

# Local youngsters star in "Year of the Teenager"

## Soccer

By ALEX TOUGH

When I began writing the column many years ago there were always problems in having the thing published. No one, locally, wrote anything about what was going on. There was nothing about the Toronto and District Falcons, the Inter County league (although it performed under a different name then) or the youth club. Upon becoming president of the youth I campaigned for publication of something, anything even just results. The sports editors of the day used to say, "I know nothing of the game, give me something and I'll publish." So, the famous column began. Then it became a battle to have it put into print. There were many excuses for not printing. "It is not local news, there's no space," were a couple. Look at

the paper today. There is probably news from all over the place. "It is the hockey season, it is the baseball season," are another couple of excuses. I replied it is the same kids and when do you stop writing about other sports during the soccer season, even although soccer is the largest single numerical group. These days are gone, I trust forever.

These past few weeks the local papers, and national for that matter, are filled with the prospects of the NHL entry draft and Georgetown has a few likely prospects. I recall the coaching of John Cobby and Doug Gray, even earlier of my young lad in squirt days, with David Lawrence and Adam Bennett, of Curtis Green and Trent Cull, all promising soccer players. Not all are making their possibly entry at this time into the NHL. They are making their mark as are other local youngsters.

Becky Dobbin, Sherri Nairn, Sean Cleary and Doug Smith are just a few of the promising talent coming through. This seems to be the year of the talented teenager from this area, something which

happens in cycles, every so often there is a good crop blossoming.

Several folks have remarked on the recent preaching about teaching. Simple talents like trapping the ball, moving with the ball at the feet, heading and kicking properly appear to have been missed somewhere down the line. Yet only a few moments of instruction are necessary to set the players along the correct path. There have been many attempts to harness the teachers and students over the decade past without a great deal of success. We do have our fair share of good coaches, some pretty well qualified, some not.

I presented myself for a bit of officiating last week and thought I'll be able to get some material from the house league from there. Unfortunately the game was cancelled, no one told me and the opportunity was lost. Another time.

Canada's Under-16 squad did not fare too well in their attempt to reach the World Cup final round, losing all three games in the round robin to Argentina, China and Nigeria (co-favorites with Portugal). The little film of the team shown, shows we are far behind in skills although not in endeavor. Simple errors in defence led to the goals. Yet it must be said this was a tough group to contest. The team did qualify for the tourney and that is an achievement which should not be forgotten. They qualified, the seniors did not (for 1990).

As it is Scotland play Portugal and Bahrain meet Saudi Arabia in the semi-finals. Who would have thought Bahrain would put out Brazil and Saudi Arabia beat Nigeria. Portugal defeated Argentina and Scotland defeated East Germany. The championship

game is at Hampden Park, Glasgow on Saturday.

Would you believe that the Classic car show was at Cedarvale last Sunday? It is not so long ago we had a horse show there also! And we are asked to curtail our activities on the field use, yet we are restricted to four reasonably safe fields for around one thousand senior and junior players. The town and Meteor have met a few times on the use of Meadowglen and a meeting at council took place on Monday. Hopefully we shall see the agreement signed and the field made ready for play as soon as possible. The legalities must be sorted out before use owing to responsibility and insurance in case of injuries.

The Mariners are now solidly at the foot of the first division following a 0-1 result in favor of Acton Villa. A goal 15 minutes into the second half sealed the fate of the Ancients, with several players missing. Eagles make merry with another good result, a home victory, 3-2 over Marlin and these teams share top place. In the centre are Meteor and Crown and Anchor, Meteor coming out on top by 2-1. In the second division Stingers took both points from Ajax in a 3-2 win for their first ever win in the league. A nice achievement for a team which was thought to be not as strong as others. Milton lost to Tam O'Shanter by 1-6 and Laurentian broke their sequence of ties with a 6-3 win over Trexcon. At the recent league meeting the 'riot' act

was read against dissent towards officials and teams will do well to warn their players of possible suspensions should this continue. Referees are asked to clamp down on dissent and illegal tackling. In a league where people have to work the next day we can do without the dirty stuff, says discipline boss Bryan Turner.

The hackneyed phrase, "It's for the kids," is true when it is applied to Dave Maloney, who has felt it necessary to resign from the presidency of the Georgetown club. Dave coaches two teams this season and has also been responsible for appointing game officials, a thankless task as those who have done it and are doing it will testify. Suffice to say that Dave Maloney resigned in the best interests of the club, and will still be around - for the kids.

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## Falcons shot down in Peel-Halton play

The weather was perfect and the field conditions were the same but the outcome was less than perfect for the Georgetown Falcons in Peel-Halton Soccer League action at Burlington's Sherwood Forest Park Friday.

Falcons dropped a 4-2 decision to host Burlington, marking Georgetown's first loss of the regular season against one win and a pair of ties.

Joe Clare and Dan Dunleavy scored for Georgetown and goalkeeper Jay Corson turned in a respectable performance but experience was the difference as a well-mixed Burlington lineup of veterans and 18-year-olds claimed victory.

Burlington took a 1-0 lead on a Georgetown miscue in its own end between centre-half and sweeper, which allowed an opposition player to run through unmolested to beat Corson.

Falcons tied it up five minutes later on a super diagonal pass from Tim Rachinski to Joe Clare, with Clare running onto the ball and driving it with a left foot low into the bottom corner.

Burlington went ahead 2-1 on a peculiar goal which caught Corson going the wrong way on a deflected ball.

A harsh penalty call to Derek Oram for a hand-ball, gave Burlington the opportunity to go up by two-goals and they took it, leading

3-1 at the half.

With nothing to lose in the second half, Falcons flew out to begin an aggressive attacking game. Taking control of the ball, Georgetown was unlucky not to score before it did when Dan Dunleavy outran a square Burlington defence to beat their keeper on a first-timer past the post.

Spurred on by Dunleavy's tally, Falcons played some very good soccer with centre-back Doug Covert coming forward to put continuous pressure on Burlington. But, against the run of the play, the host team received a lucky bounce from a long clearance and made good on a two-on-one to seal the game 4-2.

Falcons play at home Friday at 7 p.m. at Alcott Field.

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