

Soccer Scene

Mini soccer can improve an individual's skills

The column is a little late this week in being handed in to the locals. I had a busy time at work and a pleasant time at the Beaches Jazz Festival on Sunday afternoon and evening. Very nice and restful, away from a busy telephone.

Georgetown soccer club was one of the first clubs to introduce mini-

Eagles gave Mariners a goalscoring lesson with three breakaways from Jamie Walraven to neutralize a Mariner penalty by Steve Cartwright. Mariners out-field play went for naught as Eagles exposed the slower moving defence. In the other first division clash, Meteor downed fellow club team, United, 6-0 in a sportingly played encounter.

Ajax defeated Trexcon 3-1 in a make-up game and lost 0-1 to visiting Merseyside. Laurentian defeated home team Milton by 2-0. Blazers fought Marlin to a 2-2 tie.

This Wednesday, Aug. 1, has Stingers vs. Blazers at Cedarvale at 8:45 p.m.; Eagles vs. Meteor at Alcott at 7:00 p.m. and United vs. Mariners at Meadowglen at 7:00 p.m. Acton Villa host Crown at 7:00 p.m. and Tam O'Shanter have a bye. Ajax travel to Laurentian and Milton travels to Brampton to meet Merseyside.

Alex Tough Sports Views



soccer to their programs, several years ago. The idea behind mini is to re-introduce the individual skills to participants by using the ball more and more, instead of line ups across the penalty area with one ball between 15 or so players.

There can be no doubt that skills cannot be improved, or event attained in the first place, without access to a ball. Play with a ball more often and the 'fears' of mistakes or being hurt upon contact disappear. Playing with a ball in team situations is much better in small groups. Successful ball players honed their skills in five-a-side scrimmages in bygone years.

One area where we may have gone astray is in the transition from the mini nine-a-side to the full 11-a-side with the corresponding change in playing regulations. Another area is how we began our mini rules.

Instead of a cut down playing area, we introduced a semi circle goal area that gives goalies a better chance to clear the ball on goal kicks. No offsids and no attacking players allowed inside the goal area were some of the rules. All too often, in the old system, play stayed at one end of the field, 22 players chased the ball all over the place, except for the odd daisy chain maker on the far side.

I believe in the best of mini. Players soon learn to adapt to the full side system, although I believe we could have a better transition system.

Falcons met Brampton Eagles in a rare Monday night match at Cedarvale and came out on top 3-1. The home team did not dress Terry Dixon. Falcons began at top speed and surprised the Eagles with their enterprising play down both wings.

David Seida and Derek Oram, the latter coming from midfield, caused no end of bother. Joey Clare opened the scoring early in the game with a clever move and the lads followed with another two quick goals. From then on the visitors were allowed back into the game and a second half penalty-kick score underlined the danger. It was quite like old times at the main soccer field in town with a fair turn out of support for the locals. I believe Brinley Hole and Derek Oram were the other scorers. Howie Oram was an effective midfielder through the first half and played a lot deeper in the second half as the Falcons consolidated.

The Inter County executive are a little alarmed at the increasing number of caution and ejection cards being issued. League leaders, Crown, are major offenders and have been warned about the escalation from their players. Players ejected in successive weeks is not a good example.

However, the team continues on a winning trail, the most recent a 4-2 win over visiting Tam O'Shanter, who lie in second spot. Crown also reached the semi-final stage of the knock-out cup and meet the local club, the Eagles. The venue has yet to be decided, as has the other match up between Marlin and Meteor.



The Georgetown Figure Skating Club honored several of their members with performance trophies at their annual general meeting last week. Pictured here is Ashley Monckton (centre), the winner of the Gale Verhegan trophy, along with (from left to right) second place winners Louise Hatton and Renee Kitchen, who were presented with the trophies by outgoing president Elaine Matthews. (Photo submitted)

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WEDNESDAY
 Baseball
 Georgetown Baseball Association Juvenile Rep team vs. Milton, 7:30 p.m. at Fairgrounds main baseball diamond.
 Soccer
 Inter-County Soccer League games - 7:00 p.m. - Eagles vs. Meteors, Alcott Field. Acton Villa vs. Crown, Acton Field. United vs. Mariners, Meadowglen Field. All games at 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
 Baseball
 GBA Juniors vs. Erindale, 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds main baseball diamond.
 Softball
 Kinsmen Girls Softball League games starting at 6:30 p.m. at Fairgrounds softball diamonds.
 Lawn Bowling
 Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club activities. Games start at 7:00 p.m. New members welcome. Club located on Edith Street.

FRIDAY
 Softball
 Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League games at Fairground diamonds. Games start at 6:15 p.m.

SUNDAY
 Flag Football
 No games this weekend.

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