

Sports Week

Wednesday, January 23, 1980 - Page 27

Clark wins again

Ian Clark may be a featured Canadian runner in the Feb. 1 Toronto Star Indoor Games. The Georgetown runner, a veteran of many world class races, is a front runner for an invitation to compete against some of the best mile runners in the world. It would be a 1,500 metre race.

He increased his chances Saturday when he nipped Ed Tackas in the open 1,500 metre race at York University. Both runners were timed in three minutes, 51.5 seconds. Clark is a student at GDHS.

Czechs checked

Raider president Bob Hooper, like his NHL counterpart, Harol Ballard, of the Toronto Maple Leafs, agrees that the international hockey teams are just playing exhibition hockey games against Canadian teams for the money. So, there will be no International Raider contest in Georgetown this winter.

The intermediate A team, who have the past two years hosted shinny teams from across the big pond, will not do so again this winter. "We were offered a Czechoslovakian B team but, they wanted too much money. They wanted \$5,000. We were prepared to go as high as \$4,000.

Last year the Austrian national team came for \$2,500.

"The Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) are bringing in the teams and we have to negotiate with them," said Hooper. The OHA offered Hooper the Czech team again as recently as a few weeks ago. "If it was the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) bringing in the teams we might have been able to negotiate."

Want more time

The Raider and Gem hockey coaches are concerned over the shortage of practice ice time available to their team in Georgetown, and feel it may severely affect their chances in the upcoming playoffs.

For the Gems, the shortage may even mean the difference in making it into the next round of play. They only have one practice in the next three weeks before the season closes and the playoffs begins.

"I can only tell them (the junior Gems) what to do, I can't show them," says coach Tom Daley.

Raider coach Steve Blundy says, "There's no way a team of this calibre (intermediate A) should only have one hour a week," for practice. "Sure there may be some ice time somewhere but, if you're going to have a team you've got to do it right. We should have two hours of prime ice time." The irate coach adds, that nothing against the figure skaters who have the ice before each Raider practice Monday nights but, "they should have their own rink."

Despite an increase in the cost of rental fees for ice at both Memorial and Gordon Alcott arenas, the demand is extremely high, especially in the preferred evening hours. New recreation director Tom Shephard is looking into the arena ice rental setup.

See Super Bowl?

While most of America and many in Canada and Georgetown were perched in front of their television sets watching the final quarters of Super Bowl XIV, just under 100 men, women and children opted to watch the Gem-Orillia junior B hockey game live Sunday night.

Asked why he decided to come to a cold arena to watch just another hockey game when he could have stayed home in the relative comfort of his home to watch "the sports event of the year", Ear McPherson said, "I'm not really a football fan. I'm more interested in our own boys than the States. I watched a bit of the Grey Cup."

Susan Robinson said "I came to watch my brother (Dave McGilloway) play."

Periodic scores of the Los Angeles Rams and Pittsburgh Steelers game were announced over the public address system during the tie hockey game. When the final score was announced as being 31-19 for the Steelers, a large round of cheering applause echoed through the arena. It turned out to be for a Gem goal that was scored simultaneously with the announcement.



The featured guest team at the Hockey Heritage dinner Feb. 12 will be the 1951-52 Ontario Championship Legion Juvenile team. Many from this picture will be attending. They are, left to right, Bud Haines, Carl (Butch) Schenks, Broch Bradley, Dave Cooper, Blake Inglis, George McClure, Dale Sedore, George Webster, Fred Dickinson, Paul Barber, Boyd Varey, George Grashy, Don Jarvie, Carmen Maltby, and coach Scotty Patterson. Back row, left to right, Alf Sykes, Don Ford, Bob (Red) Anderson, (Unknown), and Bob Rumley. The picture comes from the collection of Don Jarvie. The team beat Lindsay for the championship two games out of three.

Local figure skaters among top in Canada

Four Halton Hills figure skaters proved they were among the top 10 in the country in their classes at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Kitchener this week.

Chris Barber and his partner Kelly Johnson placed fourth in senior dance, Lise Smith and her partner Sydney Shanks placed fourth in novice pairs and she was ninth in novice ladies while Dave Watson was fifth in novice men's and Kevin Parker was seventh in senior men's.

The skaters practised and competed from Wednesday until Saturday against the best in the land. Sixteen-year-old Watson in his first time at the nationals topped 14 other novice men skaters to place first in the freestyle skate Saturday afternoon. His somewhat disappointing 13th place finish in the compulsory figures earlier, had put him on the spot to perform in the freestyle. "I guess I just wasn't concentrating hard enough", said the Georgetown resident. His first place averaged him out to fifth.

"I'd really like to have been first," Watson said. But, he was more than pleased with his freestyle showing. He used a triple salchow, triple toe loop and a double axle during his three minute performance before thousands at the Kitchener Gardens and many more thousands watching the CTV televised competitions. "I'd landed a triple axle in practice but, I decided not to use it."

The grade 11 student at GDHS will now rest about a week before resuming skating. Then he says he will probably work on passing his junior competitive skills tests to move up another class.

Barber, who was competing for the third year in a row at the Canadians, said he and his partner had skated "the best we ever had". The former junior gold medalists, last year in Thunder Bay, moved up to the senior competition and outskated a few other couples who had previously outdone them during other international competitions this past year.

The two skaters are veterans of several trans-Atlantic competitions in Europe. Barber said he was "quite pleased" at placing fourth in his first year as a senior.

Now he will take two to four weeks off, then prepare

for his Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club carnival in March. The 19-year-old Glen Williams native is attending his final year of school at Lawrence Park in Toronto, where he boards with another figure skater to be close to his Toronto Cricket and Skating club. He returns home on weekends.

Young 14-year-old Smith, a second year veteran of these competitions, said that this year they were "a lot tougher. The competitors were better". Her fourth-place finish in the novice pairs was the same as last year. However her ninth standing in the novice ladies was a slip of one place from 1979. "I feel I skated better" than last year.

Smith will take a week off before resuming training for the March school break club carnival in Preston. She is in grade nine in Preston.

For Parker to place seventh in the senior men's class meant "a trying and hectic week", he said. "There was a lot of pressure" skating in his home club in Kitchener, the 18-year-old said. "I know a lot of people and I wanted to do well." His home is in Campbellville.

And well he did. In his short program he skated to a fourth, better than he had expected. That moved him into the top flight, where the better skaters are, adding more pressure. In his figures he placed seventh and in his long program he was seventh also, for an overall seventh place finish. "I could have done better in the long program", he felt.

The grade 13 student says now it is back to school. "I haven't been to school since before Christmas and I have to get caught up. Education is as important as skating, even though skating comes first". He has applied to the University of Waterloo and Sir Wilfrid Laurier to keep near his skating club. He will try and get into business or urban studies.

As for his future skating, he is in the top class and he will just keep skating there for a while. "I may try my international tests but, they're difficult and expensive."

Whatever he and the other three skaters decide to do, they can do so knowing that in 1980 they were among the best in their country.