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PLAYING THE FIELD

GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor

Gym teacher sounds tough but loves kids

We all know somebody like Alice Ogden. The type who has that tough veneer on the outside, but can be soft as puffy on the inside.

Alice is the person most responsible for that well-oiled sports machine called the Centennial Chargers. Undeclared in girls volleyball the past two years. Two consecutive gymnastics titles. Basketball and hockey titles last year. The Chargers are in a league by themselves in the worlds of track and field and cross-country.

Altogether, almost 200 championship pennants are hanging on Centennial gym walls, acquired since 1974 when Ogden left George Kennedy Public School for her present position.

It all starts at the grass roots level at Centennial. They have a solid house league system, encouraging all kids to get out after school for fun and exercise. The champions that emerge are almost a by-product of the intensive interest in sports that exists at Centennial School.

"Maximum participation is the objective," Ogden explains. "Wins and losses aren't important. They're having fun."

The success of the Centennial system comes as no surprise to anyone familiar with Alice or the local school sports scene. Ogden was selected for the Centennial job because of her success at George Kennedy over five years, first establishing a rotary program that introduced every child to physical education, and then setting up a house league system there. Her crowning achievement at Kennedy school was the formation of the first school representative teams, in cross-country, volleyball and floor hockey.



"As long as the kids are doing his or her personal best, that's the important thing. I make sure they all know what at the beginning, I expect effort and attendance."

ALICE OGDEN

"I always appreciated that when I grew up, there were basketball and softball teams at school I could play on," Ogden says today. "We didn't have a gym, but we played outside on the tar mac. All kids should have that experience, I feel. It gives them a more rounded character, and more discipline to work towards their goals."

What people pay the most attention to, however, are the championships they win at Centennial. Detractors, and there are few, charge that the kids win because they are afraid of the alternative with Alice Ogden around.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Ogden admits she sometimes sounds and acts like a marine drill sergeant in class, but when she is in her role as coach, she is working with athletes who want and need her support and guidance.

"I help to direct an athlete towards their personal goals and interests," Ogden maintains. "A student doesn't necessarily want to be there. They have to be there."

There are two distinctly different relationships Ogden cultivates with a child. It's either athlete-coach, or student-teacher. They are very much different, although it sometimes is necessary for her to establish both relationships for use at different times with one student. A girl may be the school's fastest track star, but during the school day, she's just another student.

From the student, Ogden requires two things. She accepts nothing less.

"As long as the kids are doing his or her personal best, that's the important thing," Ogden says. "I make sure they all know that at the beginning, I expect effort and attendance."

When the student becomes the athlete, be it at 7:30 a.m. before classes, or at 4:30 p.m. after classes, the relationship changes to one of "comraderie", Ogden explains.

"They perform for you because they know it's better or themselves."

Overall, Ogden likes to think she is strict, but fair. She has heard the rumblings from concerned parents that she can be overly tough. She's not that tough. It's just her style to be "loud and boisterous."

"I want my students to appreciate my concern for routines and rules," she says, diplomatically. "If a kid knows what you expect, then you don't get hassles and problems."

"Still, kids can sense whether you are truly concerned about them, or just trying to be a big shot."

Big shots don't win, either with students or athletes. Teachers that really care, do.

Specters rally

The Glen Williams Specters took their second straight Inter County Football League victory last week, with a come-from-behind 5-4 victory over Orangeville.

The Glen men pulled this one out with three consecutive doubles in a two-run seventh inning, giving reliever Gary Halls the victory.

Brian Peavoy sparked the comeback with his pinch-hit two-bagger. Rob Hatcher cracked a double to score Peavoy, and third-sacker Len Gillard doubled home Hatcher with the winning run.

The Specters had scored in their initial at-bat. Gillard reached base when his long fly ball was mishandled, and Halls doubled him around to score.

In the third, it was Mike Reynolds' turn to deliver an RBI double, after Hatcher had drawn a base on balls.

