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# Local hoopster nets entry into WLU Hall of Fame

By PAUL SVOBODA  
 Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown resident Kyra Kristensen-Irvine says she was hooked on basketball the first time she saw the ball bounce. That same love for the hoop game has now led to Kristensen-Irvine's induction into the Willfrid Laurier University Sports Hall of Fame.

The fledgling WLU Hall of Fame has only been in existence for the last couple of years and Kristensen-Irvine joins a select group of Golden Hawk graduates named as early entrants into the athletic shrine.

"It's quite an honor and I'm really quite shocked," said Kristensen-Irvine during an interview with The Herald last week.

Kristensen-Irvine was a star guard on the WLU women's basketball team from 1967-71 and helped lead the Golden Hawks to three consecutive consolation championship titles in the old Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association. The team once narrowly missed earning the OQAA championship crown. "We blew a one-point game," recalled Kristensen-Irvine.

During her tenure at WLU Kristensen-Irvine was also heavily involved in the administrative side of school athletics, serving as president of the women's athletic association and receiving an award for most valuable contribution to athletics.

Upon graduating from WLU Kristensen-Irvine entered the teaching profession where her coaching career has been equally as impressive as her collegiate playing record. Before settling in the Peel board six years ago the ex-Golden Hawk coached at the high school level in Timmins where she sent nine consecutive teams to the all-Ontario finals, six of them winning provincial honors.

Several of her charges from those top notch northern Ontario teams have since made their own marks. "Two of my former athletes are on the Canadian national team," said Kristensen-Irvine. Some of those same players have also entered the coaching field. "A lot of my kids are coaching, following my footsteps. In fact, a lot of them are crossing my footsteps," she quipped.

While in Timmins, Kristensen-Irvine was also instrumental in the organization of a women's basketball league which is still running successfully today.

Although there was no national women's basketball program in Canada during Kristensen-Irvine's college hoop career she did receive a degree of international recognition. She worked at the 1976 Montreal Games where women's basketball made its Olympic debut. She was invited overseas by the

Hungarian National Team and spent a memorable holiday in that Slavic nation as a guest of the squad at the World University Games. "I became very good friends with the coaches and players," recounted Kristensen-Irvine. "I met a lot of fabulous people."



Kyra Kristensen-Irvine

As for today's Canadian National Women's Team, Kristensen-Irvine said a recently unsettled coaching situation has become, "a political

bomb." She felt the atmosphere contributed negatively to Canada's subsequent exit from the recent world tournament.

"Canada had an outstanding crew and did have a chance," says Kristensen-Irvine. "But they needed harmony."

However, she remains optimistic about Canada's program in the future. "You always have to look and hope, you must be optimistic," she said. "I think we're on the right track."

She says the biggest obstacle that women's basketball must clear in Ontario is marketing. "We market the game well within the basketball group," she explained. "But the fever isn't there."

Kristensen-Irvine acknowledged the impact a Canadian National Basketball Association franchise would have on the growth of the amateur game in Canada. "The support is there," she says of recent attempts by Toronto-based groups to entice the NBA to southern Ontario markets. "The people of Canada are understanding the game. I think an NBA team would be fabulous. It would help get people into the fever of the game."

Kristensen-Irvine is currently teaching in Mississauga at Valley Senior Public School. She keeps her playing hand finely tuned by competing regularly in the Georgetown Ladies' Basketball League. In the process of completing her Masters Degree in Sociology of Education, she hopes to pursue future accreditation in the field of outdoor education. "That's down the road," she states.

Formerly head coach of the Sheridan College Lady Bruins basketball team, Kristensen-Irvine holds a Level III national coaching certificate. She has instructed fledgling coaches provincially and at the advanced coaching camp at York University last summer. She also lends her expertise at the Exandale summer basketball camp.

According to Kristensen-Irvine there are several outstanding youth basketball programs currently being offered in the province. She is also greatly impressed with the calibre of female hoopsters coming out of Georgetown. "It really surprises me, the kids coming out of Georgetown," she said. "There are some very fine athletes."

Kristensen-Irvine will continue to be involved in basketball at all levels, she said. She explains her fondness for coaching in this manner: "If you can get someone to love the game, that's great."

Meanwhile, Kristensen-Irvine's own love for the game will never wane. "It'll never be out of my blood," she says.



## Cutting the grass

Bill Geggie watches the ball as he puteses Fund as Georgetown's British Club won top honors in the competition at the Log Cabin Lawn Bowling Club last Saturday. At least \$180 was raised for the Child Am-

## Canada Bowls

# Bowlers raise funds

A total of \$180 has been raised so far for the Child Amputees Fund after the Log Cabin Lawn Bowling Club's Canada Bowls competition last Saturday.

Convener Ken Baker reports that the possibility also exists of a local participating club matching that figure with a donation.

The British Club, represented by Fred Shortill, Edna Murray and Kent Tubman won the Saturday event and picked up gift certificates from Belamy's for their top efforts. Second spot went to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 led by Don Murray, Beth Anderson, Maddle

Howat and Marion Hogan. They were awarded gift certificates from Copper Kettle, Glen Williams.

Due to the extreme heat and high humidity, at the greens the tournament was shortened to two games.

"A good time was had by all and I would like to thank everyone who assisted and participated and I would also encourage anyone who might be interested in lawn bowling to come out to the club," said Baker.

The club has been in existence since 1907, according to Baker. "It would be nice to think that with new memberships it could be in existence for another 80 years," he said.

## Rebel trio named to provincial rep teams

Three Georgetown athletes have been named to Ontario provincial field hockey teams.

