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Retired coach leaves a rich legacy in Georgetown

There will be one glaring absence at GDHS next fall and it's one that will likely take students and staff alike some getting used to. After 24 years of teaching and coaching at the local high school, Sheena Kewley has retired.

Since 1964 the Scottish-born mathematics teacher has been a fixture in GDHS athletics and she leaves a rich legacy of sport behind her, highlighted by her introduction of girls' soccer and field hockey at the school. Both programs are flourishing at GDHS and it is in no small part due to the persistence and dedication of Kewley.

"I don't think I'm a great coach," said Kewley during an interview with The Herald last week. "But I'm enthusiastic and that rubs off."

Kewley's enthusiasm for sport and teaching was born at an early age. "I never wanted to do anything but teach," she recalls. "I guess I was a bossy little brat."

The game almost reached fulltime at a 0-0 tie before Georgetown took a foul in the penalty area. Kewley called the offence and awarded Burlington the penalty kick. The visitors scored and won the match 1-0. "I'll never forget that game," she laughed. "I was scared." She did add, however, that her officiating netted some compliments.

In the early 70s Kewley succeeded in establishing a fledgling field hockey program at GDHS. "It was very low key," she explained. "Nobody knew what to do."

On one occasion after receiving a new batch of sticks Kewley noticed one of her budding charges was having a particularly tough time mastering the use of the short wooden hooked device. "I knew something was wrong," she laughed. "When I looked at the stick I realized it was the only left-handed stick I had ever seen."

muscles they never knew they had." Kewley said getting used to using only one side of the stick also takes some adjustment. "Early on we had some kids who didn't even know how to hold the stick," she quipped.

The game is still considered a fringe sport at the high school level but clubs are thriving in some of Canada's larger metropolitan centres. "It's gaining a higher profile," said Kewley. "Canada has two field hockey teams in the 1988 Olympics. That's an attraction."

With over 20 years experience coaching at the high school level Kewley admits she has "seen it all." She said one of the more welcomed changes in high school coaching over the past few years has been the greater degree of involvement and organization lent to athletic administration.

Kewley says the officiating and the calibre of athlete and the ensuing performance has also improved greatly in the high schools. She attributes a large part of the latter fact to more advances in training and students' willingness to work on individual skills and fitness.

A native of Ayr, Scotland, the ex-Rebel mentor gravitated to sports naturally. "I was always interested in sports and I played them all," she said. Kewley's favorite sport and the one that won her greatest acclaim was field hockey. She chased the hard wooden ball for eight years and qualified for the southwest Scottish finals.

Kewley also played basketball, winning her varsity colors at Glasgow University while performing as a guard. "I was a five-foot, four-inch guard so you can see that basketball was not a high profile sport there," she jokes.



Sheena Kewley

Kewley's coaching career, however, did not begin immediately upon her graduation from Glasgow U. During her tenure at the college she met a young Canadian ice hockey player named Herb Kewley.

Herb was playing professional hockey for the Ayr Raiders, one of seven clubs in a Scottish league assembled by his father after the Second World War. The native of Stratford, Ontario played in Ayr for two years and when he returned to Canada in 1954 it was with Sheena by his side as his new bride.

Girls' soccer also started at GDHS around 1974 and ran with a fair degree of turbulence until 1979 when the program was dry-docked.

A bout with bronchitis led Kewley to take a forced leave of absence from the coaching ranks in 1979. She returned in style in 1984, demanding that the school budget for a girls' soccer team. "It wasn't fair," she explained. "Track and field was the only spring sport for girls."

Among her concerns as she leaves the school coaching scene Kewley lists the direction of collegiate athletics as among the most important. "I'm a little worried about Halton," she said. "There is a feeling in some cases that club-trained athletes have no place in the high schools, there can be a bad feeling there. Every kid has a right to play for their high school if they're willing to listen to their coach. Kids should not be getting hurt by these external forces. The best athletes should be able to compete for their high school."

Kewley has collected an impressive array of coaching laurels including the Kent Korzack Memorial Award from the students of GDHS in 1985 for her outstanding extracurricular activity and assistance. The highlight of her career came when she received the Olympic Award of Excellence this year as the most outstanding coach in Halton Hills. "That was a thrill," she said.

After spending six months in Toronto the couple settled in St. Thomas and raised three children: Ted, Beth and Herb Jr. In 1962 the family had taken up residence in Georgetown and after a year of supply teaching Kewley was hired fulltime at GDHS in 1964.

The birth of minor soccer in Georgetown, in the late 60s, gave Kewley her first opportunity to prepare for a coaching career. "Ted was on one of the teams and I washed the shirts," she quipped.

With a budget approved GDHS roared back into the local high school girls' soccer league with, as Kewley notes, "two teams and one coach." The juniors won the Halton title in their first year back.

Meanwhile, the subsequent demise of the field hockey club also alarmed Kewley and in 1986 the program was revived. "No way was I going to let it go down the drain," she said. From two full sides in 1979 the field hockey program was started again from ground level.

