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Turkosz, Bonnell are tops at AHS

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

They are team players who crave the individual aspect of sports. And their desire for success has seen them turn to outside sources for personal gain.

So it was only fitting that Steve Turkosz and Amanda Bonnell became a team of sorts last Wednesday, as they were named Acton High's Male and Female Athlete of the Year at the school's annual athletic picnic at Prospect Park.

Turkosz, who excelled on Acton High's curling, tennis and badminton teams, moved slowly toward to an individual focus as he grew through high school.

"You can depend on yourself. I like team sports, but I also enjoy the individual things. Curling is a team game, but very individual at the same time. Baseball's a team game, too, but I was a pitcher, so there's still the individual aspect," he explained after receiving his plaque.

The multi-talented Turkosz — a member of the tennis, badminton and curling squads — was so busy on the court or ice that he didn't have the time to reflect on his winnings or the thought of being the top male athlete.

"I didn't see it coming, so if I didn't win I was happy with what I did. I don't think it has sunk in, but it's a great honour" said Turkosz.

The OAC student figures his success in tennis this year gave him the nod as Acton High's top male athlete. Turkosz, 19, was knocked off by the No. 1 seed in this year's 4th annual all-Ontario tennis final in Downsview after an 8-2 Round 1 victory.

"I wish I had another shot. I probably could've done better," said Turkosz, citing this year's appearance as his highlight in school athletics. While he admitted his stroke and confidence improved this year after joining the Burlington Raquet Club, Turkosz points to keeping a cool head as the key to success.

"You have to stay positive, especially in tennis because if you get down, your finished," he said. "I'm very competitive, but I have to remain calm and not get upset."

"Seeing the improvement in Steve from two years ago is incredible. Initially, he played a



WE'RE NO. 1! Acton High athletes Steve Turkosz and Amanda Bonnell were named Male and Female Athletes of the Year last Wednesday at the school's athletic picnic. (Doug Harrison photo)

steady game, but he can really mix up his shots now," praised Acton High tennis coach Anne Andrews.

"When his serves are on they are very powerful. And he can still play wearing-you-out tennis. He's a stringy character, but is very strong. He reminds me a lot of Bjorn Borg — a competitive player, but he never shows you where his emotions are."

Amanda Bonnell, more than anything, is happy the old adage "hard work pays off," rang true in 1993-94.

"I'm glad I accomplished what I set out to do," said Bonnell, specifically noting her silver, bronze performance at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Associations (OFSAA) track champi-

onships recently at Centennial Stadium in Kitchener. "I didn't think about it (the award). I was thinking about OFSAA."

The 5-foot-11 versatile athlete also picked up hardware for her outstanding accomplishments on the cross-country, swimming and track and field teams.

Bonnell, too, prefers individual sports to the team atmosphere.

"I like the idea that you don't have to depend on the team to get you there (to the top)," Bonnell said, adding she was surprised to be named top female athlete in her second year of high school.

The Grade 10 Midget runner said joining the Guelph Track Club in 1992 has helped her immensely in honing her speed and technique.

"All the club training has kept me in good shape. I ran more on off-days this year and that allowed me to recover between races. Last year, I was too tired for the second run of 400-metres. I love running, so I might as well stick with it now," the 15-year-old laughed.

Bonnell set personal-best times for both her events at OFSAA this year. She clocked 60.29 seconds in the heat for the 400m hurdles and then sizzled to a 45.67 finish in the 300m event, shattering her PB of 47 seconds.

"She competed in three sports and got to the top in all of them. You can't beat that," said Acton High track coach Bruce Andrews. "She's a quiet person, but seems to be focussed on what she's doing and will do what you ask of her."

"She's one of the better female athletes Acton High has seen. It (the ability to be the best) is there if she wants it."

Bonnell will run as a Junior next year.

