

HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

SPORTS



Cinderella on Ice

Members of the Acton Figure Skating Club ended their season on a high note last week as they did three performances of Cinderella before appreciative crowds at the Acton Community Centre. The annual carnival wraps up the figure skating season.

Photos by HERB GARBUTT



Year of the Dog? Bulldogs set to begin Jr. B lacrosse battles

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The 1995/96 minor hockey season has come to a close. Rep teams have wrapped up their playoff runs, house-league have crowned their championships. Organizers are currently arranging year-end banquets.

Yet the end of the hockey season doesn't equal the end of action at local arenas — at least not in Georgetown, where the Junior B Bulldogs lacrosse team is gearing up for their second season.

After a solid debut in 1995, the Bulldogs will be looking for even more success this summer. And with a number of key changes either already made or currently in the works, '96 could very well be the Year of the Dog.

And no one appears more excited about the upcoming season than team president Barry Trood, who expects big things for his club both on and off the floor.

In an effort to secure more fan support this season, Trood has changed the team's home games from Friday nights to Thursday nights. With the season running through late spring and early summer, he said many people went away Fridays for the long weekends which hurt Georgetown crowds.

While the team's home opener on May 4 will be a Saturday night contest at Memorial Arena against Elora, the rest of the 11-game home schedule will be played at Alcott Arena.

The Bulldogs will also have a lengthier schedule this season, regardless of how they finish during the regular season. All 16 teams in the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Junior B loop, including new additions Six Nations and Akwesasne, will make the playoffs this year.

The top half will compete for the Founder's Cup while the bottom half will go after the newly established Commissioner's Cup. Georgetown will once again be slated in the West Division alongside Milton, Niagara, Elora, Guelph, Six Nations, Brantford and Owen Sound. Their 22-game schedule will include two games against each of their West Division opponents and one contest with each of the East Division clubs.

And while already guaranteed a playoff berth, Trood is aiming at a top eight spot for his Bulldogs, especially after the recent signing of accomplished head coach Lindsay Sanderson. "Our coaching will be second to none this season and with the availability of talent, we should be really competitive this summer," said

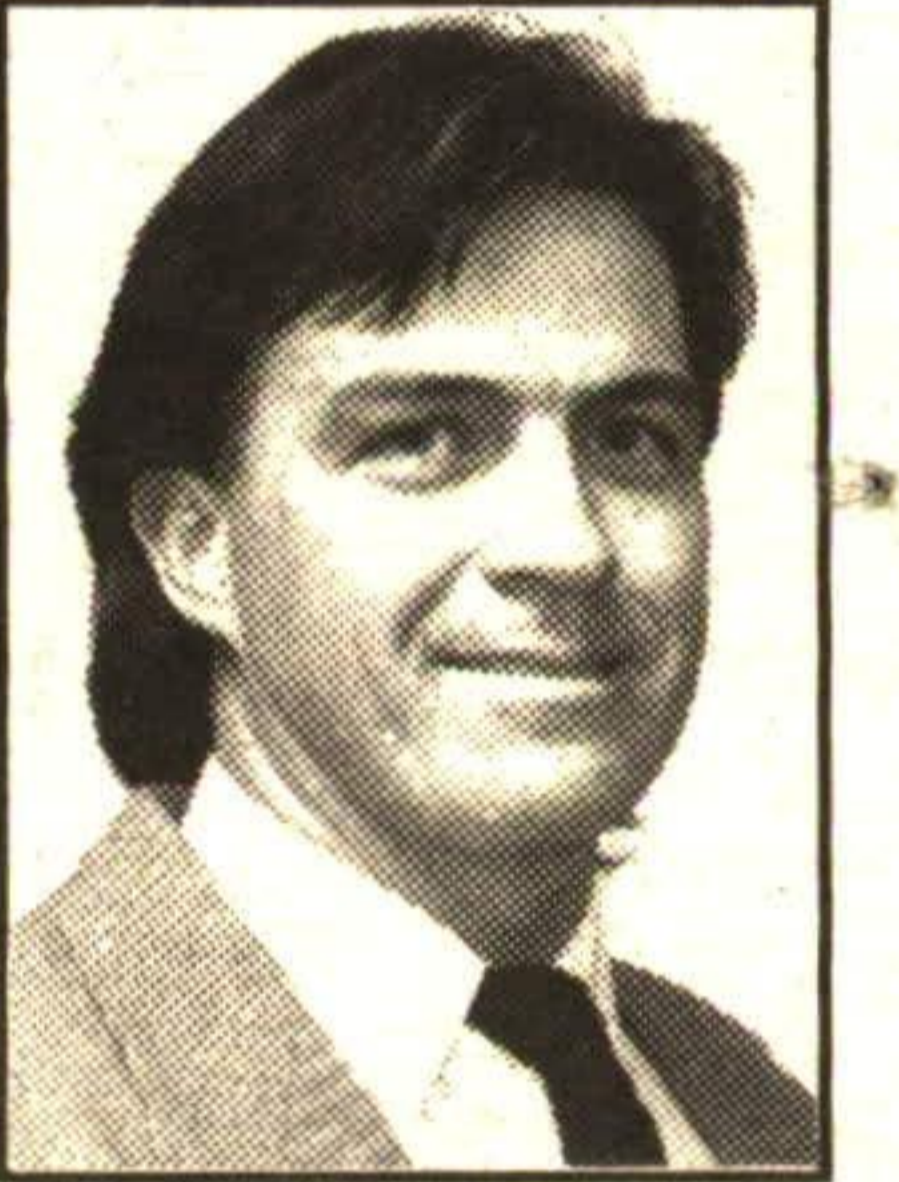
Trood.

