

Sports Week

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Sports Editor

Canadian pro golfers face bleak future

Monday evening at the North Halton Golf and Country Club, following the sixth annual Rolex Pro Team golf championship, a group of the new generation swingers were discussing the style of the legendary Ben Hogan. They were exchanging views on his grip, how high his hip went and how low his shoulder bent as they each demonstrated. Everyone seemed to know something about the subject. After all these men are professionals and they are supposed to know their game.

All had seen photos or news reels of Hogan in action before the car accident which ended his career, but it was Moe Norman to whom they listened for the final word. The 50-year-old bachelor and senior member of the Canadian PGA tour had seen Hogan in action and had studied him, making his observations that much more credible.

INFAMOUS

Norman has won every major amateur and professional golf tournament in this country except the big one, the Canadian Open. His feats off the tee, on the fairways and greens haven't exactly made him a household name the way fellow Canadian George Knudson has become. Yet around the golf courses, clubhouses and inner circles he is infamous.

The short greying gentleman, with a bit of a middle age spread, doesn't smoke or drink. He just plays golf. Every day. "That's all I have to do. You don't get good sitting on your ass."

Norman doesn't have to worry about that now. His big money days are over. Last year he won the senior men's championship for the first time. He hasn't played in the Canadian Open in six or seven years. He doesn't even plan to attend this year's open in Montreal, where it will be held for the last time before returning to Glen Abbey for the next 15 years.



Moe Norman has lugged these McGregors a long way over the years.

Over the years Norman has played with some of the finest. He won the Canadian Amateur back-to-back in 1955 and 1956 and played in the Masters because of it. He spent some time on the American pro circuit a few years ago also.

FORTUNATE

He admits he is fortunate to have been able to make his favourite game his sole livelihood for the past 24 seasons. Many good players haven't been so lucky. He says the Canadian pro golf scene is diminishing while in the rest of the world it is growing. "The pro game is leaving us. There aren't enough tournaments. There's no incentive for the many good young Canadian players. This year, for the first time in 30 years there is no Ontario Open. The same thing in Alberta, there isn't going to be one, and there wasn't one there last year either. Imagine the two richest provinces and no tournaments."

"You have to be rich to be a pro nowadays. Tournaments are so spread out. One here, then you're off for a week, then there's maybe one in British Columbia. You know what it costs to fly out or drive, pay for a hotel, entry fee and caddies? And then you won't win much money. In my day we had them like clockwork everywhere. I feel sorry for the young guys. You have to be single. If I was married I couldn't do it."

"I do something millions wish they could do and I make it look easy. They say 'how does he get up there and take one swing and make it go straight down the fairway. I've hit over two million balls.'"

The highlight of his career was the 1963 Canadian Open where he placed third behind Doug Ford and Herman Kaiser. "That was a thrill, playing before 12,000 people."

For now Norman is content to play the local pro circuit around Ontario while tending to his duties as pro at Golf Haven just north of Toronto.

Fastball start

On Monday May 5 the Industrial fastball league got under way with three games being played. Phil Publishing were edged 6-4 by Peel Police, who look very strong. Akers-Clark Real Estate were bombed 9-4 by C and S Plumbing while the Merchants squeaked out a 7-6 victory over Norval.

Tuesday May 6 at Hornby R-S Muller took it on the chin by a 4-0 score from Akers-Clark Real Estate. Hornby, in an exciting contest beat the Acton Roadrunners 7-6.

Wednesday, had a full schedule of games with Phil Publishing showing their strength with a 9-3 win over a solid Hornby team. A good game between R-S Muller and Norval had the Muller men come out on top 6-3. Peel Police remained undefeated with a 7-4 victory over the Merchants. One of the closest battles of the week was a 2-1

bottom-of-the-seventh victory by C and S Plumbing over the Acton Roadrunners. Not that the C and S team is old but by rapid calculation on the infield alone there is a total of at least 150 years of actual ball playing experience.

Thursday night in Acton, the Acton Roadrunners played host to the Merchants and once again proved that they'll be a force to reckon with, by walloping the Merchants 8-1.

