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Sports Comment

Some suggestions for the New Year

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

Few communities in Ontario, or Canada for that matter, can claim to come near matching the athletic achievements of Halton Hills. 1976 was a superb year for area athletes (in both team and individual sports) and while it is a little late to lavish Christmas wishes, there are a few things this reporter would like to see added to the sporting scene. They don't really come under the heading, "New Year's Resolutions," so perhaps mid-winter ramblings might be a better heading. Regardless, here are a few suggestions that might help enhance even more, the Halton Hills sporting scene.

Better athletic facilities for Acton. The arena and the high school offer facilities that are adequate, only in so far as there is nothing else. Since Georgetown got a recreational complex, we feel it's only fair that Acton be accorded the same chance.

As was mentioned in a previous column, a track club to be established that would take in the whole of Halton Hills and help develop both fitness and community spirit.

Slacking with Acton, it would be nice to see young Kevin Parker successfully continue his climb up the figure skating ladder. In a similar vein, hopefully 1977 will see both the Acton Rams and the Acton Sabres become more competitive and give the town's sporting followers something to cheer about.

The Georgetown Industrial Hockey League definitely needs revamping if it hopes to continue to attract fans and sponsors. This is no knock against the fine hockey team, the Norval Allowettes, just that a more competitive league would provide a greater attraction to area shiny fans.

It would be nice, in 1977 to see both the Georgetown Sunny Acre Farms and the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders develop a bit more consistency. The Gems are just several players away from being seriously considered as league champions, but perhaps those several players can be found in the Georgetown minor hockey system, where this year's fine crop of Junior "B" rookies came from.

The Raiders have made a valiant effort over the past two years to recruit local talent, but for the most part, their advances have been rebuffed. This is ironic because in previous years, the Raiders were criticized for not concentrating enough on local products. Perhaps 1977 will see things jell for the hometown Intermediate "A" club.

The Georgetown Minor Baseball Association had a year full of ups-and-downs perhaps better organizational methods might once again put them on the top of the county scene.

The Georgetown Minor Soccer Association, needs one thing to be deemed successful. "Recognition!" If the town would lend a little support and recognition, the soccer group would undoubtedly blossom.

The Glen Williams Minor Softball Association had a fine year and here's hoping things continue in the same way in 1977.

The Halton Mens Fastball League (Intercounty) has grown top-heavy and needs new blood in the executive. A change would solve a lot of their problems and put fresh spirit into that particular group. The Georgetown Chrysler, who pulled out of the league have too many fine ballplayers to merely let each individual go his separate way. If the league cleaned house, no doubt the Chrysler entry would once more challenge for loop supremacy. The best thing the league had going for it last year was the Georgetown-Glen Williams rivalry and it would be a shame to see it die because of conflicting personalities.

The athletes at GDHS once more rose to the occasion in 1976 but improvements in a few areas would make 1977 noteworthy indeed. GDHS Senior basketball coach, Jim Costigan, has put in countless hours and effort in building a provincial contender and it would be nice to see his hopes bear fruit. Gymnastics for both male and female would be immensely enhanced by a solid provincial performer. The football program is coming along and even a .500 season for both the Junior and Senior Rebels would earn kudos.

Undoubtedly, the list could go on and on, perhaps the best thing is to let 1977 bring what it will and wish all area sportsmen the best in the upcoming year.

Raiders win 3-2, Mudcats victims

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders of the OHA Intermediate "A" League, got past the loop's doormats, Dunnville Mudcats by a 3-2 count, in a game played last Thursday night in Dunnville.

The game in Dunnville was in marked contrast to the one played in Georgetown the previous Friday, where the Raiders skated off to a leisurely, 8-4 win over the same, Dunnville Mudcats.

The big gun for the Raiders, on Thursday night, was John Longstreet. He clicked for the first two Raider goals, then assisted on the winning marker by Raider top-gun, Ray Evans. Bill Currie picked up an assist on Longstreet's first goal while Bob Fotheringham and John Boyce were credited with assists on Longstreet's second marker.

The win further enhanced the Chrysler Raiders position,

near the top of the Intermediate "A" loop, but because of the holiday season, the hometown favourites will be forced to mark time for the next short while. The Raiders next swing into action on Wednesday (tonight) when they journey to Dundas; their next home game is slated for January 7 game time 8:30 p.m. at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Sabres struggle

The Acton Junior B Sabres faced off against the Streetsville Derbys Wednesday night for "a game of mistakes," according to club secretary Bill Campbell.

Mr. Campbell admitted Thursday that the Sabres "made too many mistakes defensively" and were left behind 9-3 as a result.

Approximately 250 spectators, a "good crowd for mid-week" according to Mr. Campbell, filled Acton arena for the Sabres fifth meeting with the Derbys this season. Acton lost three of the previous matches with Streetsville and tied a fourth.

The play went well during the first period, which ended up in a 1-1 split. Misplaced Sabres passes during the next two rounds, however, virtually gave the game to Streetsville as Acton goalie Kent Moffat

struggled to fend off an enthusiastic Derbys offence. The Sabres' top scorer of the current season, Dave Chapman popped the team's final goal of the game into Streetsville's net during the final period.

