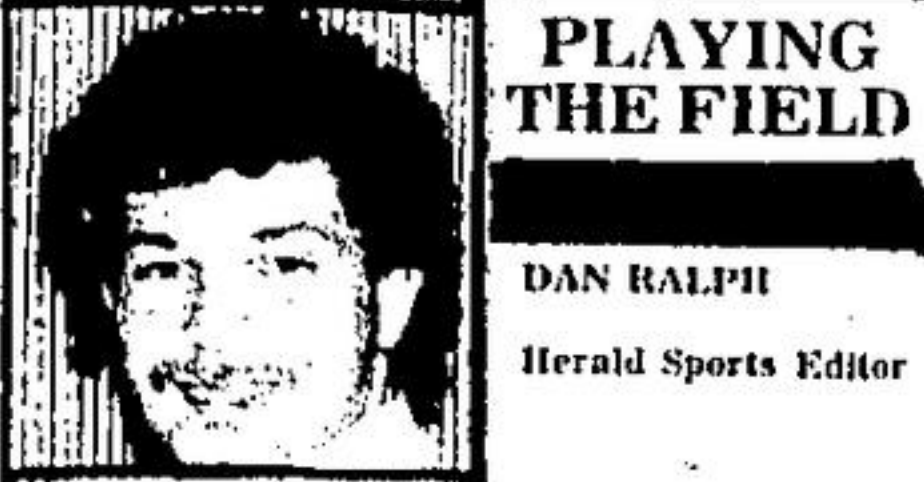


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PLAYING THE FIELD
DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

Necessary braces mean deductions

In a sport where a tenth of a point can mean the difference between finishing first or fifth, gymnast Gail Eastwood must accept a two-tenths point deduction even before she uses any piece of apparatus in a meet.

The 16-year-old must wear Mikros ankle braces as a result of an accident she had during a practice. The braces, which support the ankles, make it very difficult for Eastwood to point her toes during her routines.

The deductions come even though she has a certificate from a sports doctor specifically stating that the Grade 11 Georgetown District High School student must wear the braces if she is to compete.

Instead of being upset at having to work harder for her scores, Eastwood said she is thankful she can compete at all.

"I just think that if I didn't have them, I wouldn't be in the sport," she said. "If the braces help, I can accept the deductions."

"It makes me work that much harder."

Five years ago while practising a movement called an Arabian, Eastwood came down on both ankles the wrong way. The force resulted in severe ripping of the tendons, and tendonitis then set in.

After consulting with doctor Charles Bull, Eastwood has had to wear the braces if she wants to compete. Bull has been a doctor with national gymnastics and hockey teams, and has his own practice in Toronto.

She goes in to see Bull about once a year, and he examines the ankles to make sure all is working well.

"I'm really happy with him. He's always pushing me and telling me not to quit. I probably wouldn't listen to any other doctor."

Having had to wear the braces for the past five years, Eastwood has grown accustomed to them. She said the first year was the hardest in terms of getting used to the braces.

Even though the braces can be tightened to offer ultimate support, the possibility of an injury does loom in the back of Eastwood's mind.

"When I'm doing a move I think about it, and concentrate more. If a move hurts my ankles I won't do it."



GAIL EASTWOOD

Recently Eastwood finished 10th in the Club "A" class at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) competition. She said she was happy with her performance at the Peterborough meet.

"I made it to OFSAA when I was in Grade 9, and I was happy just to make it again," she said. "But my main goal now is to win the provincial championships."

Eastwood is also a member of the Milton Springs club. In the three preliminary meets held to determine qualifiers for the Ontario championships, Eastwood finished on top in all three.

"I'm in the best shape I've ever been in and I'm confident," she said.

But this will be her last chance at claiming a championship of any kind. For after the May 10-11 meet in Burlington, Eastwood will walk away from competition altogether.

"I'm accident-prone, and my body can't take it," she said. "I'm tired of going to the doctor and having him say 'What is wrong with you now?'"

