

Sports

SHORTS

Lacrosse meeting

Georgetown Minor Lacrosse will hold its annual general meeting next Monday (September 25) at 7:30 pm. The meeting will take place in the Georgetown Legion's meeting room.

Fun day

Acton Mini Squirt Soccer Fun Day was held on August 26.

Coach Scott Somerville's Blue Spring Flower Shop team was undefeated for the day after an exciting shoot-out final.

Members of the winning team are J.T. Cooper, Sara O'Donnell, Richard Brounlee, James Heaslip, Kyle Morin, Jeffery Somerville, Robyn Spiers, Becky Somerville, Joshua Cecotti, Danielle Morin, Justin Mota, and Kaleigh O'Driscoll.

Skills Day winners were Andrew Sisnett, Ashley Hill-Stone, Clark Buchanan, Joseph Luty, Justin Mota, Patrick Eagan, Daniel Wolford, Nutan Reinders, and Patrick Ciaschi.

Season complete

The ActonHalton Power Line, atom boys softball team played a strong playoff tourney in Ponsonby recently.

The team came away from the tournament with one win and two losses.

The boys lost a close game to Aberfoyle, beat Glen Williams and then lost to Ponsonby Gold.

Jay Lalonde and Lance Morin pitched great ball for the entire tournament. Eric Goll and Chris Koebel led the offence. Goll belted three homers in the first game against Aberfoyle. Koebel's three run triple was the decisive hit in the win against Glen Williams.

Grand Circuit Week

As part of its annual Grand Circuit week in harness racing action, Mohawk Raceway will host its sixth Ontario Sires Stakes event of the year on Monday, September 18th. The three year-old pacing fillys will go to post in eliminations of the Gold Series, with a total purse of over \$50,000 on the line.

The top finishers from these heats will return to Mohawk on Sunday, September 24th for a Gold Series final, where a stake of \$100,000 will be offered. This will be the final Sires Stakes event in the careers of these sophomore distaffers, who will graduate from the provincial program this month.

Hoop sign-up

The McCauley Ladies Basketball League is looking for players 18 years of age or older. Pick-up games and registration will be held at Centennial Middle School in Georgetown on September 20 and 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$90 to participate from September to May or \$45 for September to December. League games begin on Wednesday, October 4.

Locals set to skate in OHL

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

In the game of hockey, many are picked but few are chosen.

After being picked in June's Ontario Hockey League (OHL) draft, locals Garry McNiven, Ryan Taylor and Marek Babic have become part of the select few who have actually been chosen for their clubs this season.

The trio were the only players drafted from Halton Hills this spring.

Having just turned 17, McNiven was told recently that he would be skating with the London Knights - who drafted him in the 16th round, 259th overall.

"Coach/GM Mike Fedorko called me into the office and the first thing he asked me was 'Do you like to play hockey?'. Of course I said yes. He said 'Good, because you're going to see a lot of playing time with me this season'," said 6'4", 175 lbs. McNiven.

Just how much playing time he sees will depend on his performance during exhibition play. While he may play the entire season with the Knights, he will likely see some action with one of the team's Junior B affiliates - the London Nationals or the St. Thomas Stars. He will be a fourth line winger when playing for the OHL club.

He split last season between the Halton Hurricane midgets and the Junior A Raiders.

"Right now I just have a verbal agreement with coach Fedorko, but I feel pretty good. I was a little surprised about making the team, but not too

much.

"I trained really hard this summer and was dead set on cracking the lineup," McNiven explained.

Defenceman Ryan Taylor, 17, played through a nagging hip injury to make the Niagara Falls Thunder. The 6'3", 185 lbs. Georgetown native was signed late last week and is one of three rookie defencemen to crack the blueline corp.

faster than most of the other defencemen," said Taylor, who skated for the MTHL's Richmond Hill Kings last season, "I think coach Chris Johnstone really liked my heart. He said many rookies would have just gone home after an injury like this."

The three rookie rearguards will rotate throughout the season. Two will be playing at all times while the third will

explained.

Taylor has been guaranteed 44 games with the Thunder this season.

Stated coach Johnstone, "What impressed me most about Ryan was that he came into camp with an injury and worked so hard with our therapists to get as much practice time in as possible."

Taylor credits the assistance of ex-Oshawa Generals coach Rick Cornacchia and Lionel Ingledon of the Junior Rangers with helping him make the club.

He skated with Cornacchia this summer and did a lot of dryland training with Ingledon.

Acton's Marek Babic was signed on to play with the Owen Sound Platers last week. The 17-year-old defenseman - who skated with the Raiders last season - was drafted in the sixth round, 93rd overall.

"Our coaching staff is very high on him, Marek has good size and a lot of potential," said Platers GM Ray McKelvie.

At 6'3" and 184 lbs., Babic should add both size and strength to the Owen Sound blueline corp.

"I'm really excited and I can't wait for the season to start," said Babic, "The coaching staff said they like the confidence I've shown and are particularly impressed with my skating. Training camp has been pretty brutal, with morning practices you have to get up at 5:30 a.m. almost every day. However, I'm very happy to have made the team, especially seeing as a lot of people didn't think I would."



Local hockey players (from left) Marek Babic, Garry McNiven and Ryan Taylor are expected to suit up for their respective OHL clubs this season. All three have had fine training camps after being drafted last spring.

He was taken in the sixth round of the draft, 98th overall.

"I feel great right now. I was a little nervous after getting injured, but I was at three of the first five practices and I guess I showed them enough. I was actually a lot

see action with the St. Catharines Junior B squad.

"St. Catharines actually has an expert defensive coach in former Edmonton Oiler Garry Lariviere, so even when I'm down playing Junior B hockey I'll be learning a lot," Taylor

Kargel sets high standards in Cleveland

Georgetown's Chris Kargel, 11, neglected to visit Cleveland's newest museum, which was unfortunate, because he showed the rest of the competition at the North American Baltic Track and Field Championships that he was definitely there to "rock and roll".

Within the space of an hour on Sunday afternoon, he had not only won two events and set two personal bests, but had bettered two Ontario records for his age.

After having already competed for most of the two-day track and field meet at Cuyahoga Community College in Southwest Cleveland, the second-year member of Athletiques International Track and Field Club and grade six student and George Kennedy Public School showed in warm-ups that he was going to be the class of the field in the javelin.

With an opening throw over

27 metres, the gold was secured, and the only question was his eventual distance.

It was his last throw that was the longest, being measured at 28.52m, to set an Ontario standard for Junior-Atom.

He went immediately to the high jump, and began preparations for that before the balance of the javelin throwers had completed their throws.

At 1.36m, the competition was down to three jumpers, when one of the Cleveland area athletes failed to negotiate the bar.

At 1.39, the last of the opposition bowed out, and left him alone with the apron, the bar, landing mats and gravity as his major concerns.

At 1.41m, his clearance

prompted Athletiques coach Bruce Barton to get involved and he asked the officials to raise the bar immediately to 1.46m, completely ignoring his personal record of 1.43m set earlier this year in Buffalo.

On his second attempt, contact with the bar caused it to bounce and shift on the uprights, but not enough to cause it to dislodge, with less than a centimetre of support holding it up.

That height tied the existing Ontario record.

Burton then asked to have the bar at

1.47m. At that point, having competed in seven events over the two days, fatigue became a factor, and he had trouble getting off the ground, and failed on his first two attempts.

Despite his low energy



CHRIS KARGEL