

Georgetown native gets a new lease on pro soccer life

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

Gary Morrow's dream of playing professional soccer has finally come true.

The 21-year-old has been put on the protected list by Hamilton Steelers of the newly-formed Canadian Soccer League. The eight-team pro circuit will begin its initial season this coming June.

This will mark the third time Morrow has had a shot at playing at a pro level. Two years ago the Georgetown native was a first-draft pick of the North American Soccer League's (NASL) Toronto Blizzard. However Morrow had little chance at playing for Toronto as a year after he was drafted the league folded. Morrow's first chance came in 1980 when at age 15, he made England's Chelsea club but came home for academic reasons.

But Morrow continued playing soccer. Prior to being drafted Morrow joined the national Youth team which qualified for the youth World Cup in 1984. Last year Morrow was a member of the Ontario soccer team which took part in the Canada Summer Games (and even scored a goal on national television) and also played for the Toronto and District League's Burlington United squad.

This summer Morrow joined Hamilton Steelers of the Ontario Inter-City Soccer League (OICSL) and helped the team take the OICSL Challenge Cup and Ontario Cup. But the biggest accomplishment of the year was the Steelers' winning of the Air Canada Challenge Cup, which is symbolic of the Canadian championship. Hamilton defeated two-time winner Vancouver Croatia 1-0 in the final which was played last month in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Morrow is elated at getting a second chance at a pro career. With a salary ceiling in effect (at around \$50,000), Morrow is confident the CSL will be able to function well and survive.

"I'm really looking forward to it (upcoming season)," Morrow said from his home last week. "I've experienced a lot of letdowns in the past but this is a real breakthrough. This (playing professional soccer) has been in me all my life. All that training has finally paid off."

One thing Morrow has to do in the near future is negotiate a contract with Hamilton. The 6'1, 185-pound centre-halfback plans to have his grandfather represent him in the negotiations and doesn't expect much trouble with the talks.

"I think they're content to have me play," he said. "They sure seem interested. I should be able to make a living at it."

Morrow's soccer exploits in the new league won't be confined to just Ontario. The CSL has teams from Toronto, Ottawa,

North York, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg with another possible franchise out of Montreal. The four Ontario teams will comprise an East Division with the other clubs playing in the West Division. Teams will play a 16-game schedule, with divisional rivals facing each other four times. Hamilton will play each West Division squad once.

With Canada's good showing at last year's World Cup, the league is hoping soccer will continue gaining momentum in this country. To ensure the CSL's survival the salary ceiling has been adopted and season ticket prices have been made quite affordable. In Hamilton's case adults will be charged \$70 while seniors and children under 16 will pay \$30.

Morrow won't begin training as a pro until after Christmas. Presently Morrow is making trips to Hamilton and Ancaster to train and also play in an indoor league. In addition Morrow will begin training with the Canadian Olympic team early next month and is setting his sights on the 1988 Summer Games which will be held in Seoul, Korea. Although Morrow will be deemed a professional athlete when the Games are held, he will still be allowed to take part because professional athletes will be accepted in the soccer ranks at that time.

"I think the league (CSL) will go because of the salary ceiling," Morrow said. "I'll be nervous at the start, which is to be expected. But once I get settled in I'll be alright."



Gary Morrow

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Shorthanded Gemini squad takes home a win and a tie

Mimico Monarchs might think twice about playing Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Gemini when the Gemini next time want to cancel a Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League game between the two teams.

Gemini assistant general manager Jules Russiani had tried to get the Friday game cancelled last week because both teams were minus a number of regulars due to both suspensions and injuries. When cancellation wasn't possible, Russiani had worked out an arrangement with the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) by where four suspended Gemini could dress for the game, and sit out a future Georgetown-Mimico game which would be played later on in the year.