Orangeville struck for three runs in their half of the fourth, but Jackie Bergman singled to



Rebel midget Mark Lamb files through the 80-meter hurdle event at the Peel-Halton track and field championships, Friday in Etobicoke.

Georgettes win big top Orangeville 10-5

The Georgetown Georgettes exploded for six big runs in the top half of the fifth inning enroute to a 10-5 decision over Orangeville in Halton Ladies Fastball League action last Wednesday night.

The Georgettes went into the fifth trailing 4-1. Their only run came in the third, courtesy of an RBI single by Linda McClure that drove in Bonnie Penney, who had doubled.

McClure and center fielder Linda Donais singled to lead off the fifth. Marion McGugan cashed one run with a single, and Barb Curry's single brought home the third Georgette run.

Joan Hansen drew a free pass to load the bases, and Penney singled, driving in a third Georgette run. Anna Swinkles then delivered the big blow, crashing a triple to clear the bases.

The locals piled on two more runs in the sixth. After McGugan walked and Curry singled, Jennifer Reynolds unloaded a run-scoring two-bagger. Penney singled home another Georgette run.

A McClure single and Donais triple accounted for the final Georgette run in the seventh.

Curry went the distance on the mound for Georgetown, striking out 10 Orangeville batters. The win was the second in three outings for the Georgettes.

Tonight the Georgettes are in Hillsburgh. They return to the Fairgrounds Monday night, for an 8:30 p.m. encounter with Eden Mills.

Day swimming

There's still day time swimming at the Georgetown Swimming Pool on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:45-12:45. Take advantage of this premium pool time to get in shape for the summer.

Project PAWS

The Public Awareness of Water Safety team has completed a rough draft of their skits which will be presented to the students in Halton Hills schools beginning on Monday. Watch for Big Bird, Kermit the Frog, the Cookie Monster and Michael Jackson - coming soon to a school near you!

Halton Hills answers the call
We're No. 16 in our rookie year

By GERRY TIMBERS
Herald Sports Editor
We led the Great Canadian Participation Challenge.

That's the bad news. The good news is that some 8,586 residents of Halton Hills - that's 25 per cent of our population - registered their 15 minutes of continuous physical activity over the special Nelson's Hotline.

"Considering it was our first year, I think we did well in mobilizing the entire community," program co-ordinator Eva Carney told The Herald. "We had people from all different areas of our community involved."

"It was an excellent dry run for next year."

The last report Carney had from Red Deer, Alta., was that 34 per cent of their population had answered the call, enough to beat Halton Hills.

Conceding defeat, Mayor Russ Miller wrote Red Deer representative John Simpson, requesting a 'Rookie-Of-The-Year' acknowledgement.

The most part of the participants in the Challenge were registered through their schools. A total of 6,069 students took up the cause, with Georgetown District High School leading the way. Some 1,117 GDHS students navigated a special walking-jogging route.

Twenty schools participated. More than 700 kids ran relay races at Centennial School. They did the 'Participation Hustle' at St. Joseph's Separate School in Acton. They danced to the beat of pop star Michael Jackson at the Halton Hills Kinder School.

Many community groups had special activities planned for Challenge Day. The most successful service group was the Kiwanis Club, who turned out 20 members for a lunchtime '15-Minute Workout' at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Some 715 people participated in the Challenge through various sports groups, the most successful outfit being the Georgetown Powderpuff Softball League. Eighty-five ladies answered the call to help out Halton Hills.

Another 164 people registered through local business groups. Thirty-four physiotherapy patients even called in their treatment at the Georgetown Memorial Hospital.



Racing to the finish line against the clock, these two girls were participating in Centennial Public School's Participation Challenge last Wednesday. Georgetown was matched against Red Deer, Alberta to see which town had the fittest citizens.

