

Opening game around the corner

GFFL outlook 'grand' in 1982

By BILL WILSON and JOHN WATERS Herald Special

It's that time of year again. With opening day just around the corner, the G.F.F.L. is suiting up for what appears to be the most competitive year in its history.

At least nine teams will be returning from the 1981 season with room for possible expansion.

With spring training ignited throughout the league, it appears that the run for the title will be between the five most powerful contenders from last season, namely, Smoke Shop, the new-look Wimpey's, Dairy Queen, last year's winner Fobert's, and the explosive Greek's Tavern.

In the bottom half of the schedule there are four competitive teams all attempting to crack the top five, namely Royal Pizza, Glen Williams, Mountainview and Norval.

NORVAL WINLESS
Norval were winless in their first season of expansion but improved dramatically throughout the year. Still being young, it is doubtful they will move from the basement of the league, but should end up with a couple of upsets.

Glen Williams, always a spoiler, should have a better season in '82, although their offence is suspect. With a strong defence, this team should not be taken lightly, but it is doubtful they will crack the top five.

Mountainview, Plaza, whose record wasn't a reflection of their play last season will be strong in '82. However, if their attendance doesn't improve, it is doubtful they will be a factor.

Probably the strongest of the bottom four squads this season will be Royal Pizza. They are a young, strong team who came up with the big wins in '81, and were narrowly defeated in playoff action.

If they remain healthy over the season, they should outdo one of the top five.

FOBERT'S DEFENDING
In the top five, it is Fobert's out to defend the title.

With the strong showing Fobert's displayed in the '81 playoffs, they are a team to be reckoned with. Although they are not a team with sheer talent, desire is the greatest factor on Fobert's side.

They shouldn't repeat, but will be a strong contender. One of the favorites for the title will be the always powerful Deirex Smoke Shop. Having won the league numerous times in the past, their experience will be a factor to their advantage.

Although age has reduced the speed on the team, they have good hands and a strong defence. Expect to see the Smokers in the top two. The weakest of the top five will be the Wimpey's. With very little offence, it is unlikely they will be able to compete with the more offensive oriented teams.

Defence is strong, but it's difficult to win when you don't score. Expect Wimpey to end up fifth. Dairy Queen had a poor showing last season after winning in 1980. The queens showed more energy competing against themselves than with other teams last season.

If this squad can improve spirit, with their talent, expect to see a finish in the top three.

The final and most talented of any other team in the league would appear to be the Greek's Tavern. With the most explosive offence in the league, led by the bionic-armed Rick Baldwin, and the sure-handed John Karolidas, they shouldn't score less than thirty points a game.

Using a double-back formation this season, speedsters Mark Russell and James Allen will add a new twist to the regular one back formation commonly used. Returning this season for the Greeks is the dynamic Jim Baldwin, who will be paired with Rick Fisher for the second best one two punch in the league.

next only to the Greeks' right side Wilson-Karolidas connection.

What haunted the Greeks in the past, however, was defence. With the acquisition of college star Mike Miehms to coordinate the zones, this is no longer a factor.

The Rivers brothers, returning this season will keep strength down the middle. The flats will consist of the steady Dino Scallan and sturdy Stan Reynolds.

Adding veterans Pat Jacobs, and Mike Makovnyk along with four new acquisitions, Eric and Frac Stasius, Frank Miedinski, and Paul Karolidas, the Greeks' defence should be the league's best. Expect the Greeks to take everything in '82.

This season should prove to be the best football turned out by the GFFL in its history. The calibre of football is superb and the competition excellent. Good luck in '82.

Cast away!

The second annual Kelso fishing derby takes place May 8 and 9 at the Halton Region Conservation Authority's Kelso Park in Milton. An 80-acre reservoir is being stocked with ten-inch to 24-inch rainbow trout for the derby, open to all fishermen. For a registration fee of \$5 (\$2.50 for children and seniors), you can cast in your line from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 8 and 9 and vie for special prizes. Camping is available from Friday to Sunday nights, as well as plenty of good food. Call 878-5011 for more information.



Seen here from Fobert's holding the leg of celebrated field goal kicker Terry Hunt whose foot won them the playoff championships on the last play of the game: Fred Enge, Ken Baker, Glenn Collins, Dave McCarthy, Terry Hunt, Keith Peacock, Brian Pemberton, Rob Arthurs, Wayne Johnson, Bruce Urch, Brian Meyers and Rob Pemberton.

Rugby clash ends scoreless

The Georgetown District High School Rebel rugby team challenged the Acton High School Redmen last Thursday afternoon, but both teams came up empty on the scoreboard.

In their exhibition game at Acton High School, the newly formed Georgetown junior rugby squad showed promise, says coach Sandy McKenzie. McKenzie, along with football coaches Bill Bingham and Dale Law have revived a Georgetown entry because of the interest in rugby by 20 players.

McKenzie says the boys did quite well, but it was evident also that many still don't understand the finer points of the game. "They're not passing enough and they're not packing right," the coach says.

"We were having a lot of trouble with the set scrum, but we changed that at the end of the game," McKenzie says.

About four or five team members have played before and the coach is counting on their experience to help the others in the early stages of the season. At scrum Owen Gray has played before and so has fullback Ashley Saunders. Prop Steve Richie and captain Terry Poltruff look eager to pull their weight while Kevin Gillespie has proven to be an aggressive player, the coach says.