When Russiani got off the phone early Friday afternoon he thought the arrangement was fine with Mimico, and had anticipated using defencemen Todd Cull, Glen Haigh, Tom Purcell and Craig Shaw in the game. But, Russiani received another call later Friday afternoon from the OHA telling him only Shaw would be allowed to dress for the game. Shaw was allowed because it was decided his part in last week's fighting incident with Vaughn Raiders wasn't serious enough to warrant suspension. That left

Georgetown with just two regular defencemen, which was compounded by the fact that the affiliate juvenile club had gone out of town for a tournament. That meant midget players Terry Dixon and Mark Hiller donned a Gemini uniform and played in the game.

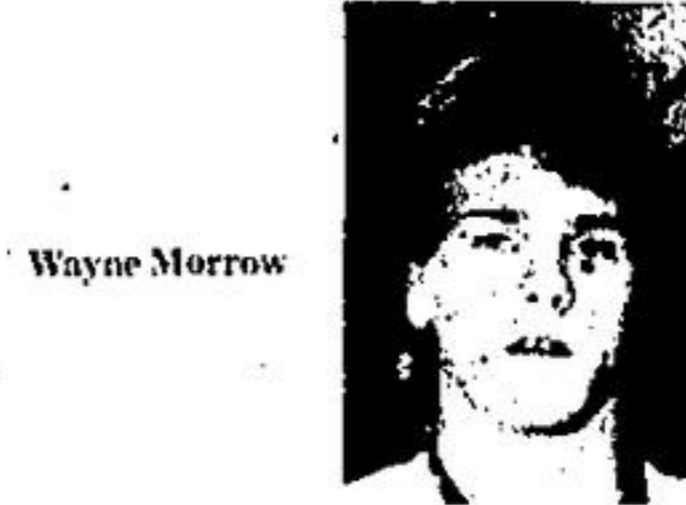
The Gemini's lack of players came the result last week of an incident that occurred after the first period of their home game against Vaughn Raiders. A number of fights resulted in a total of 17 players being ejected from the game. The subsequent result of the fights was all those involved were likely to receive at least four-game suspensions.

Georgetown had a total of five defencemen miss the final two

periods of the Vaughn game as well as the returning match in Vaughn Tuesday. In addition Georgetown lost the services of Wally Petrie Tuesday for a couple of games, and had a couple more fall ill with the flu.

So a shorthanded Gemini team took to the ice Friday and came away with a convincing 6-1 win. The victory, coupled with Tuesday's 3-3 tie in Vaughn, gives Georgetown a record of 6-1-3 for 15 points. Georgetown is sixth in the standings, one point ahead of Milton Merchants.

Mimico opened the scoring when Mike Earl took advantage of a Georgetown giveaway in the Gemini zone. But Mike Teetzel got that one



Wayne Morrow

back with a shorthanded tally that Gemini captain Wayne Morrow set up and did most of the work on. Just 10 seconds into the second period Joe Washkurak scored what was the

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TOUGH REBOUND-Georgetown District High School junior girls' player Jenny Irwin (21 in white) tries to gain possession of a rebound here despite the efforts of three Aldershot players. Georgetown defeated Aldershot 38-30 in the Halton semi final game played Wednesday, thanks in part to a fire alarm that caused a 25 minute delay in the contest. However in the championships game with Nelson Georgetown didn't fare as well. Nelson took the Halton title with a 39-26 win at the Georgetown gym. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Junior Rebels basketball team dethroned as Halton champions

Prior to Friday's Halton junior girls' basketball championship game, Georgetown Rebels' coach Moe Leeking felt if his club got into a half-court game with Nelson High School the Rebels would find it difficult to defend last year's title.

Leeking's worst fears became reality once the contest got underway. Nelson controlled the Rebels, particularly on the offensive department and took the championship 43-29 in a game played at the Georgetown gym.

Nelson was full-warranted for the win. What was particularly impressive about the visitors' attack was the play of their two guards. Even Leeking was impressed with Megan Dougherty and Anna Sansone, who combined had 18 points in the contest.

"I have never seen two guards handle the ball as well as they did," Leeking said. "You've got to admire them. I was impressed."