Other award winners are as follows: **Al Higgins Memorial** — Chris Cullen; **Most Improved Female** — Heather Trotter; **Most Improved Male** — Matt Boycott; **Female Swimmer** — Bonnell; **Male Swimmer** — John Eddolls; **Male Badminton** — Turkosz; **Female Badminton** — Shelby DaPonte; **Midget Boys' Basketball** — Chris Young; **Junior Boys' Basketball** — Shawn Hopkins; **Junior Girls' Basketball** — Shelley Hand; **Senior Girls' Basketball** — Jenny Goy; **Midget Boys' Volleyball** — Chris Kilmer and Derek McIntyre; **Junior Boys' Volleyball** — Dave Dolliver; **Midget Girls' Volleyball** — Denise Katsilieris; **Junior Girls' Volleyball** — Nicole Hargrave; **Senior Girls' Volleyball** — Jenny Goy; **Girls' Softball** — Sharon Kearsy; **Boys' Golf** — David Moore; **Junior Boys' Soccer** — Todd Chumley; **Senior Girls' Soccer** — Eileen Campbell; **Boys' Tennis** — Turkosz; **Girls' Tennis** — Amanda Garwood and Shelley Hand; **Female Skier** — Matt Boycott; **Junior Boys' Rugby** — Giancarlo Scappin and Greg Finley; **Boys' Curling** — Dave Moore; **Female Cross-Country** — Bonnell; **Male Cross-Country** — Michael Andrews; **Female Track and Field** — Bonnell; **Male Track and Field** — Andrews.

Selects are tourney champs

The Leathertown Pet & Feed Supply Under-13 selects travelled to Ancaster on Saturday for a one-day tourney and came home with the hardware.

In the final — Acton's third game of the day — the locals were pitted against Owen Sound. Manager Robin Inscoc decided to give the players a little incentive to pick up the W. He said the youngsters could soak the coach with the cooler if they won.

David King opened the scoring, making no mistake off a Jakub Wiktor feed for an early Acton lead. Jason Mota quickly added to the lead on a crossover from Joel Petkoff.

Later, Owen Sound made things interesting by closing the gap to 3-2 on a penalty shot. With rain threatening, Acton made sure on stopping Owen Sound late in the game.

Lightning began to flash and minutes after Petkoff scored Acton's third goal, the referee signalled to center and the game was called.

Immediately, coach Mike Petkoff was drenched with the cooler, while assistant coach Steve Pemberton led the boys with a victory dance.

Acton beat Hamilton Mountain 8-3 in the semi-final on Petkoff's five goals.

King added two while Andrew Martin counted one.

A defensive battle was in the making in the game's early stages as the score stood 2-1 Acton after 10 minutes.

Ben Elliot stood out, displaying some excellent ball-control and passing.

In the tourney opener, Acton keeper Kevin Dreschel was spectacular

He thwarted Brantford on two penalty shots, both coming when the momentum could have shifted in favour of either team.

Petkoff got Acton on the board first, only to see Brantford answer quickly.

Acton then fired three straight goals for a 4-2 win.

Petkoff scored twice, while singles were recorded by Mota and Danny Goralewski.

In league action last week, Petkoff pocketed four goals as Acton routed Fergus 7-1.

Mota, King and Scott Nairn also scored.

Acton's next game is tomorrow (Thursday) night in Hillsburgh. Game time is slated for 7.

McGrath leads Denny's past Waterdown 12-5

Joey McGrath doubled and singled and had an RBI to lead Denny's Insurance past Waterdown I 12-5 at Prospect Park last Monday.

Craig Lockwood added an RBI-double, while Chris Schiller hit a run-scoring triple.

In other recent action, Lockwood hit a pair of singles for two RBIs in Denny's 9-6 win over Campbellville on the road.

David Wells added a hit and RBI, while Jimmy Brown ripped an RBI-triple.

McGrath struck out seven, while

Lockwood fanned four.

Denny's was down 5-1 entering the third inning against Waterdown IV in Acton.

The home team then mercied the visitors in the fourth and added four more in the fifth inning in the 12-5 rout.

McGrath doubled and homered for two RBIs. Drew Timber and Paul Schiller also had a pair of RBIs. Timber doubled and singled, while Schiller had a triple and safety.

Jason Wells walked and doubled for an RBI.