The availability of talent this season will not only include a number of gifted veterans, including Dean Vincent, Roger Brow, Todd Breadner, Troy Stuckless, Josh Marcoux, Ryan Platt, Cory Fearon and the local duo of Andrew Craig and Brad Kouyoumjian, but a dozen overage midget players from Orangeville as well.

With the affiliation between Orangeville and Georgetown now — and no spots available on the Junior A Northmen squad — the Bulldogs will have first crack at these midget players who collectively garnered bronze medal honors at last summer's Ontario "A" division finals.

"It's going to take these midget players a while to adjust to the physical game in Junior B, but eventually I see a good portion of our offense coming from these new guys while our defense and physical dominance will come from the veterans," said Sanderson.

"Cory Fearon will be returning as our starting goalie and Brandon Miller from the Orangeville midgets should be our backup. Goaltending will be a real strength for us this season. With the returning veterans and the incoming midgets, we should have a nice team here.



"Right now, I definitely want to finish in the top four and go after the Founder's Cup," he added.

The Georgetown skipper said camps for both the Junior A and Junior B squads will be held together this season, starting tomorrow (Monday, April 8) at Memorial Arena. "We're going to test the waters and see if this is something we should continue or disband next year," he said.

Before splitting off for their respective regular seasons, the two teams will play back-to-back games at Memorial on Sunday, April 21.

The Northmen will play an afternoon game against Whitby while the Bulldogs will follow in the evening against Orillia.

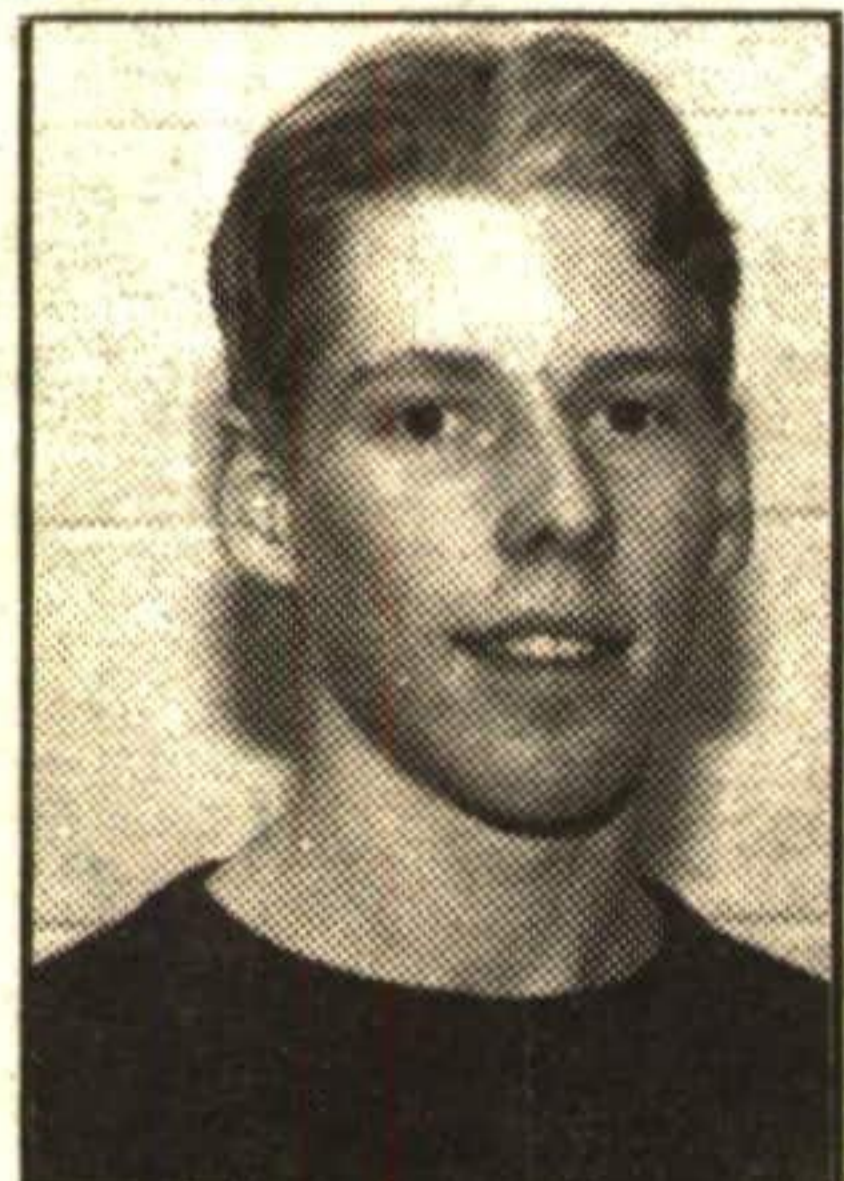
"Our financial situation is improving as well. We're getting better response from the community, but still not quite as much as we'd like. We're still looking for sweater sponsors," said Trood.

