



Sports Outlook



Erler family

The sporting life is in high gear all year

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

If you think keeping up with the Jones' is bad enough, try keeping up with the Erler family in their own version of "The Sporting Life."

Father David, who works in the Solicitor-General's offices in Toronto and mother Debbie, a teacher's assistant at Stewartton School, don't spend much time these days in their Marilyn Crescent home. With sports-minded youngsters like son Duane and daughter Darby on the go, it helps to re-introduce the family to the household dog, now and then to avoid teeth marks.

Twelve-year-old Duane, who will be entering Grade 8 this fall at Centennial School, is concentrating on golf this summer and is rapidly gaining a name for himself in provincial junior golf circles.

He competes in the 1989 Accuform Junior Golf Tour and has made his mark.

He is the youngest golfer on the Tour and at 4'10" and 90 lbs., also has the distinction of being the smallest competitor.

The Accuform Junior Golf Tour is open to Hamilton-wentworth and Halton Region golfers under 18 as of Sept. 1.

He qualified to compete on this year's Tour by shooting an 87 in a qualifying round held at Burlington's Tyandago Golf course. Only 45 spots were open and a field of 100 young golfers were vying for entry.

Duane recently took part in the Ontario Golf Association's school at Camp Borden, near Barrie. The purpose of the school is to identify promising young golfers and aspects of their game which can be worked on.

He placed 24th at the Ontario Bantam Golf Championships, for players 13 years of age and under, staged in Leamington and in Junior Invitational competition, was runner-up in a tournament played at Golf Haven in St. Catharines; placed sixth in a tournament held at Wyldewood and finished fourth in a tourney staged in Dundas Valley.

Duane admits he's 'hooked' on the game and spends as much time on the links - usually with his father - as he can spare.

He plays House League Soccer and was a member of the Pee Wee Select team that won the Consolation Championship at a tourna-

ment in Bolton.

When summer months wane, he has other athletic pursuits to occupy his time.

Duane played Minor Pee Wee "AA" hockey last season and his team won the Hamilton Husky Tournament and captured second place in Tri-County play.

He was a member of the Grade 7 volleyball team at Centennial and competes in sprints, relays and the triple jump for the school's Track and Field team.

Fourteen-year-old Darby, who will be entering Grade 9 at Georgetown District High School this fall has a more outgoing per-

sonality than brother Duane, and her impish sense of humor helps keep the Erler household on an even keel.

She is enamored of Professional Beach Volleyball player, Randy Stoklos and volleyball is her game and no doubt, California is her aim. Her Centennial School team

placed second in North Halton competition and took third place in Provincial Cup play in Scarborough.

Darby's Georgetown Bantam Select volleyball team won the Scarborough Cosmos Tournament and the Scarborough Bantam Open

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Debbie and Darby Erler share a chuckle in the backyard of their Marilyn Crescent home. No doubt, mother and daughter were discussing Darby's favorite Professional Beach Volleyball player, Randy Stoklos. (Herald photo)



David Erler offers some advice on control of the golf club through the backswing to his son Duane. Father and son share a passion for the game and often tour area links together. (Herald photo)

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