Georgetown fifth at Peel-Haltons
Letarnec leads Rebels

Midget runner Yanne Letarnec placed in two events, including a victory in the 400-meter race, to lead the Georgetown District High School track and field Rebels to fifth-place among 39 schools at the Peel-Halton championships, last Friday at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke.

Letarnec blazed to victory in a time of 54.9 seconds, to qualify for the upcoming Regional finals. The Regionals are the stepping stone to OFSAA. He also finished third in the 800-meter event, again qualifying for the Regional games.

Other Rebel winners included midget shot putter Cathy Barton, and midget sprinter Jody Barwell, in the 80-meter hurdles.

A total of 12 Rebel athletes qualified for the Regional games in 13 events. To qualify, athletes were required to finish among the top three in their event.

Lynn MacPhail was a double-qualifier, finishing second in the senior girls 3,000-meter event, and third over 1500-meters.

Junior sprinter Louis DePaoli was second best in the 110-meter

hurdles, and midget high jumper Jenny Melville was second with a jump of 1.52 meters.

Midget Alison Irvine was second overall to qualify in the 400-meter race. Rebel teammate Sandy Rahn narrowly missed qualifying in the same race with her fourth-place finish.

Rahn did manage to qualify as part of the Rebel junior girls 4 x 100 sprint relay team. Barwell, Lee Blendell, Shannon Snyder and Rahn combined for a time of 52.2 seconds to earn a trip to the Regional meet.

Midget Amy Powers and junior Shawn Langdon both were third at 3,000-meters. Senior runner Kathy Harris rounded out the Regional team with her third-place performance over 800-meters.

Several Rebel competitors turned in respectable fourth-place finishes.

Amy Powers narrowly missed becoming a double-qualifier, with her fourth in the 1,500-meter event. Senior boys Ken Hesse (800 meters) and Kevin Powers (3,000 meters) were also fourth in their events.

EAGLES:

The Georgetown junior Eagles are off to a flying start in 1984, winning their first three Halton County Baseball Association starts.

The Eagles left the nest Saturday, when they hosted Brampton in an afternoon double-header. Georgetown won the opener 1-0 on the strength of right-hander Andy Braun's two-hitter, then rallied from a 4-0 deficit in the nightcap to take a 5-4 decision in extra innings.

Both Braun and Brampton's Frank Fascia were overpowering in the season opener. The Brampton fireballer allowed the Eagles just three hits including a pair by second baseman Kevin Hughes.

Georgetown scored their lone run in the fifth inning, when Gerry Milne pinch-hit for newcomer Pat Brooker and drew a base on balls.

With two out, Hughes connected for a bloop single over the shortstop, and Milne raced all the way around to score.

Braun shut down the visitors the rest of the way, piling up nine strike outs in seven innings. He walked just two.

Chris Fabbri won his first for Georgetown in the nightcap, going an extra inning to do it.

The Eagles had rallied back from a 4-0 deficit to tie it at 4-4, when Hughes led off the eighth inning with a single, and promptly stole second. First baseman Paul Blackmore, who batted 500 in 10 trips to the plate on opening weekend, singled home Hughes with the winning run.

Center fielder Mike Friskney made a big defensive play for the Eagles in the fourth inning, when he pulled off an over-the-shoulder catch after a long chase to save a pair of runs.

Larry Deighton was the big man at the plate for Georgetown when they travelled to Mississauga Sunday, for a 6-2 win.

With the score deadlocked at 1-1 in the sixth, Deighton cracked a two-run double, scoring Blackmore and Hughes. One inning later, the big catcher unloaded another two-bagger, this time scoring Blackmore and Guistini.

Jay Anderson rapped a long single over third base to bring Deighton around with the final Georgetown run.

Newcomer Rob Wilson was impressive in pitching the win, striking out eight Mississauga batters while allowing just four hits. He issued four free passes.

Thursday night the Eagles travel to Oak-

Flying high with three wins

ville, before returning home Saturday for a 7 p.m. date with Thorold of the Niagara District League. Sunday afternoon the Eagles host West Mount (Hamilton) in a 2 p.m. start.

