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# Sports

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HUGO DITTFACH has a wealth of memories from a career as a professional jockey spanning 33 years. He reached a milestone Saturday at Greenwood racetrack in Toronto by posting win number 4,000. Only 21 other jockeys have reached this pinnacle. (Herald photo by Colin Gibson)

## Hugo Dittfach reaches goal

By COLIN GIBSON  
Herald Sports Editor

The challenge is over; now the challenge begins!

"I'm old enough to quit and young enough to start something new."

With these words, 53-year-old hockey Hugo Dittfach, basked in the accolades heaped on him in the winners circle Saturday night at Greenwood racetrack in Toronto as he prepared to exit the world of mere mortals in race riding and enter the realm of legends.

In the last race of the evening, Dittfach whipped-home a 6-year-old gelding named Bold Presence for win number 4,000.

In recorded thoroughbred racing annals, he is only the 21st jockey to accomplish such a feat joining race riding immortals, Willie Shoemaker, Bill Hartack, Eddie Arcaro and Johnny Longden.

Dittfach enjoys race-riding, always has and in typical fashion, what he had accomplished didn't really sink in until he and Bold Presence were led into the winners circle and he saw the sign which had been specially made for the occasion. It read: "Congratulations Hugo, 4,000 wins."

"I felt great, excited," said Dittfach, "but I was still pumped up from the race. When I saw the sign, that's when it sunk in."

Dittfach had vowed that when he reached the 4,000 win pinnacle it would mark the end of his race-riding career and true to his word, he announced his retirement Saturday night.

"That's it, it's over, I've done what I set out to do."

Dittfach will be applying for a trainer's license in the spring and plans to set up a stable on the 9.2 acres of property he owns on the Eighth Line just south of Georgetown.

He had one more item of business to take care of Saturday night before the final curtain came down on his career as a jockey. He called his 80-year-old mother in Calgary to break the exciting news.

Dittfach's career spanned 33 years and began at Calgary's Victoria Park racetrack.

After performing odd jobs around the track for three years, Dittfach got his opportunity to ride in 1956. His first horse finished third and he won his second race. In racetrack parlance, "He was off."

His career has taken him around the world and through glamor and hardship.

His first two wins in California were on horses owned by film star Betty Grable.

He was Canada's leading jockey in 1961 and 1965 and won the Queen's Plate in 1961 aboard Blue Light.

He was selected to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 1983.

At 53-years-of-age, Dittfach knew that 1989 might be his final shot at reaching the 4,000 win mark.

Heading into February at Fort Erie, he needed 40 more wins to reach his goal.

He wanted it to happen at Greenwood and in Ontario but had not been blessed with the best of mounts. Had he not guided Bold Presence to the Saturday night win his wishes might not have been answered as there would only have been seven more racing dates left on the Greenwood schedule.

Heading into the weekend of racing at Greenwood he appeared stuck at the 3,998 mark.

Enter Sam-Son Farms owner, Ernie Samuel and trainer Jim Day.

They provided him with four solid mounts and win number 3,999 came in the second race aboard Sam-Son Farms' Sound the Fanfare.

Ironically, the magic 4,000 win came with John Calhoun's horse, Bold Presence.

In recognition of his accomplishment, a beautiful Waterford Crystal bowl was presented to Dittfach by Jack Kenney, president of the Ontario Jockey Club.

Vibrant and still intense, despite his advancing years, Dittfach will bring the same sort of gritty determination with him into the horse training field.

Undoubtedly, he will succeed in this career as well - even if it takes him another 33 years to reach an as yet to-be-determined goal.

Brampton and Burlington topped

## Raiders' slump is over

By COLIN GIBSON  
Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown Pontiac-Buick Raiders reached a milestone of sorts in Central Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League, West Division, play over the weekend.

The Raiders literally tore to shreds the 1989-90 regular season winless string which stretched back to Oct. 14 - when Georgetown posted a 10-7 win over Peterborough Junior Petes - notched back-to-back wins for the first time in recent memory and no doubt served notice to their West Division rivals that the worm not only has turned, but that it also has teeth.

In two home games, Raiders subdued Brampton Capitals 7-5 Friday evening then turned back the league's West Division third place team, Burlington Cougars, 5-2, Saturday night to the double-delight of hometown supporters at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

The two wins boosted the Raiders regular season mark to 3-16 and allowed the Georgetowners to get within hailing distance of the West Division's sixth place Brampton Capitals.

Raider coach, Peter Sturgeon, could feel some satisfaction in the pair of wins even though he declined the temptation to turn cart-wheels or even suggest that perhaps the team had turned that elusive corner.

"Even when we were losing," pointed out Sturgeon, "we didn't lose sight of the fact that if the players concentrated on what we were trying to teach them - take the body, force turnovers and scoring chances will come about - all

### Major Peewees

## Bodanis Bruins stun Erin

The Georgetown Major Peewees "AA" Bodanis Bruins were victorious over Erin by a score of 7-1 in their only Tri-County action this week.

