

# Heads up Howie, Here comes Joan!



JOAN GILMER, the young lady from Georgetown with aspirations of becoming a professional goaltender. At left, Joan is seen by her opponents as a member of the

Brampton Canadettes and at right, displaying a bit of the silverware she has won in league and tournament play this year.

by Colin Gibson  
Herald Sports Editor

To have ambitions of becoming a professional hockey goaltender is well within the realm of possibility, in this day and age, for most lads presently engaged in the sport. The pot at the end of the shiny rainbow diminishes somewhat in size however, when you are of the female gender. The sex obstacle notwithstanding, this is the goal that Joan Gilmer, aged 15 and a grade nine student at GDHS has set for herself.

Joan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gilmer, 11 Union St., Georgetown, has only recently started to entertain serious thoughts about her hockey goal, but the signs were there from an early age that her inclinations were in that direction.

The Gilmer's have had an outdoor rink at the back of their house for approximately 20 years and Joan, and her two brothers, Ron and Al made full use of the facility. Miss Gilmer first laced on skates at the tender age of two and in her

formative hockey years found herself relegated to the goaltending position. This proved a blessing rather than a banishment as Joan took to the position like the proverbial duck to water.

Joan began in organized hockey four years ago, at age 11 and her performance has improved year by year. She joined the Brampton Girls Hockey League and despite the fact that Georgetown got into the girls hockey movement this year, Joan chose to return to the Brampton group. Her reason, "The Georgetown league was not competitive enough." Joan didn't mean this as a putdown, merely that she has been involved in highly competitive action for the last while and couldn't see herself treating the game any other way. Her accomplishments this year, bear out her competitive zeal.

Her team, the Brampton Canadettes finished first in the York- Peel Girls Hockey Association and their success was largely due to the superlative goaltending of

Joan. Over 20 games, she compiled a sparkling 1.00 goals against average and recorded five shutouts.

The Canadettes competed against teams from Newmarket, Mississauga, Bramalea, and Willowdale and although Joan's team lost out to Mississauga in the playoffs, Joan was voted the league's Most Valuable Player.

Miss Gilmer's heroics were not just limited to league tilts as the team took part in the Owen Sound Junior Tournament; the Napanee Intermediate Tournament; the Picton Provincial Women's Hockey League Tournament and the Brampton Dominion Ladies Hockey Tournament. The local girls netminding prowess did not go unnoticed in these events either as she captured MVP awards in the Napanee, Picton and Brampton tournaments.

Joan has played against and for boys hockey teams but both she and her father feel that perhaps the time is just not right for her to break the local

sex barrier, as yet. Last year Joan performed for the Stewarttown Senior boys club and met with some success and, prior to the beginning of the 1975-76 GDMHA Rep team program, she tried out for the Tri-County Midget team. Joan felt that she put on a good show at the Midget tryout but she and her father agreed that rather than create a controversy, she would return to Brampton hockey.

The announcement a short while ago in national newspapers that a Women's Professional Hockey League was about to surface in the United States only spurred Joan on to a firmer dedication to her chosen sport and moved her one step closer to hopefully realizing her goal.

Harold Gilmer is taking a realistic view of his daughter's love affair for hockey. He neither discourages Joan from reaching for the heights nor does he inflate her with false hopes. His main thought, for all his children, is that they

derive enjoyment from sport and if they so desire, carry it as far as they can. While he would like to see his daughter develop an interest in other fields, as well as hockey, he is willing to let Joan travel as far down the "Yellow Brick Road" as she can.

The young lady has athletic ability—aside from hockey, she competes in soccer, softball and basketball and has recently taken up horseback riding—and over the past several years she has won 22 awards in the various sports. Her dedication to her self-appointed task is obvious as is her love of the sport. When you get right down to the nitty gritty, it is these attributes that are looked for in a professional, regardless of the sport.

Keep the name in mind, Joan Gilmer. Perhaps someday she'll share the limelight and provide the incentive to other youngsters who are coldly told, "Forget it kid, you haven't got a chance."

## Rams warm up for 1976 season with a tie and a win

Exhibition games, for the most part, are necessary in a team's training schedule in order that all candidates for

### Open on May 13.

positions be given a good look and a fair chance at making the club. For the Acton Rams of the OLA's Central League this maxim is especially fitting as the Rams are preparing to embark on their 1976 season with a new coach and a multitude of new faces.

Last week the Rams played a two-game, home and home exhibition series with the Orangeville Stingers and everyone, with the possible exception of the trainer, got his turn on the floor. Mass player changes notwithstanding, the Rams gained a 7-7 tie in Orangeville on Tuesday (April 27) and edged the Stingers 12-11 at home last Thursday evening.

These results bode well for the Acton crew's chances this year as Orangeville finished in fourth place in regular season play last year, while the Rams edged into the sixth and final playoff berth in a similar

win, it was the Stingers who dominated the Rams in the league's semifinals last year.

The game in Orangeville was highlighted by the goaltending prowess of both teams' respective guardians. Rams coach Doug Cressman gave both his netminders, Doug Taylor and John DeCoursey, an equal share of the action and the two performed well. The Rams controlled play throughout most of the game—they led 1-0 after the first period and 5-2 at the end of the second frame—but defensive lapses in the final period allowed the Stingers to outscore the Rams 5-2 and gain the deadlock.

