers for the upcoming year and all interested parties are urged to attend.

Support Group meeting Thurs.

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE a week makes. This past weekend was reminiscent of yuletide weather, with flurries and accompanying cold, but the previous weekend waited warm and sunny. Patti Caruso and her Royallette team-mates took advantage of the balmy weather to take their practices outdoors but

now it seems the inclement weather may force a change in plans. The Royallettes are scheduling practices at the Georgetown Ball Park for Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., weather permitting, of course.

Norval ends season at Sudbury tourney

The Norval Allouettes 1975-76 hockey season didn't end on a winning note but their sojourn to Sudbury this past weekend provided a fitting end to a very successful year.

The Allouettes were entered in the Sudbury Hockey Tournament, which attracted over 30 Intermediate, "AA" Industrial and "A" Industrial hockey teams from across Ontario. The trip was viewed not only as a competitive venture but as a year-end wrap-up for the team and in both cases, the goal was met.

Norval opened their tourney with a 4-1 overtime win over Timmins but were eliminated from further play when they lost their second game, 5-3 to Mississauga.

Dave Irons scored the winning overtime goal against Timmins, while other Norval marksmen included, Benny Heppes, Bert Osborne and Brian Beaumont, who notched a pair. Dave Holmes was a standout for Norval against Mississauga as he potted a hat trick.

The Allouettes have proved to be the cream of the Georgetown Industrial Hockey League over the past few years, winning the last two league pennants in a row, and five of the last eight loop crowns, but changes in the club's makeup are expected.

Norm Lockhurst, a fixture in the Norval nets, has decided to pack away the pads and coach Kent Ridall, who has been associated with the team since

1961, is entertaining thoughts about retiring from the industrial league's coaching ranks. Their shoes will be hard to fill, but Norval has built up an enviable winning tradition that should stand them in good stead, despite the changes, when next season rolls around.

Family Day at GFSC

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club will hold a Family Day, Sunday, May 2 at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. All skaters are welcome to bring their families for a skating party.

The day will start at 4:30 with an exhibition by Kris Barber and Patricia Fletcher, Canadian Novice Dance Champions and David Watson, who won the Pre-Novice Men's Singles at North Bay, April 18. Games and a chance for everyone to skate will follow. Get Dad and Mom to bring their skates. At 6:30 p.m. the Club's trophies will be presented to finish the year. Don't forget the Annual Meeting, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Cedarvale.



ROSEANNE HERRMAN of Georgetown, was one of three Peel-Halton competitors, who took part in the All-Ontario Girls High School Gymnastic competition held last Saturday at York University of Toronto. Roseanne placed 10th out of 28 competitors in floor exercises and sixth out of 28 in the vault.

Roseanne at All-Ontarios

The All-Ontario Girls High School Gymnastics competition was staged at York University of Toronto this past weekend and Roseanne Herrman of the GDHS squad was one of three girls representing the Peel-Halton Region. Roseanne was joined by Laura McNeil from Burlington's M.M. Robinson High School and Karen Killip from Burlington's Lord Elgin High School on the Peel-Halton team.

Miss Herrman competed against girls from throughout Ontario in the Senior vault and Senior floor exercises and did extremely well.

The competition attracted a packed house that only served to emphasize the fact that gymnastics is rapidly becoming one of the most popular sports in Ontario. The calibre of the gymnastics has been improving from year to year with more innovative and technically perfect routines

becoming more and more prevalent and the sport itself is finally gaining the recognition it deserves in terms of its physical fitness attributes.

Roseanne placed 10th out of 28 competitors in floor exercises and sixth, again out of 28 competitors, on the vault.

OBA out of CFAB

The Ontario Baseball Association (OBA), of which the Georgetown Baseball Association is a member, announced Sunday that it has withdrawn from the Canadian Federation of Amateur Baseball for the 1978 season.

The main reason for the decision was apparently a lack of communication between the two groups. In February, three of the seven members of the CFAB's board of directors resigned, including president, Glennia Scott.

OBA President, Jim Lutton, of Oshawa, claimed that another reason for the withdrawal was that the CFAB seemed incapable of handling its own internal problems.

The OBA decision means that Ontario teams will not be allowed to play at Canadian championship tournaments.

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THE LOOK OF WINNERS. From left to right, David Watson, Patricia Fletcher, Chris Barber and Eddie Howard of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club all won their respective events at the North Bay competition. David was the Pre-Novice Men's Singles Champion; Patricia and Chris captured the Junior Compulsory Dance title and Eddie took first place honours in the Men's Bronze Interpretive.

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