

# Highlanders ready to raise a 'rugger'

By Curtis Withers

The 1993 Toronto Rugby Union season is about to begin, and the North Halton Highlanders are ready to take on the competition.

The league is divided into four divisions, with the first division containing strong teams and the fourth division containing weaker teams. North Halton has a men's team in the second and fourth divisions.

According to club president Grant Campbell, the teams are already in good physical shape.

"Two practices a week won't keep you in shape," Campbell

says. "You have to do fitness on your own, like either weight training or running or cycling and it seems like most players have done that."

Judging by the team's pre-season results, the squad is ready for action. Even though the Highlanders' pre-season record was 1-2, one of the losses was a close 7-0 defeat at the hands of Brock, one of the best teams in the first division.

The combined Highlanders team, with players from the second and fourth division, also defeated the first division Toronto Lions 17-14.

To play well against teams of a higher calibre should be an indicator of a successful season for the Highlanders.

"I think as far as the first team goes, we're going to have a winning season," says Highland player-coach Bob Ford-King.

"The team moved up a division this year, so it's going to be stiffer competition. However, I think we're going to do a lot better than a lot of the guys think we will."

North Halton also has a full-fledged women's team. Campbell says inexperience will be a hurdle in the women's inaugural season.

"(The women's team) has one national team player and from there, drops to one player who played university. The rest are brand-new players," explains Campbell.

Because North Halton has only been in the Toronto Rugby Union for one year, Campbell says he still has to drum up support in the community.

"You've got to recruit," explains Campbell. "I've done everything. I've done T.V., newspapers, radio, flyers, we've dragged everybody out that we can. Hopefully we'll get more guys."

The North Halton club is still looking for players for the men's and women's teams, as well as for a co-ed non-contact league the club wants to set up to teach the fundamentals of the game.

If you are interested, contact Grant Campbell at (416) 824-3134.

# Rugby Rebels end season

By Curtis Withers

The Georgetown District High School Rebels outthit, outplayed and outworked the St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders in the final game of the Rebels rugby season Thursday — and still lost.

The Rebels finish the season with no wins and six losses after a heartbreaking 8-5 loss against the Raiders. Prior to this game, the Raiders were also winless.

Luck was definitely not on the

Rebels' side in this game. With the score tied at five late in the first half, the Rebels were awarded two penalty kicks.

Unfortunately, they were difficult kicks, and fullback Christian Hybbinette narrowly missed both opportunities, with one kick bouncing just wide off the left post.

"Ability-wise, we were the better team", aid Rebel captain, Kevin Withers. "We just had a lot of tough breaks."

Although the Rebels looked like they dominated the match, the Raiders deserve credit for coming away with the victory.

"They were really pushing with a lot of heart," Rebel flanker Grant Ellis said of the opposing team's work ethic.

Although the score indicated an exciting, hard-fought game, good officiating added as much to the game as good play. Cheap shots were at a minimum and stoppages in play were at a tolerable level.

Despite a disappointing season, the Rebels maintained a healthy attitude through all six games. Coach Grant Campbell said the team's good disposition will serve as a foundation for next season.

"This is the loosest team I've ever seen in my entire life. They've gone 0-6 and they're still happy. They have good morale for some reason and they get alone well."

The Rebels will also welcome the addition of Nick Daniels to the coaching ranks next season. Daniels, currently the coach of the highly successful White Oaks Wildcats, will join GDHS in a teaching and coaching capacity.

With a revamped coaching staff and returning players with experience under their belts, the Rebels rugby squad will have more to look forward to next season.

# Jans and Jones shine

By Audrey Jans

The Canadian National Squash Championships were held April 28-May 1, in Kamloops, B.C. Melanie Jans of Georgetown improved her national standing by one to capture the number two position among Canadian women.

Melanie cruised through to the final by losing just one game to her opponents. However, then she had to face Heather Wallace, currently the world's sixth ranked squash player and full-time professional. Although humbled 0-3 in the final, Melanie was happy with her result and looks forward to improving her game.

