



ARC ANGELS SAY 'HALLELUJAH!'

The following are all members of the ARC Angels floor hockey team. Although everyone participates in practice, only the top players compete against other major centres such as Brampton. Seated here are (back row, left to right) Terry Laidlaw (coach), Neil, Mike, Gary, Tina, John Tom, Lee Vivian (former coach), (middle row) Elizabeth, Gayle, Benny, Job, Jacob, Cyrilie, (front row) Mark, Sebastian, Paul, Barbie, Dave, John. (Herald photo)

Johnny Payton

Thirty laps of pool nothing for swimmer

John Payton who lives on the Eighth Line, Georgetown, started swimming when he was 7 years old under a coach who instructed both Marilyn Bell and Cliff Lumsden, both celebrated Lake Ontario swimmers. Thirteen-year old John said that G. Ryder was a persistent man, but without him and John's parents, he wouldn't be the swimmer he is today, Payton says. The grade seven Centennial student is an avid swimmer who has attained a level 4 achievement badge from the Red Cross 'adapted aquatics' swimming certificate. The former Halton Hills 'Timmy' representative is at home in the water. John suffers from Spina-Bifida, which is a congenital spinal deformity, but that doesn't prevent him from swimming 32 consecutive lengths of the Georgetown indoor pool. Even though the 32 lengths took him an hour to complete, he kept at it. Part of his earlier training was with the Georgetown swim club before they became the Blue Fins. He swam with the rest of the kids and their presence helped him to improve further. John's strongest stroke is the front crawl and every Saturday morning at 10:45 he can be seen at Georgetown's indoor pool with his pal Neil Mercier of 10 Eden Place, Georgetown. The Saturday morning swim is for both the handicapped and the able-bodied. Neil and John have been swimming in the indoor pool since it opened in Georgetown. However, John is just getting back into the swing of things after having a series of spinal operations since last May. Neil Mercier has the same Level 4 swimming certificate as John and trips to summer camp must have helped this grade eight student at E.C. Drury in Milton improve his strokes. Neil, who has muscular dystrophy, has been swimming since he was a baby. John and Neil work at their swimming on their own, but sometimes they are coached by instructors. Time in the pool is spent on practising their lengths and 'fooling around'. Both find swimming to be their favorite sport and one of the best parts swimming is the exercise, Neil says.

Year of the Disabled - what does it mean?

(Continued from page B1) of the hardships and problems a parent sees when their child is treated unfairly and becomes alienated from his friends. She's seen how the public schools didn't want Mike to participate in sports for fear of hurting himself and how Mike became a walking time bomb ready to explode with emotion. For Mike it was hard not to be physically active when he lost his sight from a rare eye disease called Iritis. He was like a cornered fist-fighter with nothing left but his pride, Jesse Jacobs says. **NO SELF-PITY** But William Ross school in Brantford gave Mike back his love of sports and the team spirit at the school is enviable, says Mike's mother. The kids at Ross McDonald school have no self-pity and they make you feel ashamed of yourself, she says. They give ourselves courage and hope,

she says. Mrs. Jacobs has seen how hard it is for others to understand the disabled. "It's a problem people don't want to hear about. They just don't understand," Mrs. Jacobs says. Michael sees he's not a problem by competing in sports such as wrestling and track and it's easier to keep his head up," Mrs. Jacobs says. Now, Michael is helping a youngster to adjust to the school in which Mike's grandmother wrote a poem about which is included in this week's paper. **UNDERSTANDING IMPORTANT** With 1981 being the International Year of the Disabled, it is hoped that any progress that has been made involving the understanding of the disabled will not be forgotten after the year ends. Hopefully the message will stand firm.

Georgetown's Armbro bantams are one for one

Georgetown's Armbro Transport Bantams had two trips to Burlington this week where coming home with a point is always tough. The optimism of the truckers was shattered Oct. 20 when Burlington's Minor Bantams handed their guests an 8-0 loss. Nothing went right for Georgetown and it seemed they forgot they had to work as a team during the game. The Tier II Bantams returned Oct. 31 this time to face-off against Burlington's Major Bantams hoping to change the results. Todd Cull set up Mark Bertrand for the games opening goal to give Georgetown the lead 1-0. The two teams skated with each other but the difference began to show between the pipes as the Burlington goaltender made several big stops. The home team put four goals on the scoresheet before Mark Bertrand with his second tally of the day brought the count to 4-2. Assisting on the goal were Mark Paslak and Jim Hunsley. Burlington netted three more late goals to put a win out of reach for Georgetown. The Tier II Bantams play again at home this Saturday against Orangeville in an attempt to even their win-loss record.

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A poem for Bobbi

The following poem was written by Margaret King, grandmother of Michael Jacobs who is featured in the special sports edition on the disabled. Michael attends Ross McDonald school in Brantford for the disabled and he's been helping fellow Georgetown Bobbi, age 4, adjust to his new surroundings. The poem was written for Bobbi:

OH! Yes, I like your jogging suit,
Your voice so sweet and true,
You are an inspiration
Yes, I will jog with you.
We'll run across the meadow
And find that flowery dale,
Where a stream flows down the hillside,
Where love and birth prevail.

We'll hear the song of the woodlands,
Where the trilliums bloom in May,
We'll stroll along the pathways
And hear what the woodlands say.
The robin sings so sweetly
There's joy in the heron's call,
Somewhere in the distance,
You can hear the waterfall.

We can find some pussy willows,
I know they are in bloom
Although we cannot see them,
They send their rare perfume.
We'll stop and smell the flowers
As people seldom do,
While walking in the meadow
Its wonders to pursue.

They say that there are none so blind
As those who will not see,
We see much by touch and sound
In darkness though we be.
Each one has a little world
With numerous things to do,
I find in mine if others can
The blind can do it too.
Hobbie, you're so cheerful,
You're a friendly little lad,
It's obvious we never miss
The things we never had.
When you start school in Brantford
You'll find each day so full
Of things that they can teach you
At the ROSS McDONALD SCHOOL.

Double loss for Gems

Continued from page B2 give the visitors an 8-3 margin by the time the buzzer sounded. The Gems picked up their third goal as Guy Cormier jumped on the puck in front of the Blades' net and capitalized on a defensive blunder with less than a minute remaining in the period. Natyshak and Dryden scored two short-handed goals for the Blades in what turned out to be a seven-goal period entirely in the visiting club's favor. Steve Inglehart, Steve Meldrum, Craig Marshall and Dave McEwan mesmerized the Gems while the home club had players cooling their heels in the penalty box. Blades' Frank Quinn also earned himself a goal. Smith faced 17 Gem shots.

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