

April shapes up to be big month for soccer

Soccer

By ALEX TOLGH
Herald Special

Saturday, April 25, is an upcoming important day in soccer.

The Canada team for the PanAm games is playing against Bermuda in a qualifying round game at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton. I

believe the kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

As part of their preparations the squad has just returned from an undefeated European tour of six games. The PanAm games will serve as a warm-up for the forthcoming Olympic games, which in turn, will serve as the forerunner to the next World Cup qualifying matches.

Just leaving for a tour of the British Isles is the World Cup under-16 squad. They will play matches against Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England at the same level before travelling on to Portugal for a

tourney there. The squad will return in time for the actual world cup in July.

Sunday, July 12, has, in fact, been declared a closed day for all soccer in the Peel-Halton regions to allow for maximum support for our country on that day from the twin counties.

Tickets are available through the soccer club for Sunday at a reduced rate of \$3 for two games with Canada opening the tournament. The draw is being made Monday April 5, in Toronto for other positions in the groups. The last, and first, under-16 World Cup was held in China with Nigeria coming out on top in the final 2-0 over West Germany.

Considering that in many major soccer countries 16-year-olds figure strongly in their top teams in first and premier divisions play, our lads will be at a slight disadvantage, on paper at least. So far we have held our own and hope to repeat through the tournament itself.

There is a possibility of the return of top class senior soccer to Georgetown in the near future. One of the Toronto and District clubs is entering into talks with the local club with a view to residing here. This would, in my opinion, be a tremendous boost to our soccer world as we have languished somewhat since the demise of the Falcons.

Monday nights without the crowds at Cedarvale to watch, or officiate a youth game, followed by the seniors have never been the same.

Registration day last Saturday was not as busy as the opening day, yet, nevertheless, it was fairly steady. Final figures are not yet available. President Dave Maloney is hopeful of divisions in all age groups and should be able to have the full, although not final, picture in a few days. The house league drafts are on Sunday April 26. Another couple of dates to jot down are Tuesday, 21st April at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews United Church hall for coaches and managers; and Sunday April 26 at GDHS at 2 p.m. for a referees and budding referees clinic.

Canadian Soccer League, and Ontario Soccer League clubs are showing a commitment to putting something back into the game at the lower levels and a few are attempting to put on soccer schools during the summer months.

Hamilton Steelers, North York Rockets and Toronto Blizzard are the three nearest clubs to our area and are committed to schools of one kind or another. In helping the non-professional and amateur clubs the seniors are also helping themselves.

Steelers have advertised on TV and I have no details of their, or North York's, proposals.

Blizzard are prepared to run schools in conjunction with local clubs and I well recall the hundreds who charged across Cedarvale a few years ago for the one day school then offered.

Blizzard hope to run their schools out of community centres and schools from July 6th August 28, from 9:30 a.m. to noon on weekdays. Whether Georgetown will become interested in this venture remains to be seen. I suppose if enough people request such a program it could well be provided.

Coaching will be provided by Blizzard players and the participants will receive a Blizzard sponsor ball, sport shirt and a free ticket to a Blizzard game at Varsity Stadium. In addition to coaching of the direct fashion the young players will also see film of Blizzard and World Cup games. Sounds good to me.

Talking of Varsity brings me to Lamport and artificial turf. Varian organized a superwet day for the friendly run-out with the Mariners on Sunday.

It was so successful, the Mariners have promised to organize the return next year (with better weather).

Who cares about the result. The players and officials had a good run for the first outdoor session of the year.

Grant designed to aid urban fishing program in Toronto and area

The Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows has announced that it is providing a \$15,000 grant to The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, to support an urban fishing program in Metro Toronto and surrounding municipalities.

Urban fishing is a project of the Conservation Authority, in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Toronto Parks and Forestry Department, local fishing clubs, and outdoor writers.

The aim of the program is to provide inexpensive, recreational fishing opportunities to children, senior citizens, the handicapped, and other urban residents who are unable to travel to prime fishing locations. All urban fishing locations are accessible by public transit.

If the program is successful, it will provide recreation to thousands of people, and promote the need for improved water quality in the Metro Toronto region.

The \$15,000 grant will cover the printing costs for an updated version of the Toronto Anglers Guide, a Joint Authority-Ministry of Natural Resources publication, and will be used to promote Metro Fishing Week, June 29 to July 5. Metro Fishing Week will include instruction to novice anglers, angling demonstrations, and special events.

In addition to the grant, the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, in cooperation with Wildlife Habitat Canada, a national, non-profit foundation, will also donate the proceeds from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp during the Toronto Sportsmen's Show to the urban fishing program.

The Stamp features "Canvasbacks in Spring," by noted

wildlife artist J. Fenwick Lansdowne. A print of the artwork will be raffled off during the Show, with the proceeds also going to the urban fishing program.

The proceeds from the stamp sales and the raffle will be used by the Conservation Authority to improve fish habitat.

Norman James, Chairman of the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, is pleased to support the Conservation Authority and urban fishing.

"The support of exhibitors and visitors to the 40th annual Toronto Sportsmen's Show has made these major contributions possible. We feel that it is important to participate in the effort to bring new recreational opportunities to urban residents," he said.

The Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, founded in 1948, is a non-profit organization which has donated more than \$16-million to conservation projects.

"Over the years, the Sportsmen's Shows has donated approximately \$250,000 to the Metro Region Conservation Authority in support of conservation activities and education," said William Foster, Chairman of the Authority. "This total includes the founding grant for the Kortright Centre for Conservation, which is named in memory of Francis Kortright, founder of the Sportsmen's Shows."

For more information on the urban fishing program, contact the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show, at (416) 593-7333, or the Metro Region Conservation Authority, at (416) 661-6600.



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