

# Braga may have cheated United in '88 Ont. cup

## Soccer

By ALEX TOUGH

Cue for a song? June is busting out all over or, a parody, April in June seems to be the story of last week. The downpourings is just not cricket. And, talking of cricket who would have thought we would see the day when indoor cricket became fashionable? It is true. Soccer World are to offer indoor cricket after a reasonably successful trial recently. It is intended to offer a program from October to May, in the Soccer World facility in Mississauga. (Sometimes it is surprising what appears in this soccer column, is it not?)

The bantam girls selects took off to Bolton the other week for a miniature tournament and I am informed the girls performed very well, so well that they came back with a first place. The Dave Booth coached squad opened with a 7-0 win over Brams United and followed with a similar result with hosts Bolton. The two wins put Georgetown into the final game with Bolton who defeated Brams. Our girls came out on top by 2-0 to win the tourney. Andrea McNeilly, back from her broken arm injury, netted seven goals and Joanna Miller, Melanie Booth and Wendy Padillo each scored three goals.

In viewing around the world soccer and Canadian soccer on the tube is showing up the vast difference between our skill standards and others. In this neck of the woods we have indeed a long way to go before we are able to challenge European and South American countries at their levels in all aspects of the game. Hopefully we may emulate the good and not the bad. How many times do we see goalies move on penalty kicks before the ball is struck and get away with it? How many times do we see outfield players rush into the area before the ball is struck and get away with it? Standards of ethics and behavior have dropped and so has the standard of officiating. All in my opinion of course. Nevertheless the opportunity to see soccer from around the globe is great and the Sports Network TV is to be applauded, along with the sponsors, for their commitment to viewers. And, our national newspapers at least publish scores and standings to keep up fans up to date. And this newspaper publishes my meanderings to keep me happy.

Those of us who watched CSL last Sunday may have noticed Steelers included Gary Morrow in the lineup. Contract differences have been settled to the player's satisfaction. It was good to see Morrow patrol his defensive sweeping role in the usual steady manner. The team has another coaching and general manager change. David Turner, ex-Blizzard, and John McGrane, ex-Los Angeles Aztecs (NASL) have been released. Owner Giammo DeBartelemeo has been likened to a Toronto hockey club owner in his approach to the game. One difference is the Steelers' owner wants a winning team and does what he thinks is required to obtain his goal.

Steelers are in second place to Blizzard two points adrift with the same number of games played. Lurking behind with a couple of games in hand is North York who went to Montreal, the new club on

the block, on Sunday. If Canada's Under-16s' failure to qualify for the final rounds of this year's world championship was a disappointment - although not entirely unexpected - Scotland's arrival in the final was not. The Scots defeat of East Germany by a late goal and of Portugal, the co-favorites, in the semi-final by the odd goal in five was a pleasure. The semi-final, in my home town of Edinburgh, was a sell-out with several thousand outside the ground. The final was staged at world renowned Hampden Park Stadium. Saudi Arabia knocked off Brazil's conquerors from Bahrain then Bahrain to reach the final. In an exciting final the home Scots took a two goal lead only to see it frittered away to a physical opponent. Late in the match the Scots missed a penalty kick which would have sealed the result. Overtime was played without a goal, and penalty kicks ensued. The first group of five kicks were tied 5-5. The same set who missed from the spot earlier missed again and The Arabians went ahead to win the 1989 world championship.

For the past few weeks around the province we have seen the progress of the Ontario Cup, the province's premier tournament. It is sad that the Georgetown/Peel combination fell through and that last year's finalist is no longer. It has since come out that winners SC Braga may have been playing some players who were not properly registered and an illegal number of re-instated professional players to amateur status. This information did not come to light until months after the final, leaving a bad taste and the success of Braga in a poor light. The rumors were around during the cup run from the semi-final games without proof. Diligent searching by Ontario registrar Laurie Bell and his committee brought the details out - too late for action.

