

Young Acton diver aiming for the top

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor
If Michael Bowers wants to get to the top, then he's going to have to take a dive.

Bowers, 14, is a member of the Etobicoke Diving Club, and one of the best in the province in his sport. Competing at the 'A' level in last year's provincial diving championships at Sudbury's Laurentian University, the Acton resident reeled off three straight silver medal performances.

Currently ranked fourth in the province for his age grouping, Bowers is training hard for an important meet his Etobicoke club is hosting. He will get an opportunity to match his skills against talented American divers at the eighth annual John Dickenson Invitational Meet in January.

A member of the Acton High School swim team, Bowers says he originally took to diving because "when I started, I seemed to have a knack for it. So I just

kept going.

"Today, I like the competition," he says. "I've made some pretty good friends in diving, too. I also like it because it's an individual sport. I like doing it for myself."

He has to like doing it. He does it over and over, to the tune of three, two-hour practices each week. Each practice consists of 100 dives or more, repeating procedures time and time again to perfect execution.

"I like diving," Bowers says, in a whole of an understatement. "It's sort of more than a hobby now. It's like a need. An addiction."

Bowers' number one supporter is his dad, Gary, a Level II diving instructor who is always at the pool to provide some insight and helpful tips.

Gary remembers how his son discovered the sport. It was a fluke, dad recalls.

"We were here for a family swim and Michael was doing some things on the diving board he shouldn't have been doing," the older Bowers recalled. "His mother told him to get off the board, and to take some proper diving lessons so he could learn the sport properly."

Bowers competes in three disciplines, including the one and three-meter springboard, and platform or tower diving. Not surprisingly, he has more difficulty executing the higher up he goes.

All divers have to deal with an element of fear, Bowers explains, comparing his sport to sky diving.

"The first dives are so scary, but you get a lot of support from your friends on the team," Bowers says. "Concentration is so important, along with flexibility."

"Finally, though, you just have to tell yourself you're going to do it, then do it."

Fear is not unfounded in this sport, the senior Bowers explains.

"You go flat from 35 feet up, and it makes your eyes water," he said.

Heading into his fourth year as a Canadian Amateur Diving Association carded competitor, Bowers has certain goals in mind. He wants to match national team scores when he competes.

"I've been working hard for three years now, and I expected to do well at the provincials," Bowers said. "You have to go against yourself, and try and better your score."



Michael Bowers, 14, of Acton, wants to improve his diving to a level competitive with national team scores. (Herald photo)



Capricorn center Pat Nessel looks for a teammate to pass to during last Wednesday night's 83-33 Georgetown Ladies Basketball League loss to the Trojans. That's Trojan guard Janet Mather putting the pressure on Nessel. (Herald photo by Gerry Timbers)

Cougars rip Mustangs Trojans blast Caps

Carolyn Heron connected for 32 points to lead the Cougars to a lop-sided 84-47 victory

over the Mustangs in Georgetown Ladies Basketball League play last Wednesday night at Centennial School.

Leslie Durham also had a big night for the Cougars, contributing 22 points. Dagna Zelek hit for 14 points in a winning cause.

Georgetownner at banquet

Georgetown's Murray Ezeard was one of more than 100 "old-time hockey players" who gathered in Markham Friday night to eat, drink and swap tales.

Ezeard, 65, a former minor league player with both the Montreal Canadiens and New York Rangers, was invited to join the likes of former NHLers Frank Mahovlich, Carl Brewer, Sid Smith, Joe Primeau, Pete Conacher and 'Ace' Bailey at the Markham banquet.

Former Detroit Red Wing great Bob Goldham, a Georgetown native, helped organize the affair. Brian MacFarlane, well-known hockey author and anchor of Hockey Night In Canada, was the master of ceremonies, while former Toronto Argonaut Dan Durno was the featured speaker.

Ezeard told The Herald he was happy to renew his acquaintance with George 'Punch' Imlach at the banquet. The former Maple Leaf coach and general manager was a teammate of Ezeard's in the 1950s.

In other action, the Trojans trounced the Capricorns 83-33.

Anita Stankus was high scorer for the Trojans, sinking 19 points. Sue Tesar was good for 18 points, and Lorraine Brown downed 14.

Pat Nessel was the top Capricorn shooter, good for 12 points. Sylvia Oprica chipped in eight points in a losing cause.