Bowling on lawn

Monday afternoon the lawn bowling season rolls into play. The Log Cabin club, on Edith Street, will be holding an open house that day for new and old members. Instructors will be on hand to teach new bowlers. For more information call 877-9723 or 877-7976.

26 miles, 385 yards

10 locals run in Ottawa marathon

Sunday morning while most of us were just waking up to the 70th anniversary of Mother's Day, at least 10 Halton Hills residents, from every walk (no pun intended) of life, were running their hearts out for over three and a half to four hours through the rain dampened streets of Ottawa, in the National Capital Marathon Race.

"It was fantastic," bubbled Dr. Boyd Hoddinot, one of the local finishers. "People were yelling 'You're beautiful' as we ran by."

Hoddinot, Dave Steen, Anita and Courtney Warner, Neil McKinnon, Brian Markham, Jim Stewart, Bob Weeks, Bruce McIntyre and Gary Barry all became first-time members of an exclusive fraternity of marathon runners when they crossed the start-finish line at Carleton University. Bob Daniel, who placed second in the master section of the 4,000 person race, with a time of three hours 32 minutes, had already belonged to the select group sometime before having completed similar grueling distances.

All, but Daniel, had never run more than for health a few years ago. Then came the fun runs like the Mayor's Road Race.

"I was told 'if you don't sign up for one (a marathon) then you'll never do it'", said dentist Markham.

Hoddinot, the Warners, Steen and McKinnon got ahold of a book that brought them from the jogging state to marathon shape in three months. It involved running 70 to 80 miles a week. Hoddinot admits only averaging 36 miles, to which he attributes his difficult finish. "I ran the last nine miles on sheer desire."

The others just ran their courses until they were able to do 20 plus miles. That involved short (five or eight miles) runs and long runs (15 to 20 miles) alternately.

The race began at 9 a.m. with four different half hour time slots determined by your expected finishing time. It started and finished at Carleton University and wound out along the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa River, past the Parliament buildings and through part of the city.

Now that they have hit the epitome of jogging, the marathoners say it is back to preparing for the second annual Mayor's Road Race June 8. Some will enter the Toronto Star Trek before, June 1. After that most will try to run the marathon again, at least once more.



Even the pros get into a little bit of trouble sometimes. Here one of the 144 professional golfers who played in the Rolex Pro Team Championship, Monday at North Halton Golf and Country Club, shows just how to get out of

difficulty. The team of Ben Kern and Bob Panasuk won the best ball tournament after playing a six hole playoff.

Remain at top

Basketball Braves lose first in Etobicoke summer league

Etobicoke Summer League Braves, the Georgetown entry, received a strong game and 20 points from Colin Foster Thursday evening as they lost their first game of the season 98-89.

The Georgetown representative in the league found themselves down by 15 points at the half to a team consisting almost entirely of York University ball players called the Lakers.

"We caused them to turn over the ball a lot in the first half," player-coach Fred Harris told The Herald. "However, we weren't scoring on those turnovers and found ourselves in the position of playing catch-up ball the rest of the game. That's something I don't like to do because we tend to neglect our defense then."

The team was missing Mark Reis who is vacationing in Florida and centre Paul Vanorshot's knee was giving him problems in the latter part of the game. However he still managed to rack up 19 points.

