

Sports

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Georgetown native feels lessons learned will help her

European squash tour beneficial to Jans

By DAN RALPH

Melanie Jans has nothing but accolades for her most recent squash tour even though it sometimes brought with it some pretty bizarre sleeping arrangements.

Jans captained the six-member junior national ladies team which spent the better part of three weeks touring West Germany and Holland. On more than one occasion Jans and her teammates were required to spend the night on mattresses located in squash and tennis courts, at times sharing the quarters with members of German and English squads.

But the 17-year-old Georgetown resident said that didn't deter from the tour. Jans said the trip was the best she's ever taken.

"We did far more training and spent more time overall with squash," she said. "It was a very good learning experience."

The national ladies team spent a lot of its time training, but did take in the World Junior Men's tourney held in West Germany. After spending a tough week in training Jans said news of taking in the global tourney was very welcomed.

"It was quite motivating being at the Worlds and seeing the level of

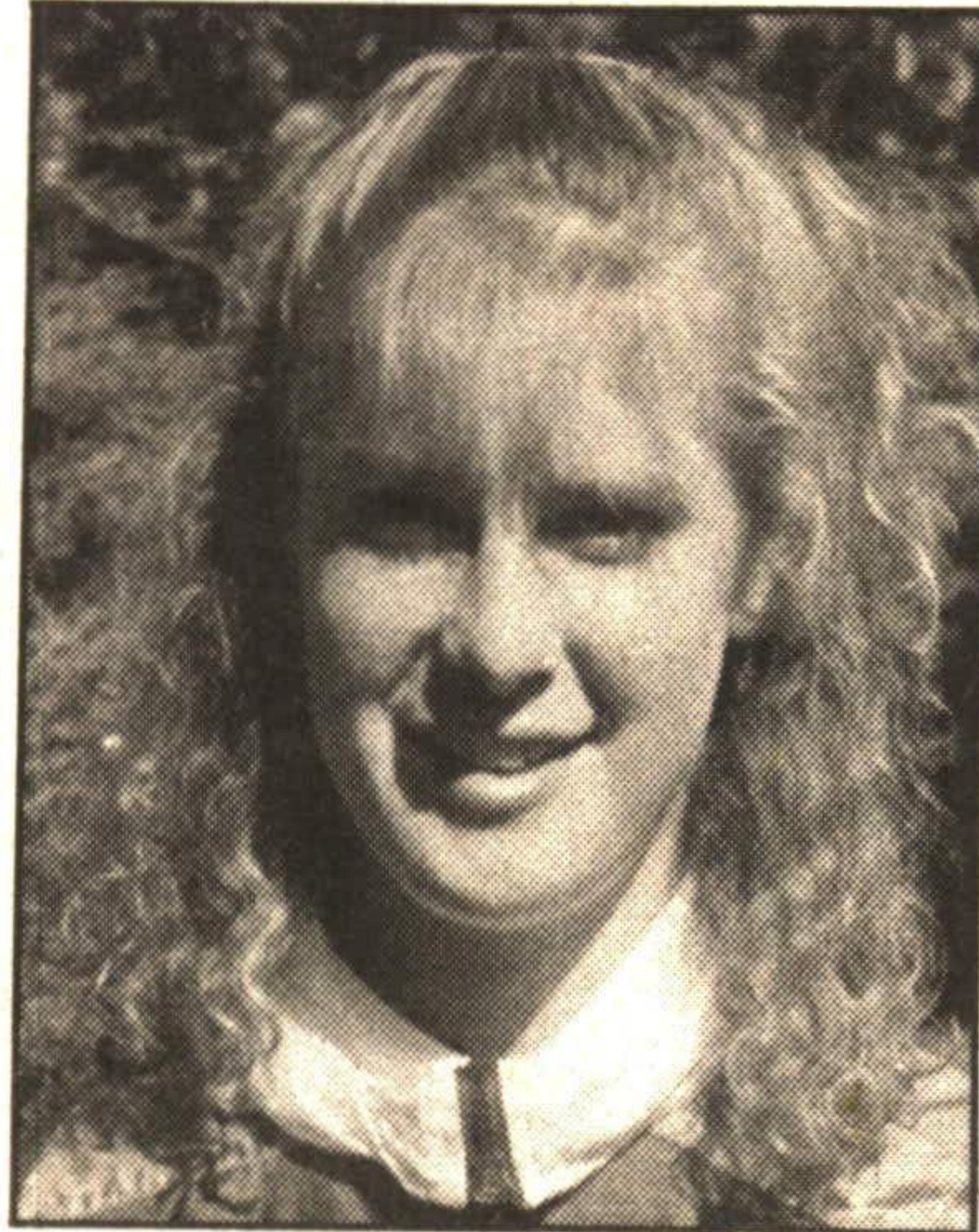
competition," Jans said. "We had played and trained and were quite tired, so when the coach told us we were going we were glad to get the rest. But once we got there the excitement in the air was incredible and we found ourselves really wanting to play."

The final week of the tour was spent in Holland, where the Canadian team played in a tournament. There Jans saw her first official action, meeting the top ranked Belgium player. The match went five games before Jans emerged with the series-clinching 9-7 win.