Carol Ferguson, Becky Dobbin and Lorna Richards will represent the province in national field hockey competition during the month of July. All three athletes are Grade 11 students at GDHS and played field hockey for the Rebels during the past season.

Ferguson was named to the Ontario Under 16 team while both Dobbin and Richards will see action with the provincial Under 18 squad. Both Ferguson and Richards are first-year field hockey players while Dobbin has played for the past two seasons. Last year Dobbin was selected to the Ontario Under 16 team in her first year.

Ferguson, a halfback, will line up with the Under 16 team when Ontario vies for the National Under 16 field hockey championship hosted next month by Winnipeg.

Dobbin, a forward, and goaltender Richards will travel to Quebec with the Ontario Under 18 side to compete in the Montreal Cup tournament in July. Prior to that the two Georgetown players will play for Ontario in the eastern regional field hockey championships to be held in Waterloo on July 16-17.

All three GDHS athletes also played soccer during the 1987-88 season for Rebel coach Sheema Kewley. The GDHS mentor, who retired after the past season, said the trio will supply a sound base for next year's Rebel team field hockey and soccer teams.

"They'll provide the nucleus for a really good team next year," said Kewley. "I don't feel so bad about leaving with those three coming back."

## Bantam A's split pair

Standard Products Bantam As were host to Sheridan on Tuesday evening and got off to a rough start in the pitching dropping four unearned runs in the top of the first inning. Lawrence and Katsilieris made it 4-2 in the bottom with Fry scoring one run in the second. Nothing changed in the third with the home team still behind by one run. With the bases loaded in the fourth, Adam Hagen hit a home run giving us a 7-4 lead. Each team scored a pair in the fifth and the visitors got one and the locals two in the sixth. Final victory came to the local boys in the seventh with an 11-8 win. Mowatt, Dezeuw, Fitzpatrick and Steve Wright are credited with contributions to our boys' comeback. A real team effort.

Standard Products Bantam As visited Cawthra Thursday evening and jumped out to a 4-3 lead in the first inning. Each team scored two in the second but the bats were silent in the third. Georgetown had the game slip away due to errors with the host team scoring one run in each of the next four innings to win the game 9-6. John Butler went the distance striking out nine batters with Lawrence having a double and three singles, Hagen with three singles, Gair with a triple and singles by Butler and Dezeuw.

# Northern Ontario strikes gold

Northern Ontario bowlers proved to be the class of the 1988 Canadian Golden Age Bowling championship tournament held last weekend at Georgetown Bowl.

Both the men's and women's titles were won by teams representing Northern Ontario as the national roll-offs ended on Monday.

The Northern Ontario men's team hailing from Nipigon topped second-place B.C. and third-place Manitoba while the ladies' team from Sudbury bested Alberta (second) and B.C. (third) in the divisional finals.

The Northern Ontario men's team was led by the Martin brothers, Ed-

ward and Max, and Sam Lasocha while the women's trio included Lillian Morin, Anna Wierzbicki and Jeanne Paradas.

Ben Schmidt of B.C. turned in the highest individual men's score with a 246 and Alberta's Elsie Wilson had the top ladies' score at 209.



Who's got it?

A trio of young lacrosse buffs vie for possession of the ball during minor tyke play at Acton Arena on June 22. Jon Rutledge had a hat-trick in this game as the Blues battled the Orange to a 4-4 tie. Tyke action continues every Wednesday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. (Herald photo)

## Host finals July 9

# Rams blow lead in 7-7 tie

A goalless third period and the accurate shooting of a goaltender didn't help the cause of the Acton Rams as they blew a 5-0 lead and ended their Golden Horseshoe Lacrosse League game last week in a 7-7 knot with Hamilton Wildcats.

Playing at home on Thursday night the Rams built up a solid 5-0 lead after the first 20 minutes only to have the pesky Wildcats outscore the locals in each of the second and third periods to gain the tie. Hamilton topped Acton 5-2 in the second frame and shutout the Rams 2-0 in the third to complete their comeback.

Included in Hamilton's inspired come-from-behind tie was a goal by netminder Dave Cuddy. The Wildcats goaltender carried the ball just over the centre line with less than one minute remaining in the middle stanza and fired a long shot

past Acton's Doug Taylor.

"That was pretty depressing," quipped Acton forward and team spokesman Wayne Young. "He kind of caught us off guard. We weren't sure if he was going to shoot or pass."

George Artem and Paul Wilson each potted a pair of goals for Acton, who solidified their hold on second place in the GHLL standings. Jim Clark, Henry Van Oort and Young fired singles. Artem added two assists while single helpers were awarded to Bill Fox, Clark, Van Oort and netminder Steve Young.

Young left the Acton cage after blanking Hamilton in the first period to be replaced by backup Doug Taylor. "With the playoffs coming up we had to get Doug some work," said Wayne Young.

The game also marked the return of forward Steve Holder to the Acton

lineup after recovering from knee surgery. Young said Holder will be a strong addition for the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Young also announced the league has given approval for a one-day playoff tournament to be held in Acton on July 9. All four clubs will playoff with the top two teams meeting in a one-game final.

The first-place finisher will meet the fourth while the second and third-place teams will battle in one-game semifinals. The likely scenario based on current standings would see first-place Niagara Warriors meeting bottom club Burlington Cougars while the Rams face the Wildcats. Last year Acton and Niagara met in the league championship final with the Rams coming out winners.

The July 9 tournament final will see semifinal games go at 12 noon and 2 p.m. with the championship match slated for a 6 p.m. faceoff.

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