

A salute to Halton Hills' sports

Sports editor's note:

In the following story, The Herald would like to salute some of the many dedicated and hard-working sportspersons in Halton Hills. This area has its own special kind of loyalty and attachment to its teams and athletes and we should all be proud of their contribution to the community.

Sportsworld would like to mention all the teams and coaches who made the 1980 season such a worthy one in sports, however, time and space restraints make this an impossible task. Here is an overview of some of the highlights in sports for 1980.

It was a year for triumphs, a year for frustrations; the joys of winning and the sorrows of defeat were shared by many throughout the 1980 sports season. Here is a review of some of the highlights.

HOCKEY SEASON

The minor hockey teams in Georgetown fared better in playoff competition than their big brothers, the Geminis and Raiders. On April 9, the Herald reported: "It only takes one shot on goal to score a game winner. Brian Doherty can tell you because he did it to lead his United Fire Safety minor pee wee team to the Tri-County championship over Brampton."

Besides the championship Minor Pee Wees, our Tri-County Labelmaster Midgets won the championship crown with a convincing win over Chinguacousy during the week of April 16.

AWARDS BANQUET

During their awards banquet for Tri-County in May, the Labelmaster Midgets were named the most improved hockey team in town. North Raiders. On April 9, the Herald reported: "It only takes one shot on goal to score a game winner. Brian Doherty can tell you because he did it to lead his United Fire Safety minor pee wee team to the Tri-County championship over Brampton."

The McNally Construction Firefighters major atoms received the Harold Gilmer and Family award for winning the Ontario Minor Hockey Association title this year. A popular guest speaker at the father and son banquet was Dave "Tiger" Williams.

Stratford beat Bramalea to win the Midget tournament held during the middle of January. The two Georgetown teams were knocked out of the championship and consolation play in the second round of the quarter finals.

RAIDERS ELIMINATED

It was a sad day for Raider fans when news broke out that they had been defeated by an old nemesis, the Dundas Merchants during the week of April 2. Our files tell the story:

"The local team had just been eliminated from further post season play, in the sixth game of their third playoff series, by the Dundas Merchants...."

The 3-1 loss that night had the defending Georgian Bay championship team from Georgetown relinquish its 12 month hold on that title to the team which had just three weeks earlier wrestled the regular crown away from them in the same Gordon Alcott arena."

SWIMMING

The Halton Hills Swim team won the Kelly Cup at a swim meet in Ancaster, August 24. The meet was so close the score had to be tallied four times before the winner was finally announced.



Mike McElroy, on the right, was the seven-year old winner in the Optimist sponsored showdown at the Alcott arena on a Saturday morning in April. Adam Hills, on the left, was third in the event. (Herald photo)



Sensei Kent Robinson, head instructor in the Japanese martial arts in Georgetown, broke six cement blocks with his bare hand at the Highland games Saturday. He had hoped to double his previous attempt of four blocks, at last year's games, but had to settle for six. (Photo by Lori Taylor)

"You wouldn't put me out!" This Hornby Industrial baseball league runner looks up in wonderment at the Philp Publishing first baseman asking whether he is safe or not last year. (Herald photo)



The Georgetown Skating Club, active at Memorial Arena for 25 years, celebrate their anniversary with a gala party, complete with cake and balloons! (Herald photo)



Here, a Wimpey's player makes a shoestring grab on his opponent during flag football action over the summer. Dairy Queen emerged as the overall champion at the end of the season defeating the Delrex Smoke Shop, marking the end of a flag football dynasty. (Herald photo)



"He's the fastest!" Bruce McIntyre won the Mayor's Road Race June 8, for the second year in a row. Mayor Pete Pomroy also ran the 5.5 kilometre course and handed out the trophies to the winners.

Figure skaters in top ten

Four Halton Hills figure skaters proved last year that they were among the top 10 in the country in their classes at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Kitchener during the month of January.

Kris Barber and his partner, Kelly Johnson, placed fourth in the 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 Georgetown skating club, where no doubt many of our finest skaters once started training, celebrated its 25th year at Memorial arena with a gala party, March 5.



