

Ball hopefuls advance to Regional finals

Area youngsters suited up in ball uniforms at Glen Williams Park last Saturday, looking to keep hopes of a trip to SkyDome alive.

The players were participating in the Honda Hit, Run and Throw competition, sponsored locally by Georgetown Honda.

In the event youngsters compete in three different age categories (7 and 8 year olds, 9 and 10 year olds or 11 and 12 year olds). Each player is marked on Hitting distance, Running time around the bases and Throwing distance. The top performers in each division will advance to the Regional finals in Marham August 8 with winners at that competition getting to perform in front of the Toronto Blue Jays at SkyDome on August 30.

In the 7 and 8 year old division Graham Walker emerged victorious with Nigel Britto a close second. Steven Dennis picked up third place honors.

In the 9 and 10 year old class Jesse Viens Hit, Run and Threw better than his competition to earn first place marks. Stephen Hyde settled for second with Christopher Scully placed third.

In the 11 and 12 year old division Jesse Ward outlasted the field to earn first place. Chris Mands was second and Todd Bussell was third.



There were plenty of winners at the Honda Hit, Run and Throw event. Top finishers advance to the Regional finals.

HALTON HILLS WEEKEND SPORTS

Sports

SHORTS

Acton Summer Camps

Acton summer camps are for children ages 4-14 until August 28. Crafts, sports, games and special events will be implemented. Older groups go on a weekly bus trip to such places as Ontario Place, African Lion Safari, etc. Swimming is scheduled for twice a week.

Water Exercises

Exercise is so much easier when it is done in water. With water exercises you gently stretch your muscles using the resistance of the water to form, strengthen and tone. No swimming ability is necessary.

Summer swims

There will be recreational swimming at all pools this summer 2-4 p.m. Also, new this summer at the Dick Licata Outdoor Pool Mondays and Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. Call the Recreation and Parks Department for details 873-2600, ext. 276.

All Star Day

Georgetown Eagles will be hosting an "Eagle All Star Day" at Georgetown Fairgrounds, today (Sunday) with eight rep teams taking part in the fun. The day starts at 9 a.m. with longtime area umpire Dick Willis throwing the first pitch. The first game, consisting of teams made up from all ages of players from junior and senior T-ball team members, right up to Major and Minor Pee Wees will take to the diamond at 9:30 with the second game at 12:30, following lunch. Awards will be presented at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor's golf tourney

Mayor Russ Miller and the Georgetown Optimists will once again be working together at the Optimist Mayor Russ Miller Charity Trust Annual Golf Day for Substance Abuse.

This year's Scramble is slated for Georgetown Golf and Country Club on Monday, July 13, with proceeds going to the Optimist Substance Abuse program.

The Optimists are asking looking for hole sponsors, prizes and golfers to help make the annual event a success.

Competition gets under way at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start. A dinner and prize presentations will follow the event.

If you are interested in supporting this venture, as a sponsor or golfer, call tourney chairman John Fendley at 877-2931 or co-chairman Shell Lawr at 877-9109.



The Acton Sabres officially brought an end to their season and the history of the franchise last Saturday at the team awards ceremony and pool party. Team members pose with the silverware before the presentations. Among those in attendance were Jason Lucas, Steve Locke, Mike McElroy, John Van Dam, Greg Powell, Milton Cassie, Jason Piper, Adam Hilts, Mike Sutherland, Travis Riggan, Rob Lang and Jim English.

Powell honored as Sabres final MVP

The Acton Sabres officially ended their 1991-92 hockey season last Saturday presenting their annual awards at a team pool party in Norval.

It will be the final awards presentations for the Sabres. The team announced recently that they will be moving to Erin next season and changing the team name and colors.

Veteran netminder Greg Powell was honored as Most Valuable Player for the past campaign, while Jay Jasper picked up the President's Award for his efforts.

Jim English showed his scoring prowess this season to earn the Top Scorer Award while Mike McElroy was chosen as the top defenseman on the club. Rob Lang earned the Coaches Award for his efforts this past season. The Rookie of the Year Award was split between Jason Piper and Mike Sutherland.

Gary Morrow uncertain about soccer future

The future of soccer in Canada has been placed in a state of limbo after three Canadian Soccer League (CSL) teams folded within the past year.

However, this disappointing set of events have not diminished Georgetown resident Gary Morrow's love for soccer or his outlook on the future.

Since 1985, 26-year-old Gary had been a star centre half in the CSL with the Hamilton Steelers. After many years in the spotlight, he found himself without a team to play for in May when the Steelers failed to attract enough sponsorship support and were forced to close down their operations.

CSL teams in Nova Scotia and Kitchener also closed up shop in the last year and the league now stands with only five participating teams.

"The recession has really hurt soccer," explained Gary.

Gary's professional soccer career began in 1983 when, at age 17, he was drafted in the first round (eighth overall) by the Toronto Blizzard of the North American Soccer League (NASL).

When the Blizzards folded in 1985, he hooked up with the Hamilton Steelers - who were then an amateur team and joined the CSL the following season (which runs from May to October).

In 1985, the Steelers won the all Canadian amateur championship

and once turning pro, made it to the CSL finals five times.

Gary was one of the bright stars in the league and greatly contributed to Hamilton's success.

He played minor soccer in Bramalea and in Georgetown. In 1976, he was voted MVP after a Georgetown Minor Soccer tour of England and Scotland.

He has also been a member of the provincial team and was part of the Under-19 Canadian National Team in 1985.

Gary said his grandfather, George Williams, has given him tremendous encouragement and support throughout his years of playing soccer.

He recalls his MVP honor in '76 and his visits to the CSL finals as some of his best memories of his soccer career.

"Just making it to the finals all those years was a big accomplishment," said Gary. "It would have been nice to win one year though."

Gary is far from hanging up his soccer shoes and calling it quits. A

few weeks ago he was approached by the Toronto Italia team of the National Soccer League (NSL) and is currently involved in negotiation talks with the club.

He says if the money is right he'll play with the team. He hopes to sign on as an amateur player and has been training with the team for the past two weeks.

He explained that the money in soccer is significantly less today than what it used to be.

While many young soccer players devote their entire time and energy to the sport, Gary began planning for his financial security at an early age.

Since his professional soccer career began, he has also worked for his grandfather's painting and decorating business and is now co-owner.

He explained that the majority of the training for soccer was done at night so he was able to work with his grandfather during the day. While he admits holding down two jobs has been a lot of work, he feels

the sacrifices have been worth it.

He has invested his two incomes very wisely over the years. He now lives in a condominium in Georgetown and owns two sports cars.

"The business has really taken off lately," Gary says, regarding his and his grandfather's company.

Gary says that coaching soccer could be in his future, but he appears not to be looking too far ahead.

He looks back fondly on his years with the Steelers and has much to be thankful for. For one thing, he has not suffered any injuries in all his playing years - something not many professional athletes in any sport can claim.

He says young people interested in getting started in soccer should have a positive outlook and should just pursue their goals.

"It's a great way to see the country," said Gary, who has really enjoyed the extensive travelling involved with soccer over the years.

While Gary's soccer future is at present uncertain, his love for the game and his financial security remain firmly intact.

Gary Morrow is a class 'A' competitor. His love for and talent in the sport of soccer, combined with his practical outlook on the future, make him an excellent role model for young athletes determined to make it to the top.



GARY MORROW