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Sports

SHORTS

Track competition

Although the weather was cool, the action was hot at the Neil McNeil Track and Field Meet on Saturday April 24. Among many teams competing at Etobicoke Stadium, was one which hailed from Acton High School. In the Midget Girls 4 x 100 metre relay, Amanda Bonnell, Jennifer McKay, Shondra Stroud, and Jennifer Goy finished first in their heat with an impressive time of 57.7 seconds. Goy, McKay, and Stroud also competed on an individual basis in the midget girls 100 metres with times of 14.94, 15.40, and 15.89 respectively. In the Open girls 100 metre event Shelby Daponte crossed the line with a time of 14.86 seconds.

Holding up their end of the running events, the boys also showed signs of a promising season ahead. Michael Andrews and Chris Wallis put up solid numbers in the midget boys 1,500 metres with impressive times of 5:10.3 and 5:42.8. Continuing with 1,500 metre runs, Paul Schick compiled a successful time of 5:18 in the Open boys 1,500.

The team continued their success in the field portion of the day when Jennifer Goy and Amanda Bonnell tied for fifth place in midget girls long jump with 4.37 metres. Bonnell also competed in the high jump where she tallied a jump of 1.38 metres. Heather Trotter placed sixth in midget girls shot put with a toss of 7.87 metres, Jennifer Goy threw 7.43 metres.

Fitness in the Park

Did you know that there is a fully equipped fitness trail in Cedarvale Park? If you are interested in either a fitness or walking program while enjoying the great outdoors then we want to hear from you. Please call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 275, to let us know of your interest.

Let's Go Hiking

This three-week "back-to-nature" style program is a great way for children to learn about the great outdoors! Come and explore a variety of environments - streams, fields and forest, where you'll learn about plants, animals, insects and the food chain. Commencing Saturday, May 29 - June 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 7-9 years. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 275 for more information.

Resuscitation Course

This course provides both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the life-saving techniques of rescue breathing and emergency care. Lifesavers practise obstructed airway techniques for conscious and unconscious victims and emergency care for a variety of victim types. No swimming is required. GDHS, Wednesday, June 9, 6-10:30 p.m. Register with Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department - Call 873-2600 for more information.

Lawn Bowling Fun!

Why not discover this interesting sport of fun, skill and sociability in a pleasant outdoor setting. This is a great game for all ages! Wednesdays, May 19 to June 9, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 268 for registration information.

Uphill all the way for cyclist Hunt

By LISA TALLYN

Staff writer

Brian Hunt has his sights set on being first at the finish line this summer in the relatively new sport of mountain bike racing.

"Brian lives and breathes mountain bikes," said Ollie Tichel of Ollie's Cycle and Ski, one of Brian's sponsors. Hunt trains 12 hours a week by riding on the trails in Milton, Limehouse and Georgetown. In the winter he cross-country skis.

In the Norco Hilton Hammer Time Trial, a race held last weekend (April 18) at Hilton Falls in Milton, Hunt placed first. He raced against the clock to ride 10 kilometers in 25 minutes, 55 seconds, a full 25 seconds ahead of the next competitor. This was his first race of the season on his new bike. This summer he plans to travel to several other provinces to race, in addition to racing here in Ontario.

Mountain bikes developed about 10 years ago and now about 80 per cent of the bike sales at Ollie's are mountain bikes, with road bikes (the traditional 10 speed) coming in far behind. Races are held just about every weekend in Ontario, and there will be races in each province this summer.

"(Mountain biking) is a great way to get in shape and it's thrilling, fast and it's exciting. You don't have to worry about the cars," Tichel says. He has competed himself, but has a hard time fitting it in with his other commitments. While Ollie sometimes cycles with Hunt, he says the 15 year old Stewarttown Middle School student can beat him to the

finish line.

Hunt plans to see more of Canada this summer than many Canadians have ever seen: he plans to compete in the national races in Manitoba, Quebec and British Columbia. He also wants to compete against the world champions at the world Cup in Vermont in June and then in Quebec in June and July.

Whether or not Brian wins isn't important to his sponsor, Ollie.

"It doesn't really matter how he does. He's a very personable, very nice kid, and I'm happy to help him out," he says.

Hunt first became interested in mountain bike racing four years ago when he participated in a non-competitive ride sponsored by Ollie's. He became hooked because "it's individual, and in the woods with nature and stuff", he says. Last year was the first time he competed in the cadet category (14 years and under) age group and he had no trouble winning.

There are three levels of competitors: novice, sport and expert. Hunt is now in the sport junior level (for 15 to 18 year olds), but soon hopes to meet the higher competition in the top, expert level. Then he expects to have a harder time coming in first, but will be happy to place in the top ten, he says.

Mountain biking has really taken off in the past few years. Tichel says that while about 100 competitors would show up for a weekend race two years ago, last year that increased to about 400 competitors. Hunt says that it will likely be a demonstration sport in the next Olympics.



