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**Bring 'em on!**

Members of the North Halton Rugby Football Club enjoy a light-hearted moment during a rucking drill at a team practice last week. James Paul (bottom) appears to be getting the worst of this maneuver as, from the left, Rich Lawson, Tim Kunica, Cam MacIver and Ted Ford-King demonstrate their loose rucking style. At the back are (left) Brian Collier and (right) Duane Wilson. North Halton is preparing for its Aug. 24 home date against a British touring side from Tonbridge, England. (Herald photo)

## North Halton prepares for British invasion

Georgetown will be the site of a British invasion on Wednesday, Aug. 24.

That's when the Tonbridge Rugby Football Club from Kent County, England comes to town to test the mettle of the North Halton RFC and North Halton is hoping that at least the off-field portion of this invasion will be friendly.

"We'll be competitive," says North Halton coach Sandy Mackenzie. "It's the biggest game of the year for us."

The Tonbridge club, on a four-game tour of Quebec and Ontario, actually arrives in Georgetown next Monday night. A total of 38 playing members and executive officers of the English touring side will be billeted by North Halton players leading up to the midweek international contest next Wednesday at Georgetown's Neilson Field.

According to Mackenzie, North Halton will try to be the consummate hosts during Tonbridge's stopover in Georgetown as well as trying to give them their toughest competition on the playing field. North Halton plans to show the English lads some good old Canadian hospitality featuring traditional Ontario twists.

"They'll be visiting Niagara Falls on Tuesday and then we have a corn roast planned for them on Tuesday night," said Mackenzie. "They'll have a light practice on Wednesday morning and be ready to kickoff on Wednesday night."

A post-game social has been scheduled for Alcott Arena where the visiting British squad will

receive a Halton Hills Town flag from Mayor Russ Miller. Mackenzie said each North Halton player will present his opponent on Tonbridge with a Town lapel pin.

Meanwhile, Mackenzie was happy the international contest, undoubtedly the rugby highlight of the season for North Halton, could be played in Georgetown. Originally the club wanted to host the doubleheader (Tonbridge's Over-35

Kent County union. Apparently the club has had several players receive county and representative honors since its inception in 1904. The club's motto is: "Modest in winning; dignity in losing."

Prior to arriving in Georgetown, Tonbridge will have played matches against the Montreal Wanderers and the Bytown Blues of Ottawa. Following its encounter with North Halton the English unit will be hosted by the Toronto Lions before departing for Great Britain.

While touring sides can often be a "mixed bag" when it comes to fielding their best side overseas, Mackenzie has no doubts about the way Tonbridge will play. "They'll be tough," he said. "They play rugby from day one over there just like most Canadians play hockey from day one here."

North Halton plans to field its best XV against the British while relying primarily on its strong back row of captain and number eight Terry Pottruff and the brother combination of flankers Ted and Bob Ford-King.

Wily veteran Rob Paul will return to supply his experience at the crucial scrumhalf position after recovering from rib injuries suffered last month in a game with Brampton Beavers.

Jamie Spiller (flyhalf), James Paul (inside centre) and John Watt (wing) have all been playing well recently in the North Halton backfield and will be counted upon heavily to carry a good portion of the locals' offensive load as well as supplying standup coverage on defence.

Other starters for the North Halton First Team on Aug. 24 include: Brian Hall and Mark Armstrong at the prop positions; Craig Lonsdale at hooker; Cam MacIver and Tim Kunica, locks; Casey Vandersluis, outside centre; Tim Quinn, wing; and Duane Wilson, fullback.

Although the match will observe standard rugby union rules whereby only two injury substitutions per team are allowed during a game, North Halton will dress five players as reserves. They are Greg Mackenzie, Brian Collier, Bob Bingham, Rich Lawson and injured regular Ian MacIver.

The North Halton club is inviting the public to attend the post-game social at Alcott Arena following the club match at 7 p.m. next Wednesday night.

### Tonbridge Rugby Football Club



### Club Tour to Canada August 1988

side will meet the Niagara Rugby Union Old Boys in a curtain-raiser before the regular club match) under the lights at Cedarvale Park. That request was denied by Town Council and the games were moved south to Oakville's Crusader Park.

