

Boycott gives keeper Jensen MVP nod in 8-0 Redmen loss

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

It's not often that a goalie who yields eight goals in a game would be considered his or her team's player of the game.

But when your team is the Acton Redmen Junior girls' soccer squad — who hold the dubious honour of being manhandled 28-0 by opponents in six high school league games — there aren't many worthy positions.

While his girls were clobbered 8-0 by the Q.E. Park Eagles in

Oakville on Monday, Redmen boss Dave Boycott was quick to note keeper Jeanette Jensen was his star player.

"She played an excellent game. She would have been our player of the game," said a surprisingly pleased Boycott yesterday (Tuesday), despite watching his team's record fall to 0-6.

"They are a strong team with a lot of club players who were able to control all aspects of the game."

While Boycott has athletes who played under-15 soccer in town

last summer, it's apparent, in his eyes, that the skill level between the two clubs was vastly different.

But, he pointed out, his players are overly discouraged.

"You just live with it," he said of being overmatched by opponents. "My players would rather play and lose than not play at all."

"It (being outskilled) is just a reality, but not from a lack of training. We just can't execute at the level to be competitive."

Meanwhile, the Redmen displayed a better offence last Wednesday, but the result was a 3-0 loss to Blakelock, which was also winless prior to the game.

Boycott was rather pleased with his players' effort in Oakville, saying the Redmen were able to carry the ball with a comparable team and that Blakelock notched a couple of well-deserved goals.

"I could play games like that all year — lose 3-0 and not be too upset — because I know that the girls are achieving and accomplishing things we've worked on in practice," Boycott said.

Turkosz is lone 'Acton' Bulldog

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The players are bigger and the game more complex, but it's still the same bones taking the brunt of punishing bodychecks.

It's been six years since Steve Turkosz put on his lacrosse game face. He left the game back then as a 14-year-old who posted a 10 or 11-goal game against Milton and later in the year scored the game-winner for the victorious Peewee Rams in a 4-3 edging of Arthur in the zone championship.

But much like his days as a 3 and 4-year-old water boy helping his father, Bob, coach a local squad, Turkosz again finds himself low on the totem pole. A rookie and Acton's lone representative with the first-year Jr. B Georgetown Bulldogs.

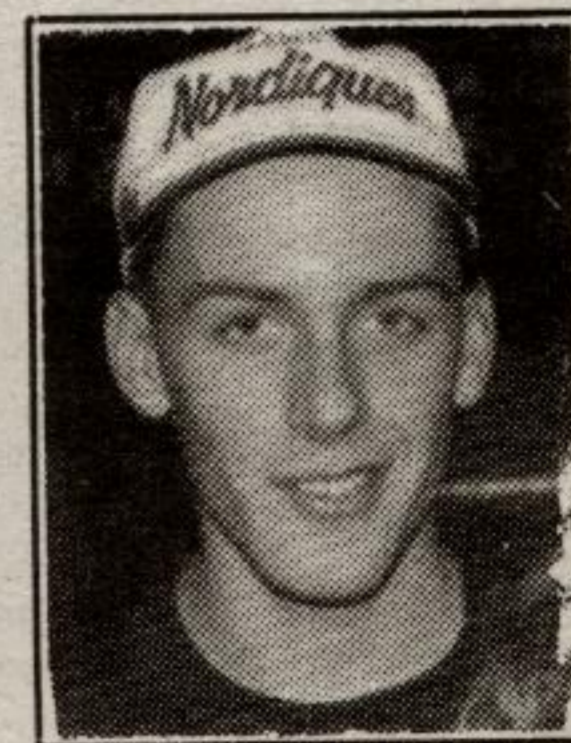
A rookie trying to learn the ropes, not reincarnate the glory days. All the while he's trying to duck flailing bodies attempting to run through him.

"It feels good being on the floor again. It brings back a lot of memories," says Turkosz, who is trying to create new ones, having scored his first goal on Saturday in the Bulldogs second game of the season, a 17-7 rout of the Nepean Knights.

"I'm just trying to comprehend different plays, when and how to pick up a man and adjusting to zone and man-to-man coverage.