"She was a very tough player," Jans said. "But it was good for me to be exposed to that kind of competition, especially if I do get to go to the World championships next year."

Jans said watching the male competitors at the World championships showed her differences in the way each sex played the game. That, along with the training she received on the tour, has helped Jans improve her game.

"The boys at the World championships were very aggressive in the way they played," Jans said. "So I've tried to be more aggressive. I kind of used to go through the mo-



MELANIE JANS

tions in some of my drills, but on this tour we were all working hard, especially after watching the boys. I'm also trying different shots that I never imagined I would."

The ladies tour also gave the national team coaches better insight into the players on and off the court. That's important because the coaches will be selecting Canada's team for next year's World Junior Ladies tourney slated for Norway.

Jans plans to implement the lessons learned from the tour into her training this season, which she

hopes combined with training from her coach Barb Piggens will result in a national team berth. Jans has captured three national junior ladies titles (Under-14 and two

Under-16 crowns), but missed this year's Canadian championships due to a back injury. However that ailment hasn't come back to bother Jans.

Glanbrook eliminates local bantam squad

The Georgetown Baseball Association (GBA) midget rep squad has been eliminated from the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) playdowns.

Glanbrook defeated the locals here Tuesday night 10-6. The victory gave Glanbrook the best-of-three series 2-0.

While the bantams' season is over, the GBA's rep midget and juvenile squads will be in action this weekend.

The midgets host Tottenham here today at the Fairgrounds starting at 2 p.m. The OBA C division series shifts to Tottenham Sunday with at least one game. If a third and deciding game is required, it will be played there Sunday as well.

The juveniles are on the road today, travelling to Hanover for

Game One of their best-of-three OBA D division semi final. The two teams return here tomorrow afternoon at the Fairgrounds for Game Two. If a third game is needed, it too will be played at the Fairgrounds.

Presently the GBA has two teams already qualified for the OBA championships. The rep tyke squad will be in Exeter over the Labor Day weekend while the local pee wee team will be off to Wheatley for their provincial tourney.

The pee wees qualified for the Ontario event by taking their best-of-three series with Little Britain 2-1 after losing the first game of the set. The two wins came after the locals had fallen behind, and the deciding victory came in an extra inning 5-4 decision that saw the winning run come in on a suicide squeeze.

Paddler enjoys successful return

Ron Orton nets national championship medals in first meet in 13 years

By DAN RALPH

Ron Orton's return to competitive canoe and kayak racing proved to be a successful one.

The 41-year-old Georgetown resident returned home with two gold and three silver medals from the Canadian Masters event held last weekend in Montreal. Orton's return to the water came 13 years after he gave up actively competing in the sport.

Orton had raced canoes and kayaks as a youngster growing up in his native Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, having paddled his way to a host of national junior and senior events. But in 1977 Orton moved to Ontario (settling in Georgetown in 1981) and gave up the sport for family-business reasons as well as the distant proximity to surrounding clubs.

It wasn't until last year when Orton was a spectator at the National Masters event and he met up with former teammates and opponents the thought of climbing back into a racing boat entered his mind. Orton agreed to join the Banook Club of Dartmouth and trained on his own during the winter months.

A few weeks prior to the masters event Orton returned to Dartmouth to work on final preparations with the team. Banook not only went on to win the overall title at the Masters but Orton claimed gold medals in the Over-40 and Under-40 men's war canoe events while claiming silver honors in the two-man kayak, four-man canoe and mixed war canoe races.

