



Sports Outlook



A dedicated athlete

Frank Bruno meets the challenge of life



Frank Bruno, who officiates in the Georgetown Men's Flag Football League, displays the gold he reaped at the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled held recently in Ottawa and Nepean. Bruno won Gold Medals and set four national records. He will be journeying to Vancouver to compete in the National Games for the Physically Disabled, Aug. 20-27. (Herald photo)

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

In athletics as in life, so the saying goes, adversity either makes or breaks the person. One can either challenge adversity and rise to the heights or allow adversity to take control and plunge to the depths.

One such young man who has challenged ill fates and emerged the victor is 27-year-old Frank Bruno, who officiates in the Georgetown Men's Flag Football League.

A little over three years ago, Frank was virtually written off the page of life. Doctors advised his father to "Call a priest" as the young man lay in hospital in a comatose state with little, if any, hope for recovery as a result of an industrial accident.

At the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled, held in Ottawa and Nepean July 13, 14, 15 and 16, Frank competed in the CP8 category (Cerebral Palsy group, least physically disabled) and carted home four Gold Medals.

He won the 100 and 200 metre dashes, the long jump and the shot-put. In the process, he set Canadian records in all four events and will compete in the National Games for the Physically Disabled to be staged in Vancouver, Aug. 20-27.

His injury occurred at his place of employment when he fell over 20 feet straight down off an order-picker and fractured both sides of his skull.

He lay in a paralytic coma for three weeks and all doctors and family could do was stand watch and hope and pray for the best.

He was in intensive rehabilitation for one-and-a-half months after he emerged from the injury-induced nether world. He still attends twice-weekly sessions with The Mind Coop, best described as a social therapeutic group.

He represented The Mind Coop at the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled and will wear the group's colors when he competes nationally.

Frank accepts the fact that irreparable brain damage occurred as a result of his accident and estimates that mentally and physically, he is "... about 70 per cent of what he used to be."

Accepting reality is one thing, dealing with it is another matter. He chose to face his condition, not be too concerned about his physical limitations and simply put, get on with his life.

He is in his second year as an official in the Georgetown Men's Flag Football League and enjoys

the competitive camaraderie associated with the league. He also does a good job officiating and has earned the respect of the players

Prior to his accident, Frank could best be described as an all-around athlete.

He had played in the Georgetown Men's Flag Football League for three years prior to his accident. He finished fifth in league scoring in 1985 and was leading the league in scoring when he suffered his head injury, June 25, 1986.

In high school, he played squash, ball hockey, fastball and competed in track and field.

He attended Seneca College and was selected to the tournament all-star team at the Tier II provincial basketball championships in 1983.

He presently lives with his parents in Toronto and his injury prevents him from working because of lapses in concentration problems. He pays his own way to competitions and is presently building up funds to cover his Vancouver trip.

A personable, self-effacing young man with a sprightly sense of humor, he serves as a symbol to those who are tempted to give up when Lady Luck deals a losing hand.

Squirt League strong

The GBA Squirt League continued to run strongly last week.

Monday, July 17 Beaver Lumber (Team I) outscored Continental Service (Team II) on diamond I.

On diamond II, Glendale Fishing Charters (Team III) beat Armstrong Insurance (Team IV) in a close game. Batting for Glendale Fishing Charters, Ben Swanson, Glen Wood and Scott Ellis nailed homeruns with Ben, Jon Howell and Jeff Meinen (2) batting triples. Jason Estevan and Nathan Martin both hit doubles. A RBI from Andrew Peders hit gave the team their win. Fly ball catches were handled well by Glen Wood and Jeff Meinen.

Good hits were batted by Armstrong Insurance's Tasha Bradford, Brent McClung and Eddie Alcorn.

Diane Penrice Royal City's (Team V) lost to the Shoppers Drug Mart team (Team VI) at the Armories diamond. Jason Hayes and Alan Gilmore both hit a triple for the Royal City's and doubles were batted by Brendan Alexa, Brian Foster, Tyler Pearce, Alan Gilmore and Mitch Schlosser. Christopher Moss, Jason Campbell and Daniel Harris added RBIs for their team. Tyler Pearce and Brendan Alexa made some great throws and catches on the field.

For the Shoppers Drug Mart team, both Andrew Nelissen and Craig Anderson slammed a pair of homers and a double while Mark Fedchyshyn batted a homerun and a double. Other doubles were batted by Tom Fisher (2), Adam

Stoyles (4), and Jason Van Meijel. Mark Fedchyshyn played excellent on the field with three fly ball catches and a double play for two outs to end the game with a win.

batting for the Glendale Fishing Charters was Nathan Martin with four homeruns, Jeff Meinen nailed two homers and a triple, Glen Wood hit a pair of homers and three triples and teammates Ben Swanson, Jon Howell and Brad Belford all batting a homer plus triples and doubles. Other triples and doubles were hit by Keith Coulson, Scott Ellis and Jason Estevan. On the field, Ben Swanson played excellent on covering the bases, Nathan Martin gloved a great fly ball and Jon Howell was outstanding with a fly ball catch and three outs in one inning.

Wednesday, July 19 M and M Pro Sports (Team VII) lost to Beaver Lumber (Team I) in a close game.

on diamond I. It was Beaver Lumber's second win of the week.

Glendale Fishing Charters (Team III) outscored Continental Service (Team II) on diamond II. For the Continental Service team, Nils Varga and Paul Dimarco each hit homeruns and Chris Noonan nailed a pair of homers.

For their second win of the week,

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