The game was a tight one after the first quarter, which the Rebels led 10-9. However in the second period Nelson switched from a man defence to a zone setup, which the Rebels couldn't adjust to. Nelson took a 23-18 halftime lead and never really looked back. Georgetown only managed 11 points in the second half while Nelson added 20 points.

Georgetown's offence never got on track Friday. Everything seemed too deliberate, and also turnovers hurt Georgetown in the game. The Rebels' offence hasn't really been in tune the entire playoffs, but against M.M. Robinson and Aldershot Georgetown's defence was so good it carried the Rebels to victories.

But Nelson's offence wasn't deliberate and was quite effective. Led by the quick hands and passing of the two guards Nelson put together a well-balanced attack. Even when Georgetown tried to foul the Nelson players, Nelson did well then too, hitting eight of 12 free throws.

Nelson coach John McLennan, who coached Leeking when Leeking was a young hoop player at Nelson, said he wanted his troops to control the tempo of the game. That's why Nelson switched to a zone defence in the second quarter, and McLennan said it worked well.

"When we went to our zone it seemed to settle us down on defence and frustrated them on offence," McLennan said. "I thought if we controlled the tempo of the game we'd have a good shot at it."

While being pleased with the play of his club as a whole, McLennan was particularly pleased with the play of centre Jennifer Bodgen. Bodgen, who is in Grade Nine, had the big task of guarding Rebel centre Heather Lawrence and McLennan was impressed with Bodgen's poise in handling her task.

"Jennifer has been the highlight of our year," he said. "She is in Grade Nine and has done exactly everything we've asked of her. You can't expect one person to be so coachable."

As for Leeking, the Rebels' coach made no excuses for the loss. His team came up against a better team.

"I don't think they outran us as much as they outthrew us. Our girls had so much heart, but they just came up against a better team," Leeking said.

"We tried different things, but when they went into their zone in the

second quarter and that's where the game diverted," Leeking continued. "I don't know why we were so flat offensively. It's hard to say."

Despite the loss, Leeking was pleased with the season his club had. The Rebels finished the year with a 23-3 overall record and won three tournaments.

Georgetown qualified for the final Wednesday with a 38-30 win over Aldershot in a game played at the Georgetown gym. What set this game from most others was it had to be stopped in the third quarter due to a fire that occurred in the school. At the time of the evacuation,

Georgetown trailed at the 3:42 mark of the third quarter. The time off seemed to help Georgetown settle down and mount the comeback for the win that put the Georgetown team into the championship. Heather Lawrence had 10 points for the Rebels while Tara Burroughs had eight points and Marye Boks had five points.

In the final Burroughs had 13 points for Georgetown while Lawrence had 10 points. Noel Bethe had 13 points for Nelson while Dougherty had 10 points and Sansone had eight.

Grid Rebels suffer championship loss

A season-long problem reared its ugly head once again for the Georgetown District High School junior boys' football team, costing the squad a successful defence of its Tier II consolation championship.

The Rebels trailed T.A. Blakelock Tabbies 9-6 with just three minutes

to play, but had the ball on the Blakelock nine-yard line. However, Georgetown fumbled away any chance of a major which resulted in the Blakelock squad icing the victory the result of a 70-yard scamper in the dying moments.

the turnover was the fifth for the

Rebels in the game as Georgetown had three fumbles and two interceptions. In fact, Rebels' coach Rick Redshaw feels turnovers have cost his club a shot at a berth in the division championship game.

"Turnovers were the story of our season," he said. "We had the

calibre of players to do it (go the championship) except for the turnovers."

Georgetown opened the scoring in the first quarter when Stewart Teetzel cashed in from 25-yards on a reverse. Quarterback Colin McMurray made a fine block on the play to spring Teetzel, who had no trouble outrunning a host of Blakelock defenders into the end zone. However a high snap prevented veteran kicker Dave Varricchio from adding the convert.