Kewley has among her possessions a soccer ball signed by all her players from the past season and a photo album assembled by the members of the field hockey team. That memorabilia is probably more dear to her than any trophy. "The Georgetown players have always been great to work with. They are the most positive and co-operative kids you could work with," she said.

She plans to visit the school occasionally, often in a supply teacher role when needed, and she'll be a familiar sight on the sidelines of Rebel soccer and field hockey games. Only this time, it will be in the garb of spectator.

Kewley soon earned her soccer refereeing certification papers, an accomplishment that would leave her with one of her more memorable experiences in sport as her impromptu debut as one of the area's first female officials sparked some controversy.

"I had come to the field to watch Herb Jr. play when the Burlington bantam rep team showed up," she recounted. "However, there was no referee." Kewley was convinced by local supporters to officiate and she finally agreed, but not before the Burlington club had announced its intentions to protest the match.

"Field hockey attracts a different bunch of kids," explained Kewley. "They're not the typical jock kids who go right into basketball or volleyball right out of public school."

Canadian athletes find a great deal different in field hockey, including the stance and the stick itself, says Kewley. "They have to get used to being bent over all the time as the stick length (about 36-38 inches) is not adjustable. The kids find they get tired in the back and buttocks. They find out they have

But for Kewley the most important part of the coaching game has always been the participants. When asked what she'll miss most next September as schools open their doors for the 1988-89 academic season Kewley doesn't hesitate. "I'll miss the involvement with the kids," she says.

"I told them if they were protesting because I was a female then I would take it to the Human Rights Commission," she recalled.

Despite Burlington's protestations the game was finally started with Kewley calling the shots. "I was a bit scared that Herb Jr. might get in to a fight," she said, recalling the catcalls she received from some players.

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Meanwhile, Kewley and her husband Herb plan to take to the road during their retirement.

In the wake of a 20-plus year coaching career Kewley leaves some simple and genuine advice for those just breaking into the ranks. "You've got to be enthusiastic," she said. "When the kids know you're enthusiastic they get excited. You can pull them through a game on enthusiasm."



Having a ball!

You won't see athletes performing this event at the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul but the beach ball hop was a hotly-contested event at the Halton Hills rec department Crazy Olympics on July 8 at Prospect Park. Stephanie Plouffe and Chris Howell demonstrated their prowess in the bouncing race as summer camp youngsters enjoyed a fun-packed day of crazy sports. (Herald photo)

Lose league title

Third period crash fells Rams

The Acton Rams found out the hard way last Saturday that a lacrosse game is three periods long. Unfortunately for the Rams they made the discovery in the Golden Horseshoe Lacrosse League's championship game.

Rams put together a pair of solid periods before falling apart in the final frame as the Niagara Warriors outscored Acton 6-0 in the last 20 minutes to claim the 1988 GHLL title with a 10-3 win.

"We played well for the first two periods and held them to 4-3 heading into the last period," said Rams veteran forward Wayne Young. "But they opened the floodgates in the third."

The one-game final capped the league's tournament-style playoff at the Acton Arena last Saturday. It also marked a rematch of last season's championship trophy combatants, the Rams and the Warriors.

However, the outcome was decidedly different in the 1988 version of the Golden Horseshoe final than in 1987 when Acton topped a young Niagara squad to win the hardware. After two close periods the promise of a hammer-and-tong battle in the third stanza was not realized as Niagara turned up the tempo and Acton suddenly lost its attack.

Acton led 2-1 after the first frame and were on the short end of a 4-3 score after 40 minutes. George

Artem, Steve Holder and Steve Wilson scored for the Rams with assists going to Scott Early, Wayne Young, Fred Allen, Bill Fox and Steve Young.

Marcus Franken paced the Niagara attack with two goals and two assists and was named the Warriors MVP for his efforts. Acton goaltender Steve Young, who helped hold the Rams in contention with 40 minutes of superlative netminding, won the MVP honors for the home team.

"Steve played really well, he kept us in there," said Wayne Young. "He really deserved the MVP award."

Rams advanced to the final game after taking a 5-3 decision from a surprisingly-tough Hamilton Wildcat team in the semi-final match between the four-team top-of-second and third-place clubs. "Hamilton improved steadily during the season," said Young.

Niagara, meanwhile, had an easy time in their semi-final encounter with last-place Burlington Cougars. The "mercy rule" was used to end the game after only two periods of play with Niagara enjoying a commanding 15-3 lead.

Young gave credit to Niagara for their third-period dominance in the final game but he acknowledged the price Acton paid for taking a rash of penalties in the last frame. "They're a good fast team," said Young. "But

the penalties killed us too."

Rams tallied 32 penalty minutes in the game, a whopping 26 of them coming in the final period. Although Niagara took 25 minutes over the course of the contest, Warriors were banished only four times in the final stanza.

In their semi-final game with Hamilton, the Rams were led by George Artem and Henny Van Oort - both scoring twice - while Kevin Marcoux chipped in with a single goal. Steve Wilson counted two assists and Steve Young had one. Both teams took 10 penalty minutes each.