"Overall, things are really shaping up. We should have a very exciting season."

Athletes of the Week

The Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Chris Young and Sylvia Bragg-Smith. Chris was recognized for being chosen as Acton High's representative in the Halton junior basketball All Star game at T. A. Blakelock in Oakville. Sylvia was selected for her outstanding contribution to the AHS swim team throughout the season.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Bridget Campbell and Darren Finlayson. Bridget was chosen for her contribution to the senior Rebels girls volleyball team in winning OFSAA, and Darren was recognized for his efforts on the Rebels hockey team.



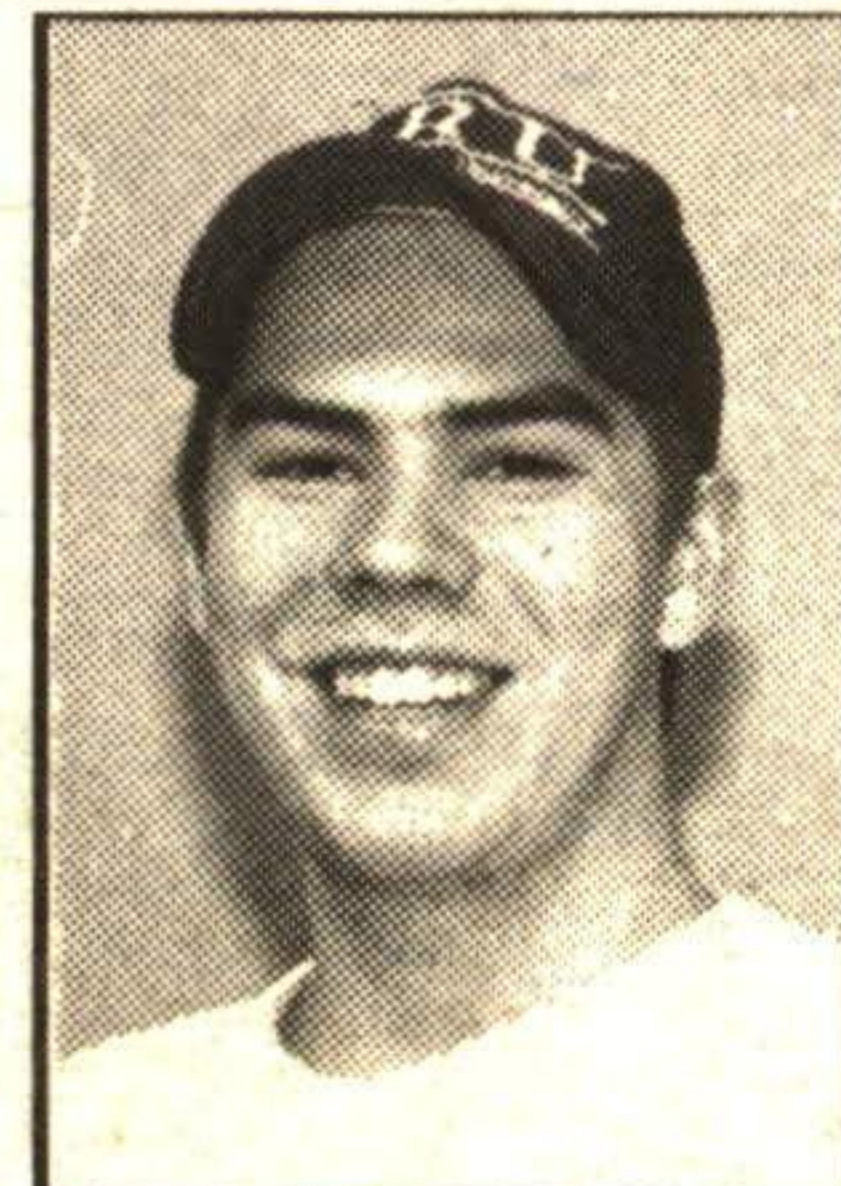
C. YOUNG



S. BRAGG-SMITH



B. CAMPBELL



D. FINLAYSON