Rick Van Fleet and Kevin Marcoux each scored a pair for the Rams, while singles went to Glen Sherman, George Artem and Al McMinn. It was a relatively mild contest, by lacrosse standards, with the Stingers picking up 10 penalties, while the Rams were clipped but seven times.

In Acton on Thursday evening, just the reverse occurred. The Stingers were in command for two periods—leading 9-4 at that point—but then ran into a rash of foolish penalties that allowed the hometown favourites to come back and steal the win.

Again, both Doug Taylor and John DeCoursey split the goaltending chores but two sharpshooters figured prominently in the win. Kim Chisholm and Steve Wilson each potted hattricks while single goals were netted by Gary DeLong, Fred Allen, Ken Brown, Kevin Marcoux, George Artem and Al McMinn.

The Rams' roster is far from finalized but three at-antees should figure prominently in the team's hopes. Ken Kenner and Ron Turkosz are presently nursing injuries, while Ian Duff is still at school. The return of those three should help stabilize the squad's fortunes.

The Rams open their 1976 schedule this Wednesday (today) with a game in Dundas and open at home, Thursday, May 13. Game time is 8:30 at the Acton arena.

## Mosquitoes return undaunted

The Georgetown Minor Mosquitoes soccer team returned from their tour of Great Britain last Monday, tired, somewhat disappointed, but not in the least bit discouraged as a result of their eight-game exhibition series against U.K. teams.

The Minor Mosquitoes were unable to record a win on their tour but as reported last week, they were encountering teams with players up to two years older than themselves who were just winding up their season while the locals were embarking on theirs.

In spite of their sinless record, the team coach, Bob Morrow, was justifiably proud of them. "I can't say enough about the boys' performance. They were at times playing kids my own size yet they never once in all their games, stopped trying. My heart was bleeding for them as they went all out but just weren't strong enough. I'll tell you one thing though, the British people loved them. More because of the way they played the game than the final result.

The locals, as mentioned, lost the four games of their Scottish trek but perhaps their performance against Celtic Boys Club of Glasgow tells the true tale of their talents. The Celtic Club has players that can accurately be called the "cream of the crop" of Glasgow's boys soccer.

While the Georgetowners lost 7-1, Coach Morrow stated that a more accurate assessment would have been a 6-1 score. His boys received

compliments from all sides after this game and in fact one Scottish footballer just half-jokingly, pointed out one local player and commented, "If he wants to return to the U.K., just assured, we'll have a place for him in our soccer program."

The Minor Mosquitoes had great turnouts for all their games and the experience itself was worth the trip, according to Bob Morrow. He noted, "The lads may have missed nine days of school, but the experience of being in a different country, seeing a different lifestyle and meeting new people, in my estimation, gained the boys at least two years of real education."

The Georgetowners attended five professional games, met some players and topped the trip off by attending the Scottish Cup Final between Rangers and Hearts. At this game, attendance was over the 90,000 mark and according to reports the local youngsters were awestruck.

For a more personal view of the British trip, the Herald will be publishing the thoughts and experiences of the players, coaches and adults who accompanied the team in next week's paper.

The Minor Mosquitoes were coached by Bob Morrow, managed by Jim Clark and included: Gary Morrow, Mike Sweezy, Blake Harrison, Kevin Gillespie, Scott Murray, Howie Oram, Kevin MacArthur, Jeff Sargeant, Paul Gravelle, David Houston, Eric Clark and Bob Sweezy.

## Rebels split week's games

The GDHS Junior soccer Rebels ran their season record to two wins and a loss this past week, when they dropped a hard fought 2-1 decision to Perdue in Oakville on Wednesday then bounced back to record a very satisfying 2-0 win over OTHS at home on Monday.

The Perdue game was a very even match that could have gone either way. The clubs were deadlocked at 1-1 at the half but then Perdue gradually took over control of play in the final half to pick up the win. Rebel netminder, Dave Deere was outstanding but full marks go to Bill Kent and Ken

Lonbro for their work on the lone Georgetown goal. Kent swept down the side, eluding several tacklers, then sent a beautiful cross-over pass to Lonbro, who had positioned himself in front of the Perdue goal. Lonbro booted the ball home before his Perdue adversary had a chance to react.

The win over OTHS, according to coach Chris Bertelson, saw the Rebels come up with their best effort of the year, to date. The game was played under somewhat adverse conditions—snow combined with a biting cold wind—but the Juniors got off to their running, harassing game

from the opening whistle and this spelled the difference. Ken Lonbro gave the Hebs a 1-0 lead at the half, while Bill Kent salted away the win with a second-half marker.

Most of the play was in the OTHS end and this was particularly pleasing to Bertelson in the way that it was achieved. The Rebels were first on the ball through most of the game and their short, accurate passes made mockery of the wind factor.

This Wednesday the Juniors travel to Queen Elizabeth Park High School in Oakville, while next Monday, they host defending league champs, White Oaks.

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DOUG TAYLOR, Acton Rams goaltender, foils a Stinger scoring chance in last Thursday's exhibition game against Orangeville. Taylor split the goaltending chores with John

DeCoursey but it was a last period scoring spree that allowed the Rams to leave the floor with a 12-11 win.

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