North Halton has since secured the full-time use of Neilson Field in Georgetown for its home matches and later decided to host the British side on its home turf. Mackenzie said the Aug. 24 doubleheader will kickoff with the Over-35's game beginning at 6 p.m. and scheduled for two 30-minute halves. The regular club match will start at 7 p.m. with a pair of regulation 40-minute halves scheduled.

Mackenzie says he hopes Georgetown residents will take advantage of an opportunity to see an international rugby match right in their own backyard. "It should be a good contest," said Mackenzie.

The Tonbridge Club regularly fields five senior sides, a junior side and an Over-35's side and competes at the Division I level in England's

### Declining membership

## Cricket Club struggles to survive

One of the best kept secrets in Halton Hills would be common knowledge if certain local athletes had their wish.

The Georgetown Cricket Club has been operating for the past 10 years, often veiled in a cloak of anonymity, with a great degree of on-field success. But a dwindling membership and the lack of a grassroots rebuilding program has recently left the organization teetering on the brink of its very existence.

"We have very few members now," said Dr. Ashok Kumar, current club captain. "We also have few supporters."

Cricket, the English game from which baseball is said to have derived, has been played in Georgetown by a small but committed group of devotees since 1978.

Ten years ago the prognosis was

healthy for the Georgetown Cricket Club. Founded by Kumar and recently-retired GDHS history teacher Tom Ramautarsingh, the club boasted a playing contingent of about 25 players and found immediate success on the playing field.

Georgetown fielded two playing sides in the Hamilton and District Cricket League where the club consistently finished in the top two positions. Several local players found honors at the provincial representative level and one Georgetown player, Ashley Windsor, was chosen as a member of the Canadian National Cricket Team.

Kumar himself was a member of the Hamilton and District League team that competed at the last Masters Games in Toronto where he was named top overall bowler. He hopes to represent the area in

cricket once again at the next Masters Games in Denmark.

The club's original executive included Ramautarsingh as president, Kumar as secretary, Dr. Raj Mander as vice-president and Bryan Chadwick as treasurer. Twenty-two prospective members attended the club's first-ever organizational meeting and the team was off and running in time for the 1978 season.

Despite bouncing between a host of local fields for its home games and practices the Georgetown Cricket Club managed to be promoted from B division play to the highly-competitive A league after only two full seasons as a unit. While still active in the Hamilton and District circuit, the Georgetown Cricket Club has fallen upon hard times in the past couple of seasons. "We didn't operate at all last year," said Kumar during a recent interview with The Herald. "This season we're trying to avoid too much structure."

The biggest problem currently facing the club is a glaring shortage of playing members. "On occasion we have played with just seven or eight players," said Kumar. A regulation cricket game normally calls for 11 players on each team. "The people that we get to play usually have to run around like mad during a game," Kumar says it's not unusual for him to make "30 or 40 phone calls" prior to each game just to round up a minimum number of players.

Kumar says the club hasn't replaced enough of its original playing membership to keep the team properly afloat. He said several of the club's founding core just hasn't had the time to invest in the team as it once did.

"Ten years ago we had members with lots of time to put into the club," says Kumar. "We also had many younger players then. Now everyone is a little older and many don't have the same amount of time

to invest."

Despite those realities Kumar says ex-players must still shoulder the responsibility for the club's current lack of players. "Ex-players shouldn't just back off once they're through playing," he said. "They need to stay and help develop new players. That's the basis of a club."

Kumar said the club has tried to attract new players to the game but the absence of a solid grassroots development program has hurt its efforts. "We've tried all sorts of means to attract new players," he stated. "We've tried to run coaching clinics at local schools in an attempt to build a junior program."

According to Kumar, however, there has been some interest, albeit small at the moment, expressed at the school level for the game of cricket. Officials at Georgetown Christian School have apparently contacted Kumar with an expressed interest in starting a junior program.

Kumar said the club would welcome the opportunity to initiate a junior development program in Georgetown and he added that the involvement of former experienced players would be crucial in promoting the game to youngsters.

Meanwhile, the Georgetown Cricket Club manages to carry on. The team is undefeated in its only two starts this season and looks forward to continuing a winning tradition.

