

Our towns' travelling gymnast:

Sara spends time overseas gaining valuable experience on the international circuit

A recent trip to Hungary earlier in the month by Canadian team gymnast Sara Aggiss adds another

dimension to her world class experience. Sara, a Georgetown native, has competed in countries

such as Moscow, East Germany, England and Holland in her travels as a member of the Canadian team when

they have toured in participating at world meets. The Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High

School student was disappointed at her showing in Hungary where she competed against gymnasts from the top 23 countries in the sport. She finished 25th out of 40 competitors.

Her best event was vault, but her floor, beam and uneven bar routines were not up to par, she said.

Sara's coach from the Cambridge Kips, Benita Rope, said that Sara needs to develop consistency in international competition, but she has excellent international routines.

BAD TIME
The Hungary meet came at a bad time for Canadian gymnasts who are training to peak for the national competitions at the end of the month.

Sara will be competing in the provincial gymnastics meet this weekend.

Rope sees Sara travelling more for Canada as part of their gymnastics team. She also has a good chance to make the world team for next year and eventually Sara has a good chance to compete in the 1984 Olympics.

Sara was a member of the Canadian team which travelled to Moscow for the world gymnastic championship last year.

Although Sara is 18 years old, coach Rope doesn't feel Sara's age is in anyway a disadvantage to world competition in gymnastics. "We will always see the little hotshots, but gymnastics is a women's sport," Rope says.

She thinks the trend is now reversing itself and gymnastics is going back to being a women's event, rather than a girl's event.

Coach Rope finds that in teaching a young woman of Sara's calibre that it is important to understand her needs.

The coach was happy that Sara decided to stay with the Cambridge Kips while she enters University, most likely at Sir Wilfrid Laurier in nearby Kitchener.

It is better to keep a solid foundation than have to adjust to a new environment and coaches, Rope says.

As a nationally carded athlete, Sara has her university expenses paid for by the Canadian government.

"Sara is a hard worker who is very dedicated. She has come a long way since she first joined the Kips," Rope says.

"Sara is disciplined and she is never late for workouts. She responds very well and can take suggestions, which makes the coaches' job easy," Rope says.

Sara is hoping to be selected to begin the gymnastic trials in September.

The Georgetown gymnast must drive the 40-minute route to Cambridge after school each day where she spends four hours training on four events.

At the end of the night, Sara admits she is tired and the practices are gruelling. Her coaches, Benita and Don Rope, set up a strict practice schedule which varies from night to night which Sara must follow.



Sara Aggiss, seen above, chalks her hands before attempting another uneven bar routine.

Tier 2 coach-manager duo earns end of year award

At the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association's annual Appreciation Dance last April 17, Georgetown's Rick Facchini and Paul West were named the 1982 Coach-Manager duo of the year.

Coach Facchini and Manager West guided their Tier 2 Midgets to the league championships after amassing a 18-3-2 record over the season.

Surprisingly enough, says president Tom Davidson, the selections for Coach of the Year are made before the

playoffs, so the team's success was not the most important factor in why Facchini and West won the award.

Facchini was selected because of his involvement with the older players and his ability to communicate with them, which is especially difficult at the age 15-16 years, Davidson says.

CALIBRE BETTER
Facchini coached bantam house league and midget house league for two years before moving up to Tier 2. "The calibre of hockey is

better and we had an exceptionally strong team this year," the coach says.

At the age his players are at, he says a coach can only bring up the talent they already have been taught. In some cases it's hard to discipline the kids, but some leaders on the team made his job much easier Facchini says.

As a coach, he tried to stress the role of the team.

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Manager Paul West (left) and Coach Rick Facchini were voted the GDMHA's Coach-Manager of the Year award. (Herald photo)

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Minor hockey elects new man

The Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association (House League, Tier 2a and Selects) have elected a new executive as Jim Bray, a former veteran GDMHA commissioner takes the president's chair from retiring Tom Davidson.

Davidson will stay on as past president in the new executive which includes Bill Hawkins as vice-president, Ken Flynn as treasurer and Monica Donaldson as secretary.

