

Sports Week

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Runner named top athlete



Gerry Perkins, winner of the Builder of the Year Award, was also honoured at the Halton Hills Athlete of the Year Dinner, Monday night at St. George's Hall.

(Herald photo by Michael Hollett)

Athlete, builder finalists are honored at dinner

There were actually six people honored at the Halton Hills Athlete of the Year Dinner held Monday night.

Aside from the three athletes who were the finalists for the award, winner Ian Clark, and runners-up Kris Barber and Kevin Parker, The Builder Award winner Gerry Perkins and the runners-up for that award, Jim Hall and Harry Levy were also honored. Five of the six were at the dinner. Jim Hall, who had just returned from Russia, had made a previous commitment.

On hand to honor Clark and Perkins were newly-elected

Georgetown-Brampton, Member of Parliament John McDermid, Halton Member of the Provincial Parliament Julian Reed and Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

McDermid presented letters personally addressed to Perkins and Clark from Minister of Fitness and Sports Steve Propowski.

Reed actually made three presentations. He presented plaques from the Provincial government to both Clark and Perkins and he also gave last year's Athlete of the Year Peter Fournier a new one. Fournier's name was misspelled on the plaque he received last year.

Perkins, who aside from being head of the local minor hockey referees is umpire-in-chief of the Georgetown Industrial Hockey League, received a present from his colleagues.

In accepting the presentations Perkins said he has had a great 25 years of officiating in both hockey and fastball.

"I have spent a lot of time in arenas and ball parks during the last 25 years," Perkins said. "The person who I should thank most is my wife, because I have not been able to spend all that much time at home." His wife was at the dinner with him.

Runner Ian Clark was named the 1979 Halton Hills Athlete of the Year at a dinner at St. George's Monday night. The runners-up were figure skaters Kris Barber and Kevin Parker.

Clark received the Royal Bank Trophy from Bill Ward, who is the manager of the downtown branch in Georgetown. The event is co-sponsored by the Halton Hills Herald and the Royal Bank.

All three of the finalists have competed internationally. If they all stay healthy and persist at their respective sports they should have their best years, ahead of them.

The three athletes are also in the middle or beginning of very strenuous training schedules.

Clark is hoping he will travel to Vancouver this weekend to try and earn a berth on Canada's Pan-American Games team. He hopes to compete in the 5,000 metres event at the Pan-Am Trials.

To qualify for the trials a runner must have recorded a time, within the past year, of better than 14 minutes, and 40 seconds. Because Clark has been running as a member of the Georgetown district high school team throughout the season, he has not had a chance to compete in a 5,000 metres event. However, he bettered the qualifying time last year, when he was not nearly the runner he is now. Clark's club coach is hoping to convince the officials running the trials to let the runner compete despite his not having run the event so far this year.

IN LONDON

Barber and his partner Kelly Johnson travelled up to Georgetown from London, Ontario where they are participating in a figure skating clinic. It is the second year in a row Barber has travelled back here from London to be part of the ceremonies.

The dance pair are preparing for their first year in the senior category. In December of this year they will be one of three Canadian dance pairs to travel to compete in the Soviet Union.

Parker has just returned from a long overdue holiday in Florida. His sister and brother-in-law treated him to the trip.

The skater, who will also begin his first full season as a senior this coming competitive year, will now begin to train rigorously.

Later this summer Parker will be a member of the Canadian Figure Skating contingent travelling to compete at the Coup des Alpes, the Grand Prix de St. Gervais in France and the Mebellorm Trophy competition in Garmisch, West Germany.

DIFFERENT PARTS

The three finalists are from three different parts of Halton Hills. Clark lives in Georgetown, Barber resides in Glen Williams, and Parker is a resident of rural Acton.

As one can see from the credentials the three athletes have, choosing a winner from among them was a very difficult chore. The committee which made the final selection was composed of Karen Harrison, Michael Hollett, Brian James, Rick McArthur, John McCauley and Ruby Wilkes.

When it got down to those final three (there were 13 other athletes nominated for the award) it became very difficult not to consider having a tie for the award. However, in a very tight vote, which was held after a long discussion, Clark was selected as the winner.

For Clark and Barber it was the second year in a row they have made it to the final three. Parker was also nominated in 1978 and he too received very serious consideration.

One person of the 145 who attended the dinner remarked, "These three guys could be the three finalists for this award for the next 10 years."

The achievements of all the three athletes over the past year have been printed in this paper over the past couple of months. Following are the highlights from each of the athletes' seasons.

THREE GOLDS

Clark won three OFSAA gold medals during the year. For an athlete to win one all-Ontario championship is an exceptional achievement.

In the fall of 1978 Clark was a runaway winner in the junior OFSAA cross-country race. The year before he finished second in the same even to Dennis Stark. In this race Clark beat Stark by approximately 400 yards.

In the just recently held OFSAA track and field championships Clark showed a great kick to win both the 1,500 and 3,000 metre races.

However, Clark's greatest achievement of the year was taking first place at the Canadian junior cross-coun-

try championships and then in March going to Limerick, Ireland to compete in the World championships where he finished fifth.

During the past year Clark also set a Canadian Junior

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