Construction on the grounds of the club's previous home at Stewarttown Public School has forced the team to move its playing headquarters to Pineview Public School for the 1988 season.

Georgetown has three home games remaining in its Hamilton and District Cricket League schedule. Cambridge visits Pineview on Saturday while Guelph is in town on Sunday. The club wraps up its 1988 schedule on Aug. 27 with a home encounter against Hamilton.



**Getting his kicks**

Jason Fisher displays some fancy summer camps took part in the footwork as he dribbles a soccer ball festivities with youngsters receiving through the last stages of the gold-like "nuggets" after obstacle course at the rec department's Klondike Days festival held last Friday at Cedarvale Park. All participating at the various activity stations. (Herald photo)

## Halton Hills sends nine to Senior Games

Nine residents of Halton Hills will represent Halton Region in the Ontario Senior Games on Aug. 29-31 in Brampton.

The local contingent will make up part of the 31-person Halton Region team that will compete against over 1400 other senior athletes and games players from 36 different districts across the province.

Local competitors include Reg Broomhead, Bill Lawrence, Margaret Davidson and Dovie Fiebig, all of Georgetown, who will compete in the Senior Games golf tournament. Chris Robertson and Connie Granger of Acton will par-

ticipate in the euchre competition while another pair of Actonites - Pat Giguere and Jean Jackson - will take part in the bowling event. Georgetown's Norris Hobbs will see action in the lawn bowling competition.

A special reception was held in honor of the nine area competitors and the rest of the Halton Region Senior Games team earlier today (Aug. 17) at the regional administration building.

The reception was hosted by Halton Chairman Pete Pomeroy and the four Halton Region Mayors including Russ Miller of Halton Hills.

## Deal makes cents for almost everyone



### Paul's call

By PAUL SVOBODA  
 Herald Sports Editor

Shed no tears for Wayne Gretzky. Save your tear ducts also on Edmonton Oilers fans.

Janet Jones, Peter Pocklington, Glen Sather, Jari Kurri, John Ziegler -- hey, these people all got wealthier least week in the wake of the biggest sports deal of the century. Don't cry for them.

Who cares whether or not The Great One was run out of town by Pocklington? Who cares that Edmonton fans are blaming Janet Jones for stealing their golden boy? Who cares whether Pocklington's ego is bigger than Gretzky's. It just doesn't matter.

Think about it. When the Oilers traded the best player on skates to the L.A. Kings last week they made everyone richer. Even you and me.

That's right.

Gretzky is about 5-million dollars richer and gets to sit by the beach year-round. Come on, a condo by Venice Beach has got to be more appealing than an apartment overlooking the frozen Saskatchewan River.

The Edmonton fans? Well, once they get over their whining and complaining they'll be okay. I guess they are, after all, entitled to some bitterness after losing the hockey equivalent of Pele. But they'll soon dry the tears long enough to realize that the Oilers hockey future has been secured for

years to come. Jimmy Carson is nothing to sneeze at, Martin Gellinas will likely blossom in Edmonton and three year's worth of first-round draft choices isn't exactly scrubs on skates.

As for Janet Jones receiving the brunt of abuse from uninformed Edmontonians blaming her for kidnapping Gretzky and whisking him away to L.A. with her, (some fate!) just be glad she doesn't call Jonesboro, Arkansas home. Then I suppose the NHL would have to locate an expansion team in Little Rock overnight.

No, save the tears and save the abuse. Everyone got just a little bit richer when Wayne Gretzky left Edmonton.

L.A. Kings are now a legitimate contender. The Kings will draw on the road -- probably for the first time ever -- and other clubs around the NHL now know that anything can happen. Maybe Janet Jones will move to Toronto.

The NHL itself can now promote its brightest star in the second largest media market in North America. Maybe now they'll be able to secure a network TV contract. Call that survival.

Little kids with a shoebox full of last year's NHL hockey cards will smile with the knowledge that the Wayne Gretzky card -- the one in which he's wearing that foreign-looking Oiler uniform -- may soon be worth a mint.

All the new products Gretzky endorses in L.A. will make money and so will workers in all the Canadian factories owned by American conglomerates. Isn't that everyone?

The list goes on and on. THE TRADE made us rich. We should be happy.

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