The foregoing had nothing to do with the demise of the newly formed local United. Instead the senior competitive team we have is the youth oriented Falcons in the Peel Halton League. Falcons have not entered in the Ontario Cup, a goal which would probably be beyond the players. Wait, that is what was said about our finalists from last year, was it not? That is the beauty of the open draw style tournament, the possibility of a 'rabbit' coming through to glory. As it is the squad is doing quite well thank you in league play. The results lately have been encouraging, breaking evenly between wins and losses. A recent 2-4 result at a strong Burlington is no disgrace coming after a 2-1 win over Mississauga, another good going outfit. The lads had a match Friday at Alcott and

came out on top by 4-1 against Nueva Esperanza, a South American outfit. The visitors took an early lead and the homesters did not equalize until half time.

Although Eagles and Marlin Travel both lost the clubs retain a share of the lead in the Inter County first division. Eagles lost at Acton Villa by one goal to the home team. Tragedy struck when Villa's Gord Bruce went down to the ground after twisting in a pothole and suffered a double fracture of the leg. The match was held up for some time whilst the player was attended to and taken to hospital. Marlin dropped a goal to Crown and Anchor to give up the points.

This result keeps matters interesting to say the least. Mariners kept Meteor at bay for the most and only injuries let Meteor dictate the play towards the end.

United remain top of division two following a resounding 7-0 win over home team Milton. Trexcon defeated Stingers 7-2 to stay in second place. Ajax came back to defeat visiting Tam O'Shanter by 2-1 and slip into third place.

United and Trexcon are certainly finding the net in the second division with 17 and 16 goals for respectively. Eagles, Marlin and Meteor are the top scoring teams in the first division. The standings in both divisions are interesting so far. One third of the way through the season the situations are wide open. United have yet to lose a game and Mariners have yet to win a game and there have not been any ties in the first division.

### DARTS

Just a short note. Linda and Nick Kotsos of the Time Out gave a small dinner awards evening for the Peel League, Halton Division darts teams which play out of the

Time Out as a thank you for the support of the players on Monday nights. Players and guests had a

fine time. It is only a few weeks away from the registration of the teams in the league for next season

## Professional Advice from the Professionals . . .

### Toublesome Leaf Disease

There are many microorganisms in your lawn which are beneficial, aiding in thatch decomposition. However, there are also a few harmful organisms. The harmful organisms are a parasitic form of plant life called fungi. Fungi live in soil, thatch and dead leaves all year round. These fungi feed on grass by drawing nutrients from the plant and destroying plant cells.

The disease spreads, in the form of spores, throughout your lawn by wind, air, water and humans. The disease may re-appear from year to year if conditions are met. The disease may be caused by improper watering and mowing.

### Leaf Spot

If your lawn is being watered and fertilized but still seems yellowish, it could be due to leaf spot disease. This disease is a fungus that attacks the blades of grass.

Leaf spots are small circles with yellow centres and dark borders on, and along, the leaf blade. The disease can be a problem when the weather is cool and moist. Leaf spots occur most often in lawns that are mowed too short.

### Dollar Spot

Dollar Spot is a disease that can occur in lawns during warm weather. The fungus enters the grass plants when they are wet. Large tan coloured wounds appear on the grass blades. These infected grass blades form rounded, damaged patches the size of a silver dollar. If the disease becomes more serious, the patches will expand and damage the entire lawn.

### Leaf Blight

Leaf Blight occurs on lawns during hot humid weather. The disease enters the grass plants after evening mowing, followed by excessive night watering. In heavily infested patches the fungus damages the lawn in circular or tubular patches that often form large bleached areas. Close inspection of the plant reveals individual leaves dying from the tip down with a brownish purple line running horizontally across the plant.

### CONTROL

The best method of control is for the homeowner to alter the present lawn care practices. Avoid allowing water to sit on the grass overnight. Avoid mowing in the evening. Prune trees to encourage more air movement. Also keeping the thatch layer to less than 1/2" (1 cm) and proper fertility should be done to prevent the occurrence of these diseases. Promoting a healthy lawn is the key.

These gardening tips are brought to you by the "Weedman"

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