The game, although discouraging as well as disastrous for Acton, was not marred by the extensive fighting and controversial calls by the referee which brought last week's two showdowns with Milton to abrupt third period ends. The Sabres dropped both games, 7-2 and 8-4, before frustrations climaxed in brief boxing and wrestling bouts that resulted in the two teams sharing 247 minutes in the penalty box.

The Sabres host the Georgetown Geminis this Friday.

Brawl in Burlington

The Burlington Cougars continued their headlong dash for supremacy atop the Central Ontario Junior "B" League by blanking the Streetsville Derbys, 3-0 last Sunday night in Burlington. The game was marred with penalties however, as referee, Gene Kusy assessed 309 penalty minutes, in the game that took, three-and-a-half hours to play.

The win put Burlington into a first place tie with Streetsville.

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Rick Katchanoski earned his second shutout of the year, turning aside 31 shots, while Bob Goodish, with a pair and Don Pollani with a single, rounded out the Burlington

Geminis bow to Streetsville

The Georgetown Geminis, of the Central Ontario Junior "B" League, played two solid periods against the loop's frontrunner, Streetsville Derbys last Tuesday (December 21) but third period defensive lapses, allowed the Derbys to post a 6-5 win.

Gemini Coach, Paul Robinson, far from being discouraged stated that "I thought our team did exceptionally well against such a powerful team." The Derbys recently acquired four new offensive gunners, in an obvious bid to outdistance the rest of the league.

point in the game but just couldn't hold on. Robinson cited the lack of staying power, on but one thing, lack of several front line players. According to Robinson, the absence of Larry Peterson, Ian Syme, Kevin Heeks, and Tom Fendley definitely played a part in the loss.

The Geminis held a 2-0 lead after the first period and were in front by a 5-3 count after 40 minutes of play. Miscues in their own end, however, plagued the Gems in the final frame and Streetsville out-scored the locals, 3-2 over the last crucial 20 minutes, to claim the win.

The Geminis led, 4-1 at one

Bill Kirby, recently returned to the Geminis had a fine offensive night against the Derbys. Kirby notched two goals and picked up an assist to pace the club. Mike Richmond, Doug Barnes and Mike Osborne also tallied markers, while Osborne, Richmond, Bruce Bailey, Rob Hamilton, Charlie Knoepff and Matt Kendall, registered assists.

This Tuesday, January 4, the Geminis travel to Oakville, while their next home game will be Saturday, January 8, against Acton, game time, 7:30 p.m. at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Gymnasts hold inter-club meet

The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club held their first inter-club meet of the year, Saturday December 18. The results are as follows.

Girls eight and under:
Vault: 1. Leesa Frank, 2. Gail Eastwood, 3. Susan Kirby.
Bars: 1. Leesa Frank, 2. Gail Eastwood, 3. Susan Kirby.
Beam: 1. Leesa Frank, 2. Susan Kirby, 3. Kell Warner.
Floor: 1. Michelle Bailey, 2. Leesa Frank, 3. Susan Kirby and Gail Eastwood. All-Round: 1. Leesa Frank, 2. Gail Eastwood and Susan Kirby, 3. Michelle Bailey.

Girls nine and 10:
Vault: 1. Andrea Stafford, 2. Angela McCaughan, 3. Gail Cook.
Bars: 1. Angela McCaughan, 2. Gail Cook, 3. Dianne Hoare.
Beam: 1. Dianne Hoare, 2. Debra Dougal, 3. Lisa Smith.
Floor: 1. Andrea Stafford, 2. Angela McCaughan, 3. Dianne Hoare. All-Round: 1. Angela McCaughan, 2. Andrea Stafford and 3. Dianne Hoare.

Girls 11 and 12:
Vault: 1. Terri Lamb, 2. Debbie Newman, 3. Donna Bessy.
Bars: 1. Donna Bessy, 2. Terri Lamb, 3. Kimberly Kirk.
Beam: 1. Terri Lamb, 2. Jennifer Pepper and 3. Debbie Newman. Floor: 1. Terri Lamb, 2. Jennifer Pepper and Donna Bessy. All-Round: 1. Terri Lamb, 2. Donna Bessy, 3. Jennifer Pepper.

Girls 13 and 14:
Vault: 1. Tracey Tyndall, 2. Katherine Aggiss, 3. Maurine McGowan and Wendy Hiffman. Bars: 1. Katherine Aggiss, 2. Tracey Tyndall, 3. Maurine McGowan. Beam: 1. Maurine McGowan, 2. Wendy Hiffman, 3. Katherine Aggiss. Floor: 1. Maurine McGowan, 2. Wendy Hiffman, 3. Katherine Aggiss. All-Round: 1. Katherine Aggiss, 2. Tracey Tyndall, 3. Maurine McGowan.

Hall of Fame at GDHS

Georgetown and District High School has been a hot-bed of athletic excellence for years. A Sports Hall of Fame is in the works at the school and it is hoped that it will foster a feeling of "tradition" among the athletes of GDHS. The main idea behind the Hall is to give recognition to teams and team members and also to recognize outstanding performances by both individual athletes and groups of athletes.

blue will be the prominent colors in the hall. Bulletin Boards and two glass showcases are to be used to display all the trophies and awards won by school athletes.

Pictures will play a large part in the Hall of Fame, and on display permanently will be pictures of the Athletes-of-the-year as well as pictures of outstanding team or individual performances, i.e.: OFSSA winners, County or Association winners. Team pictures, action shots and portraits of special award winners will be changed annually.

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