"I want to stay in shape, but I don't want to go through all the practice."

Eastwood practises about 1 1/2 hours a week with the Milton team as well as two or three days with the high school.

In preparation for the Peel-Halton and OFSAA meets, the GDHS qualifiers practised every day.

"I'll probably miss it (competing), but I'll look for that when it happens."

Even though she will "retire" from competition, Eastwood will still remain associated with her sport. An avid coach, she wants to go as far as she can in that field.

Currently she has her Level One, and will go after the second level this summer.

One thing is for sure though. On May 12, she will have no more use for the three pair of between \$30-\$50 braces she had had to use the past five years.

Sunny Acres team finishes off year in grand fashion

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
What a way to end the year!

Georgetown's Sunny Acres Farms midgets captured the bronze medal Sunday at the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) "AA" midget tournament. Georgetown defeated Mississauga Royals 5-3 at the Alcott Arena.

Elliot Lake needed a 10-minute overtime period to beat Newmarket 7-3 in the championship game, also played at the Alcott Arena.

Georgetown had finished in fourth spot in the tournament without a win. In their previous meeting, Mississauga had defeated the locals 8-3 for their lone win of the event.

However, later Saturday night Georgetown lost a close 5-4 decision to Newmarket, which coach Rick Hume said got his troops ready for the bronze medal game. Friday Georgetown lost 8-1 to Elliot Lake.

"I think the turning point was almost beating Newmarket," he said.



BRIAN DOHERTY

after the game. "Today the boys were up for the game."

"I don't think the 8-3 score of our last game was truly indicative of the game. We were tied 3-3 going into the third when they scored a couple of easy goals. Our boys then got down."

With a little more than two minutes left in the first period and Georgetown ahead 3-2, Mississauga had the perfect opportunity to come back as Sunny Acres had to play two men short. But fine defensive play allowed Georgetown to escape with their advantage intact.

"That was the biggest factor for us in the game," Hume said of



CRAIG CHANTLER

got into the Mississauga end because a Royals' player was injured in the Georgetown end.

"I was upset at the call," Hume said. "But it is a questionable call because you don't know how serious the player was hurt. Thankfully it did not have any bearing on the game."

Brian Doherty had two goals for Sunny Acres, the first of which in the first period came on a pretty tie-tac-toe passing play from Chantler and Dan Kent. Kent, Mark Pries and Mike Teetzel had the other goals.

Winning the medal proved to be even more meaningful to Hume and his team. Had the tournament not been played in Georgetown, the team would never have qualified for it with their play during the year, and Hume said the team made the best of their second chance.

"This was more special for the kids so they could prove they were a better hockey team than some people thought they were."

"It's a nice way to end the year."



Georgetown goalie John Lantz celebrates bronze medal win. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Elliot Lake squad wins tourney final

Overtime barrage too much for Newmarket

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

The town most famous for its uranium now has its share of gold.

Elliot Lake midgets scored four goals in a 10-minute overtime period to defeat Newmarket 7-3 in the championship game at Sunday's Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) "AA" midget tournament. The game was played at the Alcott Arena.

Newmarket controlled the play the final three minutes of regulation time, and had several good scoring opportunities to win the game. However, Elliot Lake goaltender Gary Bowles,

who was spectacular throughout, came up big to keep the score tied.

Elliot Lake coach Ted Martin said not being able to score might have caused the Newmarket team to get down in the overtime frame.

"They made a big try to win the game in regulation time, and we were able to survive. I think when we were able to do that it gave us a shift in momentum," he said.

The shift was quite apparent in the overtime when Elliot Lake scored four times, the first of which came just 58 seconds into the period.

"It seemed as if we were pressing the last



SHAWN DUBOIS

two or three minutes of regulation," said Newmarket coach Larry Bone. "In overtime they had the hustle, and were much more intense."

"We had the chances but 27 (Bowles) came up big. We should have put it away in the third



GARY BOWLES

period."