Gordon Wallace of the Toronto Blizzard shows a group of young soccer players the correct way to head the ball at the soccer clinic held last August. (Photo by Jack Harlow)



Athlete of the Year

The Halton Hills Sports Builder dinner held last June 16, honored Herb Robinson (left) for his contribution to Georgetown athletics and Mark Bray (right), an international class swimmer as the Athlete of the Year. The lovely lady in the centre is pentathlete Debbie Van Kieckebell, guest speaker at the event. (Herald photo)



The Youth Bowling Club of Georgetown handed out their awards to the winning teams in June this year. (Herald photo)

Georgetown Geminis rebound, finish off well

The Georgetown Geminis rebounded from a seventh place finish in the regular season to steadily progress in the playoffs. Our reporter then said, "Everyone from team management through staff to the players themselves were proud of their accomplishments of getting as far as the sixth game of the playoffs against Burlington."

GEMINIS OUT

The Orilla Travelways management, who followed the final two Gemini games after they had put Barrie out, said that they would prefer to have played the Cougars rather than seventh place Georgetown because the Geminis played a tougher game against them."

During the week of June 18, the Raiders had their awards night and the three stars for the season were: Steve Lyon, Ray Tonelli, Peter McDuffe. Ken Steen was voted the most improved player. President Bob Hooper was honored with the Jack Harrison Award for his outstanding contributions to the hockey association. Peter McDuffe won the most valuable player of the year award.

The end of February brought the illustrious Hockey Heritage Awards. This story surely brings back memories for those who attended: "As representative of Branch 120 and recipient of the Hockey Heritage Award, the ever smiling 'star of the night' (Legion Pres. Harold Badham) was shaking hands and accepting accolades for his fellow comrades at every turn.

"It seemed that every boy, now men, who had played under the auspices of the Legion during its more than 25 years of involvement in Saturday morning hockey in Georgetown, was at the dinner to personally thank the Legion president.

Laurie Boshman and Rocky Saginuk were there plus former Leaf great, Pierre Pilon. Mayor Pete Pomroy made the Heritage presentation on behalf of the town.

Two of the many notable hockey events in Acton during the past year came when last February the Minor Midgets hosted a team from Sweden and tied them 5-5.

In more recent history, the Acton Sabres impressed their fans with a solid disciplined hockey team and their good play was illustrated in the standings. After several years in the basement of the Central Ontario Junior B league, the Sabres bounced back under new coach Jules Russian to put on a 15 game winning streak. That streak put them into a tie for third place. Looking into the new year, we can only predict that they will remain as strong as ever.

Also in Acton, the illustrious Acton Bulldogs started their season off with back to back wins at the Speyside Highland Games and Newmarket Games last June. During the Canadian National Exhibition, the Bulldogs represented Acton in a top-of-war contest with four other contenders in the 800 kilogram class. No matter that they finished fourth - we were all proud of the team!

AWARDS NIGHT

During the week of June 18, the Athlete of the Year and Sports Builder awards were handed out. Kris Barber was a third time runner-up at the dinner for the Athlete's award. Ian Clark, winner the year before, was a finalist in 1980. Acton's Mark Bray won the Athlete of the Year award. Bray, although only 15 years old at the time, competed on the Canadian pre-Olympic team during the year, in West Germany where he placed fourth and eighth in the 100 and 200 metre butterfly.

He is ranked among the top 15 swimmers in the country and as high as fourth in his specialty, the butterfly.

Herb Robinson was an original member of the International Bantam tournament as well as helping to set up the local minor hockey support group in later years.

In October, the Junior Falcons capped off their season by clinching both the league and cup championships Saturday and Sunday against Brampton and Streetsville. Winning teams in the house league soccer league were the Cosmos, the Hurricanes, the Huskies and the Blackhawks.

DAIRY QUEEN CHAMPS

For the flag football fans, a dynasty was shattered when the Dairy Queen team emerged victorious in the flag football championship final.

Here is Tim Taiton's report from our November (left): Sunday marked the demise of a minor sporting dynasty in Georgetown as Dairy Queen, the playoff dark horse, snatched the GFFL title out of the hands of the Delrex Smoke Shop.

Smoke Shop led almost from start to finish but every time they looked over their shoulder, the DQ was still there, and in uncharacteristic fashion, the Smokers choked...

SPORTS SHORTS

On June 4 the Youth Bowling Club held their annual awards night and handed out trophies to all the winning teams. The Gordon Alcott ladies "A" doubles team captured the West Division title of the inter-county league they play on Saturday during the week of August 20. They finished the regular season with 39 points.

NEW DIRECTOR

Our recreation department gained a new director when Tom Shepard became Halton Hill's department head. He played baseball for Michigan State where he was granted a scholarship - he also played for a stint with the major league Detroit Tigers.

In an interview with The Herald during the month of February when he was hired, he said one of his main ambitions was to unify his department across Halton Hills.