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Falcons fly to 4-1 win

The work ethic is alive and well in Georgetown. Just ask the Georgetown Falcons.

The Falcons put forth a workmanlike effort Friday in overcoming a 1-0 deficit to defeat visiting Nueva Esparanz 4-1 in Peel-Halton Soccer League action at Alcott Field.

Hard-running George Gidman and Keith Spiller supplied all of Georgetown's offence, each scoring two goals. The win leaves Falcons with a record of two wins, two ties and a loss.

Nueva drew first blood Friday, scoring within the first five minutes on a misjudgement by Georgetown keeper Jay Corson. But that would be all for the visitors for the remainder of the contest as Corson settled down to play a steady game.

The visitors looked very skillful and quick on the short passing game early on but they lacked accuracy over the long ball. Georgetown went to work immediately after suffering the opening goal and the hard work soon paid off handsomely as Keith Spiller pounced on a loose ball created by some fierce Falcon forechecking.

Spiller completed his play by firing the ball into the bottom corner of the Nueva net and just before the intermission Gidman beat a wide Esparanz defence to give Georgetown a 2-1 half-time lead.

Nueva was visibly tired in the second half and Falcons workload proved too much for the visitors. Spiller again moved inside where he pulled a defender before using him as a screen to beat the



The work ethic paid off handsomely for Georgetown Falcons Friday as they outthrust visiting Nueva Esparanz 4-1 in Peel-Halton soccer action at Alcott Field. Here, a Falcon (in white) battles an Esparanz defender for ball possession. Falcons host Oakville June 30. (Herald photo)

Esparanz keeper with a low bullet.

Gidman returned from a brief respite to complete his two-goal performance, outrunning the Nueva defence to cap a Georgetown win at 4-1.

Georgetown's Adam Djuk was

injured in the contest and may be lost to the Falcons for a few weeks.

The club swings back into action Friday at Alcott Field with a 7 p.m. kick-off against Oakville, one of the loop's top clubs this season.

Arctic run attracts 3 locals

Most of us might find relief from the current heat wave with a cool dip in the pool, an electric fan perfectly positioned, or a tall, frosty cold one.

But for three Georgetown runners, relief from the heat means an early summer trek to Canada's Arctic Circle.

Call them crazy, call them nuts or call them just plain adventurers. It's not likely Joe Cleary, Alan Ryall or Wally Fenske will mind what adjective you use to describe their upcoming journey.

On Canada Day when most Canadians will probably be relaxing to enjoy the nation's birthday party, these three guys will be running a marathon on Baffin Island.

On July 1, 100 runners will begin the 11th annual 'Midnight Sun Marathon'. Twenty-six miles and 385 yards in the land where the sun never sets - at least, at this time of year.

For Cleary, the trip north will mark his second Midnight Sun Run. Last year he tackled the marathon but this year the dedicated runner will challenge himself with the 84-km ultra-marathon event.

"The rest of us wimps will just run the marathon," quipped Ryall, who along with Fenske will be taking part in his first Midnight Sun Marathon.

The trio will leave for the settlement of Iqaluit on Baffin Island on Thursday, arriving in the wee hours of Friday morning. On Saturday at a place called Nanisivik they'll begin the race on a course located 480 miles above the Arctic Circle. Ryall said average temperatures for this time of year will likely be balmy, hovering around the five or minus five degree mark - Fahrenheit.

While admitting the challenge of the course (the first five km is a gradual rise of 300 metres above sea level) and its unique northern setting make the race attractive to serious runners searching for the off-beat, Ryall said numbers are kept to 100 due to travel and accommodation limitations.



The agony...

Ralph Vincent looks to the heavens after just missing this putt during the 13th annual Bill Smith Golf Tournament for Cancer Research at North Halton Golf and Country Club Monday. Meanwhile, Al Fergusson uses just the right amount of body English to drain his putt. (Herald photos)

...and the ecstasy



Ruggers see unbeaten string snapped

The North Halton Rugby Football Club found out what it has to do to win the Niagara Rugby Union's "B" Division crown this season and it found out the hard way.

Meeting defending divisional champion Castlemore at Brampton's Chinguacousy Park Saturday, North Halton suffered its first defeat of the season to the tune of

21-7. North Halton Firsts now sport a 3-1 regular season record.

"They moved the ball well," said North Halton coach Sandy Mackenzie, complimenting a sound Castlemore backfield. But it was an intercepted pass deep in the Castlemore end that led the home side to victory.

"We had them pinned in their

own end and they got a breakaway try," lamented Mackenzie. "That was the turning point of the game."

Rob Paul, playing out of the scrumhalf position, booted a three-point penalty for North Halton while the forwards provided the locals' only try of the match. The try-scorer's name was

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Those who can, play...those who can't...



Paul's Call

Paul Svoboda
Herald Sports Editor

There's an old saying that goes like this... "those who can, play; those who can't, coach."

Now, depending upon how you look at that line, it's either an insult or a compliment to the coach in question.

It may also simply indicate that it's just the way things are.

At any rate, yours truly found himself in the unwilling position of coach last weekend. It's not that I minded coaching, it's just that I would rather have been playing.

Having recently been sidelined by an old recurring back injury, it

came to pass last week that I received a frantic call from my rugby club's coach in Burlington.

"Paul!" he exclaimed. "The boys need a coach in Ottawa this weekend. I can't make it."

Well... uh... oh, sure, I guess I could make it.

A phone call to my girlfriend in Belleville extracted the expected verbal abuse after informing her that Saturday would be spent driving back and forth to Ottawa rather than sunning on Outlet Beach.

Arriving in Ottawa, I soon learned we had travelled to the capital with only 14 players, one short of the number required to play rugby union - if you hope to win.

Such is the nature of the game that we actually had no problem scaring up a quality player, an ex-teammate of mine who once had a try-out with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. That decision, of

course, drew a protest from our opponents, but that's another story.

Collecting the lads in our furnace of a changeroom prior to kickoff, I regaled them with my best "Win one for the Gipper" speech.

I thought I had done a good job. On the way out of the room, however, one of our players (a college wise-guy, naturally) asked me how long it had taken me to memorize my speech.

On the field our guys played great. I was at my coaching best - yelling instructions, screaming at the ref, and even getting into an argument with opposing fans on the sidelines.

"Hey bigmouth," called one loud. "Why aren't you out there if you know so much?" Of course, he was right. "Shove it," I replied.

I got to play nursemaid on a couple of occasions, running on-field with the traditional magic water bucket when a player went down

with a twisted ankle and staunching the bloodied nose of a second row who'd taken an errant elbow.

When the final whistle sounded, we had won 23-3.

Hey, maybe coaching isn't so bad after all.

Field notes

With unusually warm and wet weather conditions this spring, town parks and cemeteries staff have had difficulty with grass maintenance.

With perseverance, and hopefully drier weather, town staff and their mowers will triumph in the battle of the tall grasses. For the interim, everyone's patience will be appreciated.

Canada Day swims

There will be birthday cakes for Canada July 1 at the Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.