Blakelock came right back to score its first major in the first quarter, and added the convert to take a 7-6 lead. The two teams went into halftime with Blakelock clinging on to that one point advantage.

The Tabbies increased their advantage to three points in the third frame when Derek Orme was tackled in the Georgetown end zone for a Blakelock safety. The two teams didn't put any further points on the board until late in the final quarter when Blakelock had its long run from scrimmage to round out the scoring. On the whole the Rebel defence was quite steady in the game. Georgetown's pass defence improved over the course of the game and shut the Blakelock passing attack in the second half.

Georgetown began the game in a pro set offensive formation before switching to the wishbone later on. While the wishbone offence worked very well in Georgetown's semi final game with Pearson, Redshaw wasn't pleased with how it worked in Wednesday's final.

"I wasn't too happy with our timing on it," he said. "Their cornerbacks did well on the outside but the holes were there. Our guys should have cut it up sooner."

Despite the loss and the 2-6 record this season, Redshaw was pleased with his club's season. He pointed to the last four games of the year and how his team was able to play good football throughout.

"I really liked our second half of the season because they were four outstanding games," Redshaw said. "The kids who hadn't played a lot before really came along."

The Rebels will lose the services of running backs Tim Racinsky and Wade Serjeantson along with quarterback Sandor Gombocz to name a few. However, the list of returnees is a lengthy one, spearheaded by Teetzel, McMurray, linemen Shannon Pyke, Rod Pasma, Adrien Miller and defensive back Chad Bailey.



ONE ON ONE TACKLE-Georgetown Rebels' running back Tim Racinsky (with ball) is given a friendly bump out of bounds here on this play, courtesy of a T.A. Blakelock defender. Blakelock and Georgetown hooked up in the Tier II football consolation championship, won 19-6 by the visiting Tabbies. In the background is Rebels' coach Rick Redshaw, who isn't running out on to the field to dispute something. Redshaw and fellow coach Fred Kotani assumed officiating responsibilities in the first half when the officials originally slated to work the game were late when a prior contest they were at went into overtime. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Sports briefs

Curling event

North Halton Golf and Country Club will be the site this weekend of the Ladies Zone Provincial curling playdowns.

Play begins Friday at 7 p.m. and will continue through Saturday and Sunday. Teams from Milton, Chinguacousy, Dixie, Acton, Brampton, Oakville as well as two North Halton club squads will take part. The North Halton team skips will be Alice Frazer and Peggy Darmody.

These teams will be playing for the right to advance to the Ontario finals which will be held in St. Catharines in January.

Buy Moms fruit

Time is quickly running out for ordering your grapefruits, oranges and tangelos for Christmas gifts or for your own family's enjoyment. The Georgetown Hockey Moms are selling the Christmas fruits, so if you're interested contact your team Hockey Mom now or phone Judy at 877-8592 or Sharon at 877-9452 to place your order. Besides getting a great fruit, you'll also be supporting your son's and/or daughter's sports organization that's working for your child.

Municipal awards

Applications are now available to nominate an individual or group to receive a municipal award for their achievements or contributions in sport, recreation or culture. The town will be recognizing 1986 achievements at the awards evening Jan. 21. If you would like to nominate an individual or group pick up a form at the recreation office on James Street, Acton Indoor Pool, Finance Dept. or the Clerk's Dept. Call 877-5185 ext. 276.

Think summer

Applications are now being accepted for summer positions with the recreation and parks department. The deadline for senior staff positions is Dec. 12 and leader positions is Feb. 6. Application forms can be picked up at the recreation office in Georgetown, the Acton Indoor Pool or at your high school guidance office. Call 877-5185 ext. 260.

Winter swimming

Registrations for the Winter Aquatics Session will be accepted, for those currently registered in the fall session Dec. 1 with general registration commencing Dec. 3. Registration will be accepted at the pools during the office hours 6 to 9 p.m. The winter session begins the week of Jan. 5. Bring your child's report card to registration for verification.