Included in the executive membership are the following individuals: Don Smith, Nick Leoni, Gord Stewart, Walt Buchan, Wendy Stewart, Sandy Paddle, Rita Davidson, D. Dunning, Jim Hepburn, Derek Williams, Fred Wallace and P. McDougall.

The newly elected president Jim Bray says other appointments will follow. Bray considers in his new appointment that "it is an important thing for everyone to be up front" about the issues.

The new president has three boys who play hockey. He stresses the GDMHA philosophy which outlines that hockey is for the kids.

MORE TALKS
Considerations for the 1982-83 season include continuing talks with Recreation Department head Tom Shepard and Tri-County executive on the topic of amalgamation of the two hockey leagues in town.

Bray would like to see the players in the GDMHA receive more ice time, especially for practice sessions. He sees the need to reduce the number of fights and rough play in the older age divisions.

One new implementation for the coming season will be a 5-point system which was tried in the playoffs, Bray says. The 5-point system has also been tried by some of the leagues during the regular season and Bray thinks the 5-point system will help.

The 5-point system gives a team who may be losing in the first two periods the chance to collect points in the third period of play, thus reducing the frustrations of lopsided scores which can result in unnecessary rough play.

Another new development to be implemented will be a new set of mandatory skill levels for the coaches to attain before they can coach in the GDMHA. Next season a coach must have a level one coaching certificate which includes theoretical and practical training courses.

Two years from now, coaches must have attained a level two standing before they will be allowed to coach.

Bray says.

DRAFT CHANGED
The controversial draft system which was implemented last year in which coaches picked the players from a draft, but then drew from a hat the team has been revoked. The players will still be graded A, B, C, D by their former coaches, but coaches will be able to keep the selections they pick.

As past president, Tom Davidson says the new executive is promising because there are as many as 10 new members and some of those who complained in the past have finally come forward to offer their assistance.

Most of the sponsors have returned from last year and



JIM BRAY
President's chair changes hands for House League and Tier 2. Bray will usher in a new year of minor hockey changes.

all the commissioners are set for the new year, Davidson says.

Davidson wished that amalgamation talks between the town and Tri-County to join the two minor hockey leagues had gone further and faster than they have thus far.

The GDMHA still has no indication from the town about the ice costs for next year although it is time to work on next year's budgets and this is a source of frustration for the executive, Davidson says.

One other area to be looked at will be the development of referee training for the coming season, Jim Bray says.

Swordsmen awards night

Players, fans and spectators of the Acton Junior B Sabres participated in the annual send-off and awards banquet at the Legion Hall last Saturday night in which seven players were individually awarded.

Two of the players, Mike Monahan and Wade Vickery earned two separate trophy presentations for their



efforts over the 1981-82 hockey season.

Coach Jules Russiani, who made the presentations, stressed to his team that he was proud of all his players for their abilities and that the trophies presented were for those who gave perhaps that "little bit of extra effort" in

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Senior gymnasts 3rd at OFSAA meet

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The Georgetown District High School gymnastics team were competing in their junior and senior categories for the OFSAA (Provincial) championships last week with the seniors taking third place overall.

The junior team pulled out some surprises of their own by placing fourth in Ontario, only 3.3 points out of first place.

Dave Bootle, the senior team's defending individual provincial champion, lost his crown, finishing the day in third place. Bootle was first on the parallel bars, second on the pommel and third on the floor.

In Dundas, the junior boys from Georgetown were participating in their first OFSAA competition. Georgetown totally dominated in the vault. In addition five of nine boys placed in the top six in their event.

In the vault, Jim Orwin, Brinley Hole and Kevin Kotani all scored 9.2, tied for fourth. Scott Kline took second with 9.6.

Glenn Edwards led the



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team on the rings with an 8.65, good enough for fifth position. Brian Kemp took team honors on the pommel horse and Scott Kline and Kevin Kotani each placed on the parallel bars, taking a sixth and a fifth respectively.

Kevin Kotani's seventh place finish overall led the team in that demanding category.

John Thorpe and Dave Bootle gave their teammates on the senior team a boost with their competitive scores last Saturday at their OFSAA meet. The seniors finished just four points behind the winners from Peterborough.