Coach McKenzie says the team to beat in the North will be Chinguacousy who were the OFSAA junior champions last year. The Halton-Peel final should probably be Oakville-Trafalgar versus Chinguacousy.

ACTON STRATEGY
The rugby schedule for the high schools begins next week. Acton coaches Murray Kiltner and Dave Boycott are working to get their boys in proper condition plus emphasis on the fundamentals of the game will be stressed.

Coach Kiltner says he is looking for the juniors to be the best team of the midget, junior and senior entries for Acton. They have the most experience and are paced by experienced veterans such as Jock Garton, the school's junior rugby Most Valuable player and Scott Allenby the midget scrum half who was also MVP.

"We are looking for a lot from the whole team because there is a fair bit of talent," Kiltner says.

Last Thursday against the Rebels, Kiltner thought his forwards were stronger than the backs.

Still waiting for town to come through

Famous quotations...."we always allocated (gym) bookings to returning groups from prior seasons", a town official. Who did exactly the opposite with our submissions for this winter. And, who also mucked up some instructions on cancellations causing no end of problems and lost tempers! And, admittedly made some amendments later.

"We intend to move on the soccer fields first to prepare for the season", another town official (four weeks ago). No work yet on soccer fields, and, in fact, we are informed that they may not be ready for opening day!

"Costs of repairs and maintenance are high and getting higher and we shall recover more and more from user groups", a town councillor. Moore Park, as we call it - Emmerson is the correct title, needs repairs each year

themselves on keeping taxes down. False economy. The route being taken will see the expiration of volunteer groups, and maybe this is what the town officials desire in spite of thanks to the volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

I hear that we are having a circus coming to town. Maybe this is the reason for not starting work on Neilson-Dorsey field. No point in spending money there for soccer, the elephants will flatten the ground for them!

This whole matter is a circus, anyway! A fairly successful boot day was held this Friday and Saturday. June and Colin Wilde took 'em in on Friday and flogged them on Saturday. This was a new idea and seems to be pretty good. We registered a few stragglers on Saturday also and that should just about do it. Four teams of mixed bantam-juniors in boys house league are coachless and managerless right now.

We are attempting to fill these last spaces and this is not easy as there do not appear to be any willing applicants. We shall be forced to resort to other means - and be accused of blackmail. Of course if there are no volunteers forthcoming perhaps we could ease the field situation by refunding and cancelling this age group.

The Meteors held their dance on Saturday last and it was well supported by the other soccer clubs. With Ralph 'Merry' Mulder and wife Peggy as Deejays we all had a good night. So good that I was ill all day Sunday! The youth group are holding their season opener at Holy Cross Auditorium on Friday May 28 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. More information about this later. Falcon, Ajax and Eagles functions are not yet known to this scribe.

Most of the soccer clubs have practised indoors throughout the winter and the time is nearing when we take the field. Minor and major atoms had on the field try outs on Monday, Peewees on Tuesday. The Ancient Mariners and Falcon Juniors this very eve at Moore Park. The mosquitoes will be announced by coach Bill Poole later. The bantams have had game try outs in out of town exhibitions.

Referees are getting organized by President Harry Braam and commissioners Elaine and Luc Bertrand. Elaine is looking after schedules - let her know your availability, lads and lasses. Luc is looking after development - let him know if you are interested in learning to ref in easy stages.

Welcome back to Rick Timmins and Bill Innes who have been missed for a season or two. A first welcome to Gerry Andrews, a qualified man who is now with us. The group is preparing a guideline for refs to follow and is

working to have this ready as soon as possible.

CONDUCT
The youth group finalized its conduct code and regulations (or will have done last evening) and this should be ready shortly. A general meeting for coaches, managers, refs and other interested parties is being organized for May. A panel will present the youth regulations and game rules and will be open to questions. We are hopeful that Cliff Calvert and Alan Merrick of the Blizzard will attend and give a short talk. The Blizzard schedules dictate May 21 at the moment. Watch this space.

Finally, talking of the Blizzard, what about the start to this season? 4 games played and 4 games won, 2 of which were in Florida. The Exhibition games were spoiled by the conditions, a swirling wind and therefore bouncing ball.

In previous years the lads would have lost the close games they are having. This season so far they are winning and winning as a team and without the likes of Jomo Sono and newcomer, Irish international Jimmy Nicholl. It's not pretty but it's effective and getting results and that is very encouraging. - See you later, folks.

Soccer
By ALEX TOUGH Herald Special

(needs - does not always get) at one goal mouth due to the killing of the ground and grass by the placing of an outdoor rink in winter, which obviously offsets the good done by the repair. An example of idiocy!

FIELDS
"We want you to use less field time in order to rest fields", a town official. Then informs us that midweek time is being re-allocated to another group on one of the fields badly needed by soccer. Reducing our time even more. Oh yes, what happened to "we always allocated (field) bookings to returning groups?"

"We will be starting the lights work at Emmerson this week", (three weeks ago). An examination shows that it has not started yet.

"Alex, there is a definite need, a priority need in my view, for more soccer fields", a town mayor, (in 1978 that was). Still waiting.

What we are experiencing is vastly increasing costs, decreasing services and an attempt to take away field game time. The councillors preen themselves on the way in which they keep budgets within inflation rates and congratulate

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Roadrunner
On Sunday, April 25, Sean Cleary of Holy Cross School ran a personal best in the Brampton 10 K Road Race.

Coach, John Luciani also ran a personal best of 39:57 and placed 12th overall.

and placed fifth in his age category (18 years and under) and 19th overall.

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