"In Peewee and Bantam you just ran down the floor, because

there weren't any set plays. But it's a lot rougher in Jr. B. It's known as slashing and hacking lacrosse and is living up to that billing. Anything goes, but it's nothing I can't handle."



STEVE TURKOSZ

This coming from a guy who successfully included broomball, baseball, hockey, a tennis title — among competitors from five of Sir Sandford Fleming College's campuses — and a strong academic standing in his freshman year.

After seeing signs posted around town and taking in an exhibition game, Turkosz, 20, felt his chances were good at sticking with the Bulldogs. So did 'Dogs president Barry Trood, who signed up the Acton High graduate after his first practice.

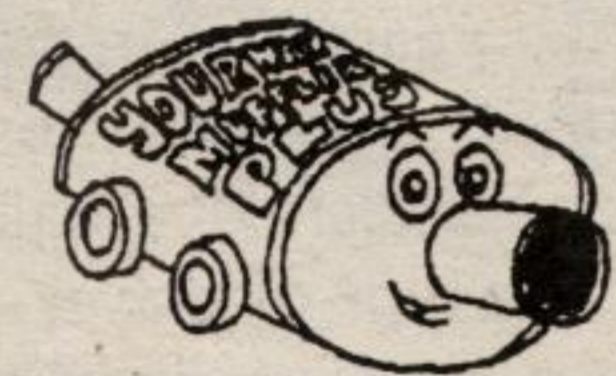
While Turkosz says being the lone Acton player means people will be watching him, he quickly notes that if there were more local players, more fans would fill the stands.

He recalls an exhibition game in Acton not long ago when 90 people paid — kids not included — to watch the Bulldogs.

"There's been excellent support in Acton. I don't know why (the team) didn't come here," Turkosz wonders. "Georgetown has only had lacrosse for two years and Acton forever."

"But I guess (Bulldogs management) wanted Georgetown, because it's bigger and has a newer arena. Some day it'll be back here."

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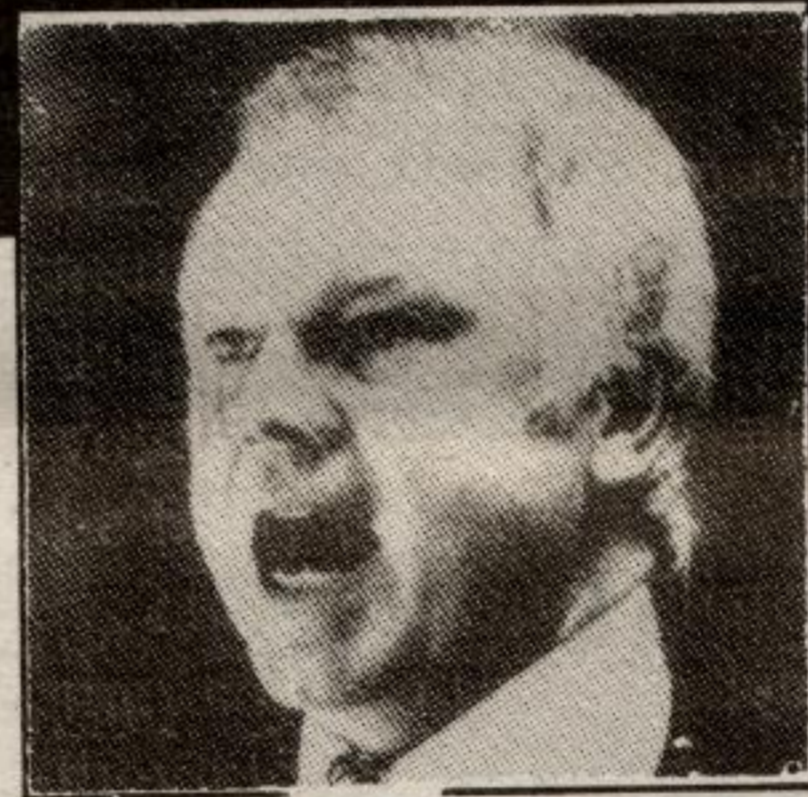
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