The championship final (excluding overtime) resembled the game the two teams played in the tournament preliminary round. In that 3-3 tie, Elliot Lake jumped out to a 2-0 lead, and had to then settle for

the tie. A similar scenario was enacted Sunday with the winners jumping out to a 2-0 lead, only to have Newmarket come back and take a 3-2 lead.

Deric Farquhar added to the drama by tying the game with just 58 seconds left to play in the second period.

What is amazing about the Elliot Lake team is that it is made up of a majority of under-aged midgets. Of the 16 players, eight are minor midgets and two more are bantams.

Coach Martin said he has had no qualms about putting the youngsters in situations that demand

the best of midget-aged players.

"We're fast, and if we play our game we can force the other team to represent our town used to. That will cause mistakes," Martin said.

Bone too had two minor midgets on his squad, and said he felt sorry for the graduating players who will not have a chance to redeem this loss with a championship next year.

"I feel sorry for them because this is the high point of their career. But as a coach, I'll tell you there are some players here who will be playing some good hockey somewhere next year."

"Coming from one who does not like to lose, I think we don't have anything we should feel shameful about. We play faster than they're represented our town used to. That will cause mistakes," Bone said.

Shawn Dubois had three goals for the winners while Peter Alparajo had two goals, both in overtime. Farquhar and Paul Marshall had the others. Tim Peat, Joe Brennan and Todd Bone scored for Newmarket.

NOTES—Peat's goal was a peculiar one. The puck hit an Elliot Lake player in the head, came back to Peat, who wound up and rocketed one past Bowles.



BRITISH COLUMBIA BOUND

Georgetown Bowl's senior girls team is hoping to repeat this at the Youth Bowling Council's national championships this weekend. The team of Teresa Maslach, Karen Doyle, Kelly McCorry, Jane Hlecks, Cindy Kavanagh and coach Wendy Chaplin will be off to Burnaby, British Columbia. Here the team was celebrating their Ontario title win.

Blue Fins take home medals at swimming meet

Halton Hills Blue Fins swim team captured 17 medals, eight of which were gold, at the Burlington Novice Invitational swim meet Sunday.

Thirty locals took part, with Brandi Gillett, Jenny Williams and Scott Hamilton winning two gold medals each. Cam Oomen and Janine Glaser had single top finishes.

Gillett won in the 50 and 100-meter freestyle events while Williams did the same in her class. Hamilton won the 50-meter freestyle and butterfly races. Oomen won gold in the 100-meter backstroke and Glaser topped the field in the 50-meter butterfly race.

Five silver medals were won as Brian

Terrell was second in the 50-meter freestyle. Glaser was second in the 50-meter backstroke while teammate Williams won silver in the 50-meter breaststroke. Hamilton was second in the 100-meter freestyle and Keith Smith was second in the 50-meter breaststroke.

Terrell had two bronze medals for his efforts in the 100-meter breaststroke and freestyle events. Dawn Newman was third in the 50-meter breaststroke and Kim Weidrick was third in the 50-meter freestyle.

The 11-12 year-old boys relay team and the 13-14 year-old girls team won silver medals while the 13-14 year-old boys team won a bronze medal. Fourth place ribbons

were won by Glen Oomen (50-meter backstroke), Ed Piqueras (100-meter freestyle), Cam Oomen (100-meter freestyle). Sixth place awards went to Newman (50-meter backstroke), Cam Oomen (50-meter freestyle), Smith (50-meter backstroke) and Russel Law (100-meter backstroke).

Other Blue Fins swimmers included: Christie Lightowers, Nancy Cocks, Chris Adamo, Andrea Crosby, Emily Hamilton, Andrea Carscallen, Sarah Furness, Terry Harrison, Kristin Hermer, Amy Kerlake, Kyla Jackson, Stephanie O'Brien, Dawn Allen, Matthew Zuraw, Mark Hattenbury, Louise Williams, Allison Munro and Michael Zuraw.

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