Brian Hunt came in first in the junior sport category at an Ontario Cup mountain bike race at Hilton Falls last weekend. The teen plans to travel across the country to race at the national and international level this summer.

Local ball organizations ready for action

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to the Independent/Free Press

With old man winter long behind us and the warm sun and rich, green grass making its annual appearance, it's time for one of the most popular times of the year for Georgetown youngster - that being baseball season.

In just a few short days hundreds of young ball lovers from across Halton Hills will take to the fields of summer for another exciting season of baseball and softball action.

Members of the Georgetown Baseball Association (GBA) will begin the 1993 season during the second week of May with over 700 players participating this year.

With four registration dates held in January and February, the GBA enrollment numbers have increase slightly over last season.

"The number are up a bit from last season and have increased gradually over the past few seasons," said GBA president Donna Blight.

Blight, who has served on the executive staff with the local baseball league for the last nine years, will be entering into her second year as league president. There are

20 members on the GBA executive.

Naomi Patterson is the Vice-President in charge of Rep Teams, Marg Ellis is Vice-President in charge of house-league action and Murray McClung is Vice-President in charge of equipment.

The GBA includes both house-league and rep teams of all ages groups. House-league play begins at the T-Ball level with both junior (five and six-year-old) and senior (seven-year-olds) squads.

Action continues with the Squirts (eight and nine-year-olds), Tykes (10 and 11-year-olds), Peewees (12 and 13-year-olds), Bantams (14 and 15-year-olds) and Midgets/Juveniles (16 and 19-year-olds).

This season there will be a total of eight rep teams starting at the Squirt level and going up to the Midgets/Juveniles. The local rep squads compete in the Halton Rural Baseball League, which includes squads from Glen Williams, Limehouse, Burlington, Milton, Brampton and Mississauga.

Blight says that the Bantam and Midget/Juvenile teams were separated this season in order for players to compete against players closer to their age.

The house-league season runs until the end of August when the

annual Tim Horton's House-League Day of Champions takes place.

Along with Tim Horton's, a total of 57 sponsors will be needed to run the GBA this season, 49 for the house-league teams and eight for the rep squads.

"We have got a lot of support from many local businesses over the years but it's been a challenge to find new sponsors. Right now we're 13 sponsors short of our goal," explained Blight.

Blight explains that it has also been a challenge to find enough coaches for all the teams. A total of 150 coaches and assistants will be needed for the house-league teams this season while between 21 and 24 coaches will be required to head up the rep squads.

For Acton youngsters, the Acton Minor Ball Association kicks off their 1993 campaign on May 11 and will include approximately 280 players this season.

"Our numbers are up from last year," said league past president Cornelia Turpin. This year's president is Jenny Well while Karl Killingbeck is vice-president.

The big news in Acton Minor Ball is that hardball has been introduced this season and will begin with a total of seven teams from the

Squirt to Bantam level.

There will be a total of eight softball squads as well in the league this year, starting with T-Ball and going up to the Bantam level.

"Hardball was introduced because we had a lot of demand from local players for it over the last few years," explained Turpin.

Both the hardball and softball teams compete in the Halton Rural League. The season winds down at the end of August with the annual Acton Minor Ball Fun Day at Acton Prospect Park, which includes all hardball and softball squads.

Turpin, who served as league president from 1990 to 1992, says things have gone pretty well for Acton Minor Ball in terms of sponsors and quality coaches. Approximately 20 coaches are employed each season to run the teams and local businesses and organizations such as Nellis Construction, Action Lions Club, McKenzie Chapman, Rene Flowers and Canadian Tire have helped support Acton ball over the years and will continue to do so this season.

For more information concerning Acton Minor Ball, contact Cornelia Turpin at 853-0864. For further information regarding the GBA call Donna Blight at 877-8379.

Athletes of the Week



GIANCARLO SCAPPIN



PAULA HARDY

Acton Redmen McDonald's Athletes of the Week include midget boys' rugby player GIANCARLO SCAPPIN turned in a strong offensive effort during their exhibition match with Bishop Reding last Wednesday. PAULA HARDY is a member of the senior girls' soccer team that were edged out 1-0 in an exciting exhibition contest against E.C. Drury last Wednesday. The Georgetown District High School McDonald's/MVP Distributing Athletes of the Week are CHRISTAIN HYBBINETTE and STEFANIE McDONALD. A full back with the junior rugby squad, Christian turned in impressive performances during exhibition action over the last two weeks in the Rebels' 20-12 loss to Bishop Reding two weeks ago and their 6-4 win over M.M. Robinson last Wednesday. Stefanie is a track and field athlete that took first place honors in both the javelin and discus throw at an invitational meet at White Oaks in Oakville last Thursday.



CHRISTIAN HYBBINETTE



STEFANIE McDONALD