Since the team has two games, a practice, and their normal weightlifting night, as well as a tournament in Buffalo this week, a relatively idle week was welcome.

Sponsor Dan Bodanis was on hand to watch his Bruins outshoot Erin 50-13 at Alcott Arena on Saturday. Doug Sheppard sparked the Major Peewee offence with two goals and three assists.

Duke Bouskill added two goals, Mark Aldridge a goal and two assists, and Gavin Glaser and Stephen Onoprijenko a goal and an assist.

Jim Katsilieris and Stephen

## Duplicate Bridge

Mike Lorusso and Karol Tobiason emerged as Number One winners in Duplicate Bridge competition, Monday afternoon at Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion located on Mill Street.

The team of Helen Hyde and Blayne Hillock tied for the Number Two winners spot with the team of Harry Arbic and Jack Kaarsemaker.

The team of Lorena Norris and Earle Ryder claimed laurels as Number Three winners.

Duplicate Bridge competition is scheduled every Monday afternoon at the Georgetown Legion on Mill Street.



the while giving 100 per cent for every shift, every period, every game, then we would be competitive against any team."

"But because we are a relatively young team and because of the number of changes in personnel, the message just wasn't getting through. I'm not going to say we've turned the corner but if the players continue to put in a solid team effort, all the way around, work hard and stick together, then who knows what might happen."

Sturgeon felt that the presence of Des Brown, just returned to the Raiders after a stint in major junior circles and just getting over a groin injury, made the difference in the Friday night 7-5 win over Brampton.

"The guy is a leader," noted Sturgeon, "and he picks up the other players just by his effort."

Raiders jumped out to 3-0 first period lead over Brampton then lost some concentration in the second period as both teams played shootout with the Raiders emerging in front 7-3 after 40 minutes of play.

Raiders were blanked by Brampton goaltender, Jason Sirota in the third period (he replaced starter Steve Thorpe after the second Raider goal of the middle stanza) and although Brampton scored twice to make

things interesting, the Raiders didn't panic and hung on for the 7-5 win.

Despite allowing five goals, Raider netminder, Curtis Green had a solid game and made 13 saves in both the first and second periods.

Des Brown and John Williamson each scored twice for the Raiders with singles going to Chris Lazarowff, Brent Presswood and Adam Hagen.

Lazarowff, Duane Lewis and Chris Lee each collected two assists.

Against Burlington in the Saturday night contest, Green again played 'Horatio at the Bridge' in the Raider nets while his mates found enough offensive firepower to turn aside the Cougars 5-2.

Green made 40 saves - 19 in the second period alone - to frustrate the Burlington snipers.

The Raider scoring was 'Share the wealth' time as Chris Lee, Duane Lewis, Bill McDonald, Chris Lazarowff and Brent Presswood all counted singles. Jason Stewart had a pair of assists.

For Burlington, Andy Pearce, a Georgetown Minor Hockey Association product, had one goal with Cory Holbrough rounding out the scoring.

The Raiders will be idle in league play this week as the team will be competing in the 12th Annual Pepsi International Junior Hockey Classic for the Father David Bauer Memorial Trophy. Games are for Weston Lions Arena, Wednesday through Sunday.

(For further details on the tournament see Sports Editor's column, 'As I see it'.)

Yurichuk earned two assists, while Duane Erler and Jamie Stephenson added single helpers.

John Waller, though not busy, played soundly in the Bodanis

Bruins net.

Coaches Chris Milne, Dan Curtis and Wally Petrie, plus the parents, wish the Major Peewees the best in a busy upcoming week.

## Sunny Acres top Flamboro

By COLIN GIBSON  
Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown's Sunny Acres Farms midgets enjoyed sweet revenge Sunday afternoon by defeating Flamboro 6-4 in a Tri-County Hockey League game played at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

The win upped Sunny Acres season record to a splendid 12-1-1 but more important, erased the memory of the only blemish on the team's 1989-90 regular season record.

In a game the previous weekend, Sunny Acres had journeyed to Flamboro's home arena but were turned back 6-5 (on a disputed goal) to mar their previous unbeaten record.

Sunday at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, the hometown favorites left no doubt in anyone's mind as to which was the better team.

Sunny Acres led 2-0 after the first period and had jumped ahead 4-0 before Flamboro got on the scoresheet midway through the second period.

Georgetown scored again with less than two minutes remaining in the second frame to open up a comfortable 5-1 two-period lead.

The teams split a pair of third markers to allow Sunny Acres Farms to leave the ice with the satisfying 6-2 win.

Trevor Einesky did his part in erasing the bitter memory of the previous loss to Flamboro by scoring twice and adding two assists.

Adam Hagen, Ken Kowziwka, Eric Long and Gord Burke rounded out the Georgetown scoring.

Long, Hagen, Kosziwka and Burke picked up single assists for Sunny Acres Farms as did Sean Guistini. Rob Boyle assisted on two Georgetown counters.

Paul Downs earned the win in the Georgetown nets.

Sunday, game time 4 p.m. at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, Sunny Acres Farms play host to Erin.