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Dave Bootle was third and John Thorpe was sixth in the all-round competition. John Thorpe placed fourth in the high bar and fifth on the parallel bars.

Excellent scores by Duane Wilson, Steve Doucette, Keith McLaughlin, Steve

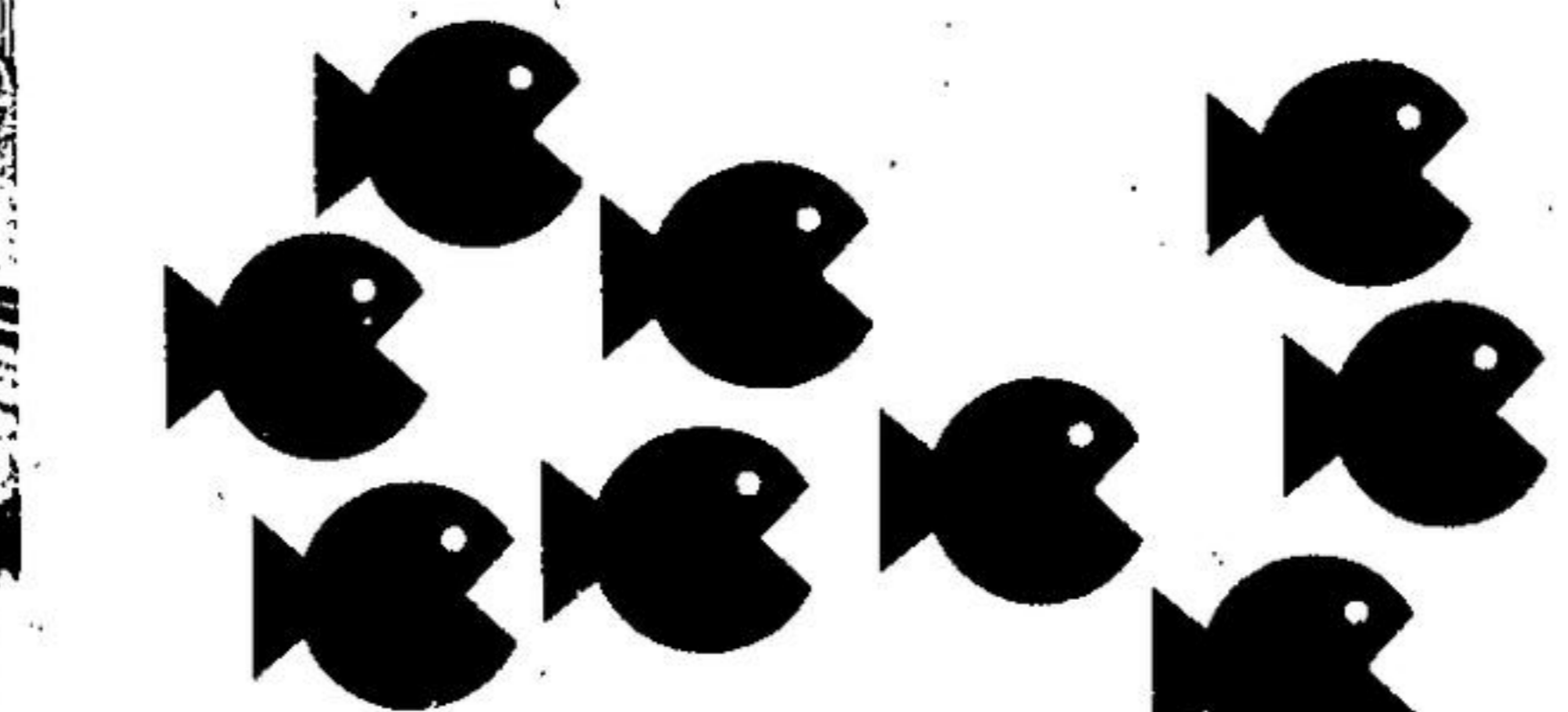
Brown and Scott Ball rounded out the team score and helped in Georgetown's high finish.

The coaches congratulate the boys and wish to thank the staff and students who supported the team during the season.

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