

Stewarttown lady breeds Siberian Huskies

Love of dogs inspires hobby

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

Elsie Hunter could be called a dog's version of Cupid.

For twelve years the Stewarttown resident has been breeding Siberian Huskies for both show and race purposes. Her interest in dog breeding happened quite by accident.

"Twelve years ago I got my first dog and found out it was a show dog. I got a female and bred them, and that was when all the fun began. "I don't know why I did it," she said. "I had a male and female dog and people became interested in the pups."

But she did not breed two normal dogs in that first session. Both animals had good credentials.

"Both were show dogs," she said. "Chayne (the male) had won a best Canadian breed while Nishka (female) did well in the shows."

To this day, Hunter still has her two initial animals.

About seven years ago, Hunter sent a female dog of hers to New York state to be bred. The resulting litter proved to be unsatisfactory for show purposes.

That is how she became involved in breeding Husky race dogs.

"That litter were pie-balled, which means they were white with black or red faces and have a spot on their back, which is no good for show. Some people tried running them, and found with their longer legs, the dogs ran well."

"I purchased a female dog from a racing line and bred her. That's how I started breeding racing dogs," she said.

Hunter said a physical difference exists between show dogs and those animals who pull sleds in races.

"Usually show dogs don't run well because they have shorter legs than the racing dogs. Not all show dogs have the right attitude to run also."

Hunter breeds Siberian Huskies only. She said many people have misconceptions about the animals.

"Every year I show a couple of dogs at the Georgetown Summer Fair," she said. "The first year I was there, the parents were telling their children not to get close to the dogs because they might bite."

"I took one of the dogs over to the children and it was very good. The parents were quite

surprised.

"They (Huskies) are friendly dogs," she said. "They usually only bite when provoked for a long period of time."

Hunter charges about \$300 for a pup and also for stud services during breeding. However, she said she is not in breeding to make a profit.

"I don't know if I break even or not," she said. "I only have a couple of litters a year while some of the bigger kennels have 10 to 12 litters a year."

"For me this is a hobby. After raising my five children, I found I needed something to do."

In the winter her love for dogs sometimes turns into a labor of love. The kennels for the dogs are located at the base of a hill, and in the colder months of the year, ice forms making the daily treks an adventure.

"If I didn't like it I wouldn't do it. Sometimes it is a feat of endurance making it up the hill, but the dogs must be fed and cleaned."

Currently Hunter has about 15 dogs in her possession. Of that number five are for racing,

another five could be used for show and the other five are too old to show.

"I haven't been showing my dogs for the past couple of years," she said. "I haven't had the time, and besides some people who have bought

my dogs in the past are showing them, which keeps my dogs in the public eye."

In the winter, racers like Brampton's Stan Morgan and Ron Thompson use Hunter dogs in competitions. Also, other racers drop by the Hunter kennels and borrow some dogs for races.

"It gives me a lot of satisfaction breeding a working sled dog that can run and do its job," she said.

But Hunter also sells pups to people who want pets. She suggests if a person is interested in buying a purebred dog to go through a breeder.

"With a breeder, the dog has all of its shots, the mother is taken care of and we make sure the litter is made up of good pups."

"We also guarantee the dogs. We have them x-rayed for hip dysplasia (an ailment where the ball does not fit into the socket properly)."

Hunter has some dreams about being able to breed a versatile dog.

"I would like to be able to breed a dog that would show well, and be able to run well. However, judges of dog shows have their own ideas as to what type of dog should win shows," she said.

With all the species of dogs available, Hunter remains firmly attached to the Siberian Huskies.

"I've been to a lot of shows and I don't think there's another breed of dog like them. They are beautiful animals."



At about nine weeks old, it's easy to see why Siberian pups are so lovable. This dog is a lot like the ones Hunter sells to many people who wish to have them for pets.

(Photo by Bill Picher)



Brampton's Stan Morgan is shown here at the beginning of a dog sled race. Five of the six dogs here were bred by Elsie Hunter. The only one that was not is the dog in the second twosome on the right.

(Photo by George Beshiri)

Blackmore leads Eagles to split

The sparkling play of Paul Blackmore was instrumental in the Georgetown Eagles' split of a doubleheader with Brampton.

The Eagles dropped the opener to the home club 4-3 before rallying back to take the night-

cap 7-6.

Blackmore had four singles and a double along with four stolen bases in the two games.

Andrew Braun was tagged with the opening loss, while fanning seven.

Blackmore singled in the first inning, stole second and scored on Gerry Milne's single.

In the fourth inning Milne walked, and scored on Gord Allan's single.

The Eagles scored their final run of the game in the fifth inning when Braun hit a double and came home on Blackmore's single.

In the second game, Chris Fabbri took the win, going the distance

and fanning seven.

Blackmore got things started in the first inning with a single, and scored on Milne's triple.

Mario Galvao singled, bringing home Milne.

In the third inning Galvao singled, stole second and went to third on Jay Anderson's ground out. Galvao scored on a wild pitch.