RAMBLINGS: According to Wayne Young the annual GHLL tournament was a success. The Rams managed to host the event, pay off some of last year's club debts and they broke even for the season. Despite the heat wave, Young said conditions were favorable for lacrosse inside the Acton Arena. "The floor didn't sweat," he said.

Meanwhile, Rams finished the 1988 regular season in second place with a record of seven wins, three defeats (all to Niagara) and two ties for 16 points. Acton's final regular season contest was held last Thursday in Acton where the Rams dumped Hamilton 9-6. Fred Allen had a hat-trick while singles went to Kevin Marcoux, Paul Wilson, Rick Newman, Henny Van Oort, Scott Early and Steve Holder.

1994 World Cup should help nourish soccer's colonial grassroots

Paul's call
 By PAUL SVOBODA
 Herald Sports Editor

Question: Will the recent announcement that the USA will host the 1994 World Cup help stimulate the growth of soccer in America?
 Answer: Maybe.

Unfortunately for the North American Soccer League the US World Cup hosting announcement came about five years too late. For the Major Indoor Soccer League the announcement may still be too late.

You remember the NASL, don't you? It was that wonderful league that gave us such interesting teams as the San Jose Earthquakes, Washington Diplomats (shortened, appropriately for a club based in the US capital, to "Dips") and the Toronto Metros-Croatia.

During the 1970's soccer was predicted as the new boom sport for the United States. People who would today be called Yuppies flocked to the game and registered their 1.3 children in minor soccer programs from Marina Del Rey, California to Bridgeport, Connecticut. Soccer became the definitive suburban

sport.

The NASL did provide some great moments. The New York Cosmos, who later dropped the New York from their title and became simply and rather mythically, "The Cosmos", were the star-studded flagship of the struggling league. They gave North American fans the great Pele, the Methuselah of sport. Watching him perform well into his 40's let us dream of what hockey may have been like in the 80's if Bobby Orr's knees had held out.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on whether you are: a) a soccer fan, b) a soccer "purist" (a nice way of saying "snob"), or c) an NFL fanatic, the NASL died. And before any team could top the San Jose Earthquakes for most unique location and name.

Now the Major Indoor League, the mutated half-brother of the outdoor game, is floundering. Teams are losing money, fans are staying away and owners are folding up shop. Sound familiar?

Whether, in fact, the US hosting of the World Cup will help save the MISL or not, may soon be a moot point. The San Diego Sockers can probably lose a lot of money before 1994 rolls around.

Now there's talk of reviving the dormant NASL once World Cup fever catches on in the states.

Pro soccer's a tough sell in North America. The game just doesn't seem to appeal to the colonists at that level. We're too frightened by the nightmarish memories of occasional glimpses of televised European games. "A 0-0 tie? AARRRRGGG-GHHH!"

North Americans like to hit things. Soccer just doesn't compare with the sight of a 260-pound behemoth crushing a 190-pound quarterback for satisfying pioneer bloodlust.

Soccer is also tough to sell on TV. It's hard to find an opportunity to get up and grab a beer, and still leave the game on.

But perhaps Americans are going at it all wrong.

If the game can flourish at the amateur level why not leave it alone? It's an enjoyable game, it's a great way to get fit and it's a lifetime sport.

Perhaps the Canadian Soccer League has the right idea. When that fledgling loop was born it was suggested as an opportunity for Canadian soccer talent to develop at a high level. One of the reasons for that goal was so we could compete at the World Cup level.

The US World Cup will be a fantastic event. It will also provide a tremendous opportunity for soccer players to nourish the game's roots in all of North America.

Reunion on Saturday

Georgettes back together

Over 20 years of local ladies' softball history will be remembered on Saturday during the Georgetown Georgettes reunion.

The day-long reunion will see fun games played at the Fairgrounds followed by a banquet on Saturday evening at the Legion as former Georgettes gather to reminisce and relive some of the memories gathered by that team during its operation from 1965 to 1987.

Over 120 former players, coaches and umpires are scheduled to attend the reunion and former Georgettes are expected to turn up from all parts of the continent, said reunion public relations

representative Goldie Cash.

"We've sent invitations to Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa and the Virgin Islands," said Cash on Monday. She said the idea for a reunion came about after a couple of ex-Georgettes met at a wedding. "They hadn't seen each other for quite a while and they thought a reunion would be a good idea," explained Cash.

The Georgettes played in a local ladies' rep softball league with other clubs hailing from Hillsburgh, Hornby, Milton and Mississauga. Cash said several former players are still in the area and are now playing in the Georgetown Ladies' Powderpuff

League.

Former Georgettes will participate in a slate of fun games at the Fairgrounds beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday. A dinner and dance will begin at 6 p.m. at the Georgetown Legion. Cash said a yearbook containing old newspaper clippings and stories about the Georgettes has been assembled in the form of a yearbook. "The yearbooks will be on sale at the dance," she reported.

Cash can be reached for further information regarding the Georgettes reunion by calling 877-6126. Other committee members include Ev Metler and Bernie Dore.

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