Tennis gals win

The Gordon Alcott Tennis Club Ladies 'A' team swept four matches from Swansea last week as Inter County League play got underway on two fronts.

Pat Harris and Doreen Thomson started the sweep with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 decision.

Kay King and Brenda Sisset were winners in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4.

Isla Allison and Linda Rice were also winners, 6-1, 6-4.

The team of Ann Kennedy and Audrey Houston made the sweep complete with a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

The Alcott Mixed 'B' entry split six matches in their opening contest with Wallace Park.

Peter Acton and Bernie Kent rebounded from an opening set 4-6 loss with 7-6, 6-4 decisions.

Renee Mach and Gerry Peace sandwiched 6-2, 6-0 wins around a 3-6 setback.

Pat Harris and Mike Hurley were winners in straight sets, 6-2, 7-6.

The team of Kevin Neil and Chris Lysolm went down to defeat, as did Brenda Sisset and Don Gibson, and Ann Kennedy and Isla Allison.

Thursday night's 'C' league match up with Malton was cancelled because of a problem with the lighting.

Tennis winners

The Gordon Alcott junior tennis team won its second consecutive Inter County League match of the year by defeating White Oaks.

Captain Mike Hurley won his 'Under-15' singles match 6-0, 7-6 while Dean Jackson and Jay Anderson played superbly to win their 'Under-15' doubles contest 6-2, 6-4.

The new 'Under-15' doubles team of Bob Sun and Alan Gitay struggled in losing their first set 1-6, but came on much stronger in the second losing 5-7.

Rory Kennedy played well in winning his 'Under-15' singles match 6-2, 6-4.

The team still needs some more 'Under-15' players for backup depth for this year and for the future.

Phone Don or Mike Hurley at 877-1288 for a tryout.

Atom girls play

The Georgetown Youth Soccer Club atom girls league began play Thursday night, with the Blizzards playing the Thunderbirds.

Andrea McNeilly scored a goal in each half for the Thunderbirds before the game was called because of heavy rain. The Thunderbirds were awarded a win.

Andrea Schneider, Anne Donnelly and Denise Egerton all played well for the Blizzards.

The second league game between the Challengers and Blue Thunder was called because of the rain, and will be made up later.

Opening Day two weeks ago saw the Blizzards fall to the Challengers 3-0. Julie O'Neill scored twice for the Challengers, while Melanie Booth added a single. Tracey Clark also played well for the winners.

'C' gals split

The Inter County Tennis schedule started last Wednesday with the Gordon Alcott 'C' Ladies team opening their season against Swansea Ladies with a split of points.

Lois Fraser and Trudy Roy started their match with a tie-breaker, 6-7, and fell in the second set, 4-6.

Margo Prior and Midge Hampshire took a win of 6-4, 6-1.

Karin Wilson and Norma Maynard lost in three sets 4-6, 6-2, 3-6.

Frances Brown and Anne Munro won in three sets, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.

Our next game is at home against Central Park.

Join rec soccer

The Women's Recreational Soccer League held its annual general meeting and registration last Thursday. With 21 people registered already it will again be possible for Georgetown to contribute two teams to a league consisting of teams from Acton, Bolton, Brampton, Georgetown, Milton and Pineview. The first games are scheduled for Monday, May 28 and in the meantime practices are being held every week.

To register, or for more information, contact Anita Warner at 877-4642.

Who did win?

So, just which community did win the Great Canadian Participation Challenge? Fredericton, New Brunswick! That's who.

The folks down East came through with 57.9 per cent of their population, earning the right to call themselves the most energetic community in Canada for a year.

Halton Hills placed a meagre 16th (right) of 24 participating communities. Kingston, Timmins, Waterloo and Stoney Creek were Ontario towns that placed higher than we did.

Red Deer, Alta., the challenging community, finished fourth overall, with 43.5 per cent of their population taking part.