In the fifth inning, Anderson and Rod Siventson singled. Rod Hagen's single brought home Anderson. Pat Brooker brought home two more runs with a double.

Blackmore doubled in the sixth inning and went to third on Milne's ground out. Galvao's sacrifice fly brought Blackmore home for what turned out to be the winning run.

Anderson made the defensive play of the game in the final inning when his catch in deep, left-centre field with two men on base preserved the win for the Halton County Junior Baseball League team.

Saturday the Eagles were supposed to play a doubleheader with Niagara Falls at the Fairgrounds, but Niagara Falls was put on probation for two years by the OBA after an incident at a tour-

namment in Kingston. Details are not known.

The Niagara team executive has said no games involving their team will be played without the supervision of an executive member. For that reason the doubleheader with Georgetown was cancelled because no executive member could accompany the team here.

Eagles manager Kevin Burke said his team is willing to re-schedule the game with Niagara Falls.

"They will be here this weekend (Sunday) for a doubleheader," Burke said. "We're willing to give them a chance."

The doubleheader Sunday will begin at 2 p.m., while the Eagles will play Saturday night also at the Fairgrounds against Mississauga at 7 p.m.

Red Sox winners

Armstrong Insurance
Red Sox 4 vs
West Insurance
White Sox 3

The Red Sox stopped the high-flying, first-place White Sox in a game dominated by pitchers. Jason Ogden struck out three straight White Sox players in the fourth inning to halt a rallying team effort by the White Sox. Grant Goodfellow, Mark Hoere and Mike Piers played solid defence to hold their opponents to just three runs.

The winning streak came to an end despite a great defensive game by the White Sox players. The Red Sox lead off the second inning with two hits and had runners on first and second base. With an outstanding effort, catcher Steve Bewley fired the ball to second baseman Todd Fuller to pick the runner off.

Thruway Muffler
Rangers 15 vs
Pronto Muffler
Pirates 11

The Rangers' bats came alive as Frankie Walsh and Mike Wilkinson pounded out home runs in the second inning, followed by Jim Kavanaugh and Wilkinson again in the third inning.

Georgetown tyke team reaches tourney final

Georgetown A.E. LePage peewees reached the consolation final of a baseball tournament in Brampton held this past weekend.

In their opening game against Bloor, Georgetown could not get their

bats going and wasted a fine pitching performance by Matthew Remedios in a 5-0 loss.

In the first game of the consolation round, Georgetown fought hard in their game with Cawthra and entered

the fifth inning tied at five. But in the sixth inning Georgetown scored a run that turned out to be the winner on a steal of home plate by Andrew Hoddinott.

Abad Mora then held off Cawthra to preserve the win. Mark Smellie

struck the key blow in the game.

The Georgetown team then demolished Newmarket in the consolation game.

Remedios were the winning pitchers in relieving Hoddinott, who experienced soreness in his pitching arm in the second inning.

But the good fortune would not carry on to the consolation final, where Georgetown played London, and dropped an 11-1 decision.

All 12 players contributed to the team effort on the weekend, and it marked the third time this year that the team has reached a consolation or championship final in a tournament.

Rob Ross and Stephen Lee had fine performances at the plate, going five for nine while Bill Tutt and Mike Williams went five for fourteen. The team did bring home a trophy when Hoddinott was awarded the Golden Glove as the top fielder of the 16 teams in the tournament.

Specters face tough schedule

Glen Williams Specters of the Inter-County Football League will be a very busy squad this week.

Hamilton, Moore pace Red Force

Scott Hamilton and Matthew Moore each had two goals to pace Red Force over Grey Lords 5-1 in GYSC Boys Mosquito Soccer League play.

Peter Blencowe scored the winner while Steven Kokel scored the lone goal for Grey Lords. Trevor Wilson, Stephen Athley and Scott Lightowers played well

The team will have played against York last night in Glen Williams in the first game of a best-of-three Ontario

for Grey Lords while Kenny Sun, Dough Matthews and Michael James played well for the winners.

In another league game, Steven Hayden and Jamie Kelman scored two goals each as Blue Thunder shut down Grey Lords 6-0.

Joey Brinjak and Stephen Burns scored the other goals for the winners.

Mets having tough time finding wins

Halton Credit Union
Mets 21
Royal Canadian Legion
Reds 27

The Mets are having a tough time but aren't giving in. Defense from Stephanie McDonald and Linda Lacroix. At bat: Simon Fraser, Michael Doyle and Jennifer Hunter had good hits.

The Reds were led by Ryan Martin with Jennifer Sheppard and Ryan Gillard outstanding too. Other big hitters included Jason Lescak, Ryan

Poyntz, Kim Willshire and Tanya Martin.

Casselman Fuels
Angels 14
Choice Air Cubs 31
Angels of note - Dawn and Michael Richardson, Adam Robinson, Jeremy Williams and Tracey Green.

The Cubs stood out in the field (fielded well) and hit bunched - Brad Friend, Marc Boucher and Trisha Humeniski hit 2 home runs each. Jeff Pringle poked a double and helped keep the Cubbies rolling.

AFTER FIVE

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