Campers split lose to MTHL

By BOYD HODDINOTT
Herald correspondent

The Georgetown North Halton Sports Camp peewees split two games played last week.

In Tri County hockey action at home Tuesday Georgetown easily defeated Brampton 12-5. This game started with excellent play by the home side, taking a 5-0 lead in the second period. Unfortunately, the boys then lost concentration against the Brampton team allowing them to fight back to within one. The five goals against told the story as very poor clearing by the defence, shaky goaltending and a total lack of work on backchecking by the forwards combined for the poorest defensive effort in some time.

After some words from the coaches the boys pulled themselves together to outscore the opposition 7-1 the rest of the way. This lack of

strong Tri-County competition is making it difficult to keep a sharp edge.

On Thursday in an exhibition game against the first place M.T.H.L. "AA" Scarborough Bruins, the North Halton Sports Campers lost a hard fought 3-2 decision.

Georgetown took some time to get used to the pace of the Bruins, falling behind 2-0. However, the boys fought back with two third period goals by Bill Tutt and Cam Herman. Victory could have been ours except for some excellent opposition goaltending and the four goal posts we hit - the last one with three seconds remaining.

The Georgetown players all agreed that they would like to play this level of opposition all the time. Obviously the fans agree - both teams were accorded a standing ovation of the end of the exciting contest.

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Chrysler novices edge Streetsville

By DOUG FULLER
Herald correspondent

Streetsville narrowed the gap to 2-1 later on in the second period. However, the locals managed to hang on thanks to goaltender Fendley.

With less than three minutes to play in the game a Streetsville forward got in behind the Georgetown defence and skated in all alone only to be robbed by Fendley.

Streetsville removed their goalie for an extra attacker in the last 1:20 but the only close call for the Chryslerers came in the last 10 seconds as the final buzzer found the puck sitting on the outside of the goal post and Georgetown defenders sprawled in the goal crease.

Bond put the Chryslerers ahead with 55 seconds left in the first period. Doug Sheppard made a beautiful play at the Streetsville blue line as he put Bond in all alone with a perfect pass. Left winger Duane Earler also earned an assist on the play.

Three minutes into the second period Boyle picked up a loose puck at centre ice, outskated the defender, drew the goalie to his back hand and tucked the winning

goal into the open net.

Next action for the team is Sunday at 4 p.m. when they host Oakville at Memorial Arena.

Dominate McMaster meet Swim Rebels sail

By KAREN PAYNE
Herald correspondent

The Georgetown District High School swim team dominated an invitational meet at McMaster University of Hamilton on Saturday, winning by close to 200 points.

Twenty-one schools from all over Ontario attended the meet. There were close to 500 swimmers competing.

The competition consisted of 26 events. Georgetown placed competitors in the top three finishers in most of the events.

In the junior girls' medley relay, Tiffany Goodlet, Tericca Pollit, Whitney Grig and Sylvia Pequearas placed third. Karen Pepper, Anna Piqueras, Erin

McIntyre and Debbie Newman placed first in the senior medley.

The junior and senior boys also placed first in their medley relay. These teams consisted of Jim Millington, Chris Goodlet, Christian Wasserman and Jason Dodokin. The senior boys were John Millington, Jim Teetzel, Steven MacLeod and Christian Book.

Several other girls placed in the top three in individual events. Sue Masson placed first in the 200 meter free style and the 100 meter back stroke.

Erin McIntyre placed third in the 50 meter butterfly. In the 100 meter medley Karen Pepper placed third. Debbie Newman placed second in her free style event.

In the senior girls free style relay Jenni Lusby, Sheila MacDonald, Erin McIntyre and Susan Masson placed first.

Many of the boys also placed in individual events. In the 200 free style Steven MacLeod placed first. In the 50 meter and 100 meter butterfly Don Elson came second.

Rick Walterson won the 100 meter free stroke, while Diederick Millenaar placed third. Walterson also came second in the 50 meter free style and John

Videos blanked

The Georgetown H and H Video 'A' atoms found it tough going against a pair of 'AA' entries this week, dropping a 4-1 count to Orangeville and a 6-0 decision to Dundas.

Jeff Wright scored the lone Georgetown goal in the loss to Orangeville, from Stephen Wright. Marc St. Pierre turned in a strong effort in the Georgetown net.

Georgetown will be hosting a dual meet against Queen Elizabeth Park of Oakville on December 15.

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