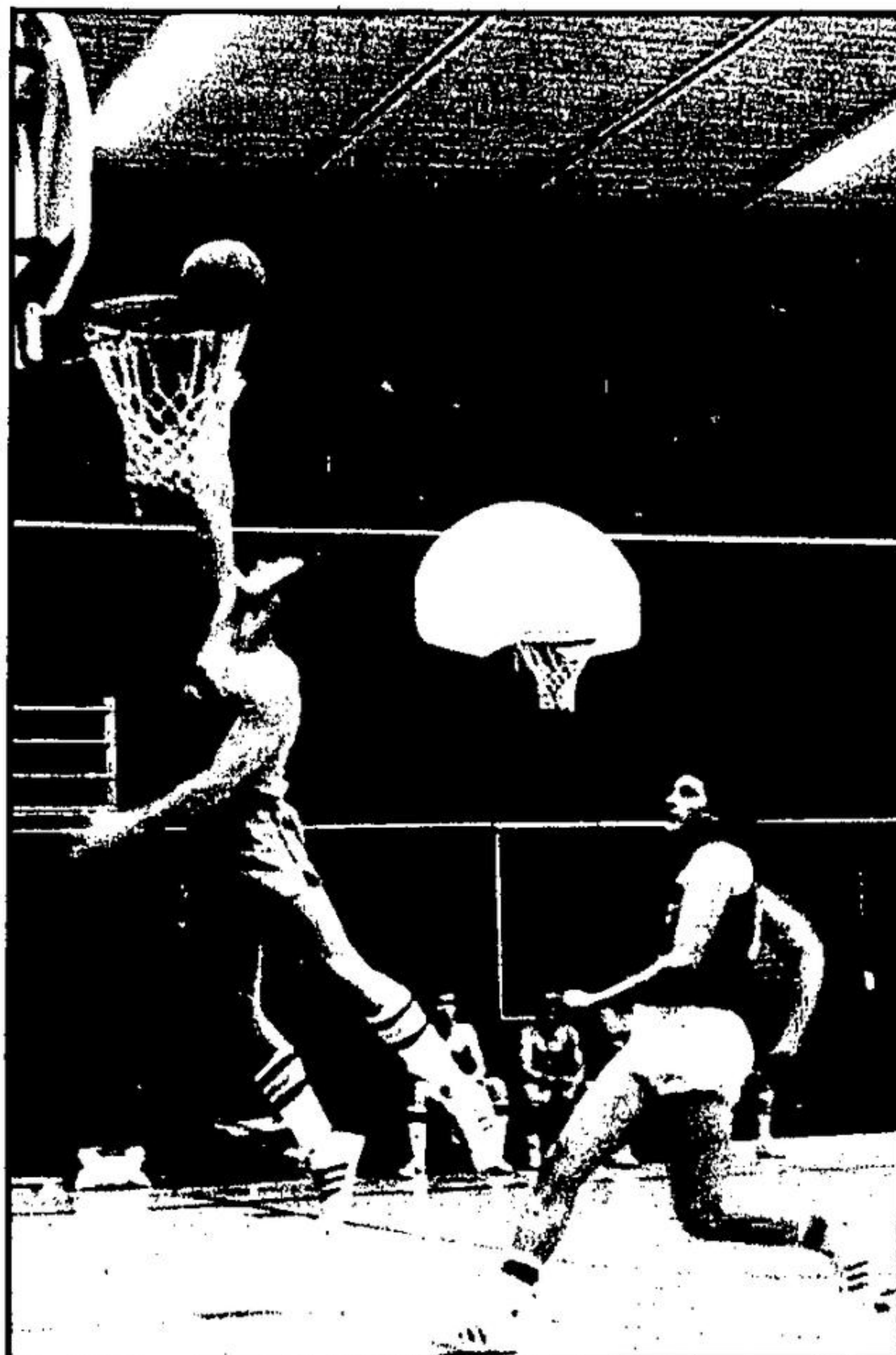
Forward Ted Darcie had his hands full keeping pace with the fast York players but still managed to score a very respectable 17 points.

"Our foul shooting kept us in the game," Harris said. "We hit 17 for 21 this week, which is our best percentage yet."

Late in the game the team bench received two technical fouls for disputing the referee's judgements and calls in a rather vociferous manner. This naturally didn't help the cause or ingratiate the referees.

"I keep tellin' the guys we can't yap at the ref's calls and expect them to forget it," coach Harris said. "Only problem is sometimes I'm the worst offender."

The team picked up other points from forwards Bruce Cartwright with 9, Rick Gourlie with 10, and Reggie Neil with 4. Guard Stephen Foster added 10 points to the Braves score.



Georgetown Braves' Colin Foster scored 20 points Thursday in a losing effort against the Etobicoke Summer League Lakers. The Braves got behind in the first half and had to play catch-up ball for the remainder of the game. They never quite caught up, losing to the Lakers 98-89.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Or is it Superman? No, it's none of these but a pop up at home plate during industrial baseball league action. This was an out, but C and S Plumbing could have used one more as they lost 1-0 to Norval in Monday night action.