Orton said he had always been aware of the Masters' program,

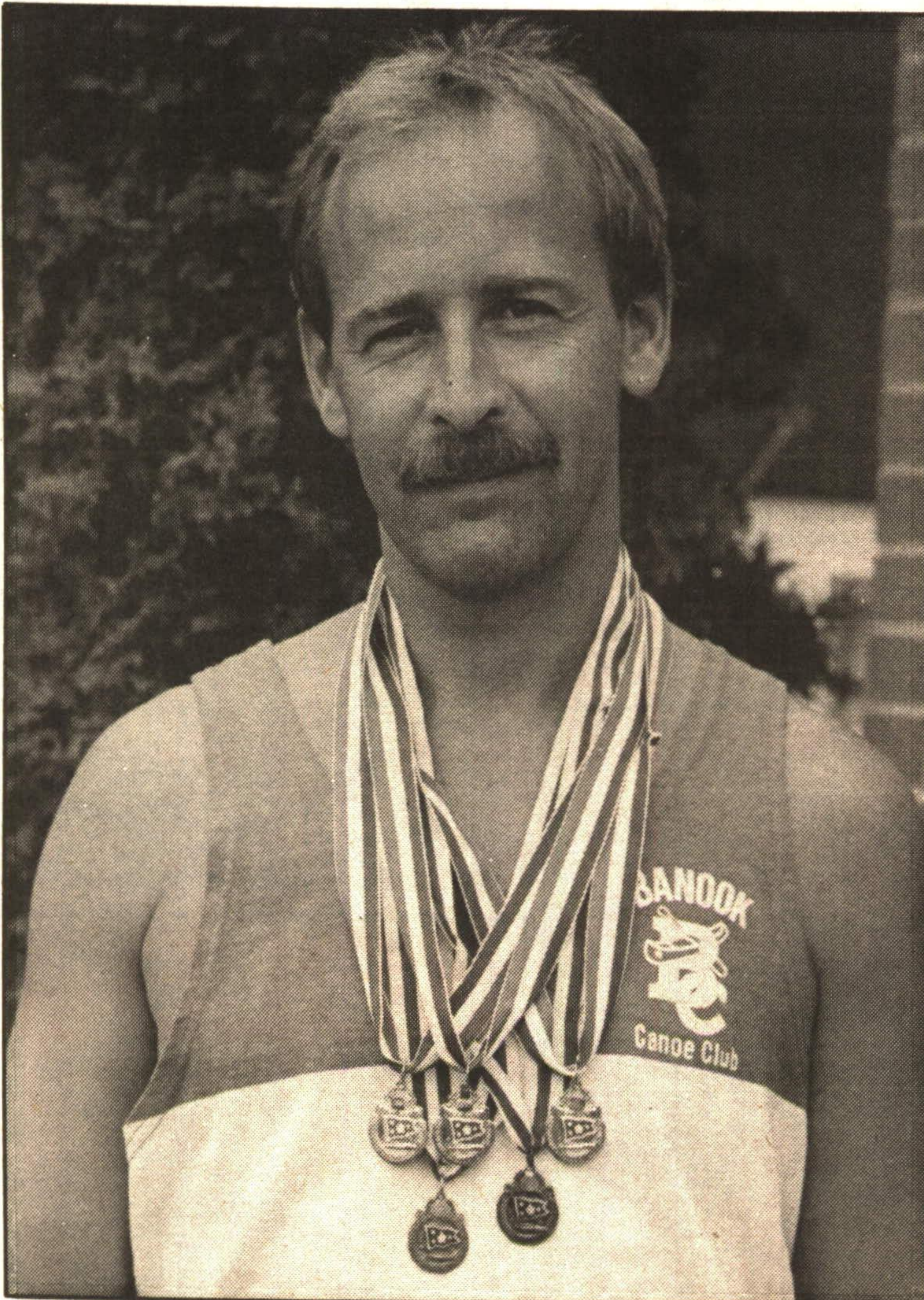
but didn't know how competitive the racers had become. But at this year's championships Orton found a lot of familiar faces in the guise of former opponents lining up across from him. The scene wasn't all too different from ones of years ago, and brought back a lot of pleasant memories for Orton.

"When the Masters program first began it was something like recreational racing," Orton said. "If you keep yourself in good shape you always would like to race, and now with the Masters being open to men 30 and over and ladies 25 and over, a lot of good racers are getting involved. "It felt really good to be back competing," Orton continued. "I felt right at home. It was just a matter of getting my timing down."

Orton said fitness wasn't a big obstacle to overcome when he began training for this year's event during the winter. Orton had kept active playing baseball and getting involved with karate, which gave him a sound fitness base. What Orton had to get used to was the actual rowing motion, but there wasn't a body of open water nearby where he could actively work out. So Orton modified the rowing machine he had at his residence to better simulate the technique required for canoeing and kayaking.

Orton said he went to the Masters' race with an idea Banook could win a competition or two, but he had no idea an overall crown and a host of top finishes would come about.

"A lot of the people on crews I



SUCCESSFUL RETURN-Georgetown resident Ron Orton displays the medals he captured at last weekend's national Masters' canoe and kayaking championships.

was on were good paddlers years ago who did well so I figured we could do well again," Orton said. "But I never figured on this. I was quite pleased."

Orton hopes to take part in

next year's Masters event, slated for Ottawa. The best racers there will be given consideration for Canada's national team which will compete in the biannual World Masters championships.

Halton AAA puck tryouts continuing

The Halton AAA Minor Hockey Alliance tryouts continue this weekend in Milton, Flamborough and Georgetown.

The first week of tryouts opened last Saturday for hockey players residing in Georgetown, Milton, Acton, Erin, Hillsburgh, Flamborough and Orangeville. Those players wishing to try out must first be registered with their home association.

Listed below are the start times, location and age classes.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26/90
12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. Midget - Thompson Rd., Milton
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. M/Novice - Carlisle, Flamborough
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Novice - Thompson Rd., Milton
2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Atom - Thompson Rd., Milton
2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. M/Atom - Carlisle, Flamborough
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. M/Peewee - Carlisle, Flamborough
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Peewee - Thompson Rd., Milton
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. M/Bantam - Carlisle, Flamborough
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Bantam - Thompson Rd., Milton
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. M/Midget - Carlisle, Flamborough
MONDAY, AUGUST 27/90
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. M/Novice - Thompson Rd., Milton
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. M/Atom - Carlisle, Flamborough
8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. M/Peewee - Carlisle, Flamborough
8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Peewee - Thompson Rd., Milton
9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. M/Bantam - Carlisle, Flamborough
9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. M/Midget - Thompson Rd., Milton
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28/90
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. M/Peewee - Thompson Rd., Milton
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. M/Bantam - Carlisle, Flamborough

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