Eleven-year-old Andrew Jones traveled to Calgary to compete in the National Junior Squash

Championships, under-12 age category, held May 5-9. Andrew was seeded sixth in the 27-person draw, which turned out to be an unfortunate placement because he met his nemesis Chris Hanaberry in the quarter-finals.

Hanaberry prevailed again, as he had in the Ontario provincials, and the loss dropped Andrew to the consolation round.

Andrew then shone throughout the rest of the tournament by defeating all three of his opponents.

In winning the Consolation Final 3-1 against David Yik, of Vancouver, Andrew surpassed his seeding and achieved a number five national ranking.

# Toronto vs Montreal - a dream series

By Rod Beaumont

On Saturday night the Toronto Maple Leafs became the last entry in the Stanley Cup semi-finals by beating St. Louis. Thousands took to the streets of the city to celebrate the crowning of the Norris Division champions and the Leafs were back to business as usual Sunday in the Gardens.

I would love to see a Toronto-Montreal Stanley Cup final for several reasons.

One: they are part of the NHL's original six teams and with this being the anniversary year of the NHL, it seems fitting;

Two: the emotion these two teams would bring to the final series would be great with people from coast-to-coast glued to their televisions;

Three: ABC would get their knickers in a knot due to the no U.S. team factor and we can get back at them for those Sunday afternoon games. After all, it is called Hockey Night in Canada, not an afternoon with Ron and Don. I'd better not get too far ahead as the Los Angeles Kings and New York Islanders still have something to say about who goes to the final, but I can dream, can't I?

Still on hockey, the pools and sports bettors must be in a state of

# Rodent's Racket

shock after the Islanders disposed of the mighty Pittsburgh Penguins last Friday. Boy, I wish I had played the Sports Lotto that night and went with the underdogs, with the Islanders winning and the NBA underdogs all winning. A fine booty could have been won by all!

Saturday night the Georgetown Industrial Dart League held its awards dinner and dance and although many were glued to the portable TV's brought by true hockey fans, a good time was had by all. Hats off to the league executive for a job well done. Oh, yes, Intercounty was in fine form and promised to kick some butt next year. Hope that's O.K., Ronny.

Do you have a topic for discussion or an opinion on the past week in sports? Write me care of Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown or phone 873-2254. If it makes me go Hmmm, I'll include it in my column.

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SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM

by GEORGE WAGNER, C.A.

On December 2, 1992, Finance Minister Don Mazankowski extended the Small Business Financing Program (SBFP) to December 31, 1994. This program is very restrictive and only available in certain situations. Most businesses are not eligible to participate, but for those that are, it may be their road to survival.

The SBFP permits small businesses to borrow money at lower interest rates because the interest payments are treated as dividends (non-taxable) to the corporate lender. This program will be extended from December 31, 1992 to December 31, 1994.

Funds under this program must be borrowed for a term between one and five years and have a principle amount between \$10,000 and \$500,000. However, the program is restricted to small business that:

1. by reason of financial difficulty, are in default, or may be expected to default on a debt held by an arm's length person,
2. issue the obligation as part of a Court-approved proposal with creditors pursuant to the Bankruptcy Act, or
3. issue the obligation at a time when all or substantially all (90%) of the borrower's assets are under the control of a receiver, receiver/manager, sequestrator or trustee in bankruptcy.

Many banks will agree to refinance existing debt under this program. The interest rate may therefore be reduced by about 40% - say from 10% to 6 or 7%.

The disadvantage to the small business is that the interest payments will not be tax deductible because they are considered to be dividends. However, if the business is in financial difficulty, the improved cash flow resulting from the lower interest rates will likely offset the lost interest expense deduction.

*George Wagner is a chartered accountant providing a full range of services to the small business community and individuals. His office is located at 2 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, 873-8100. There are a series of bi-weekly articles of general interest to private businesses and individuals.*

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