

SPORTS

Sports

SHORTS

Summer camp

The basketball season will continue through the summer, thanks to summer camps for boys and girls ages 10-15.

Stewarttown Sr. Public School will host two camps the weeks of July 15 and 22. The third camp will take place in Acton at a site to be confirmed, likely McKenzie-Smith Public School.

Registration in the camps will be limited to 25. The camps will be conducted by long-time basketball coach Moe Leeking. For more information and application forms, call Leeking at lunchtime at 877-6966 or in the evening at 332-6716.

In-line lessons

Learn how to in-line skate (roller blade) properly and safely with adult and youth lessons beginning May 29th. The four-week course, offered by the local Rec. Department, will be taught by certified coaches. For more information, call 873-2600 ext. 262.

Bowlers prepare

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club will be starting their 1996 summer season later this month. Bowling will take place Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 6:45 p.m. Three nights of trial bowling will be offered for \$1. For more information, call Marion Hogan at 877-4277 or Bette Barclay at 877-2732.

Tackle a Pike

Fishermen are invading Island Lake Conservation Area (formerly Orangeville Reservoir) this weekend for the Sixth Annual Tackle a Pike fishing derby. The derby is held each year to thin out Pike which can be a threat to other species of fish.

All participants must register. Call (519) 941-6329.

CPGA event

Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton will host the Sawmill Creek Wines CPGA Women's Championship on August 20-21. LPGA member Nancy Harvey is the two-time defending champion.

Golf Classic

The Arthritis Society is holding its Second Annual Halton Golf Classic on June 11 at the Tyandaga Golf Course. The goal is to raise \$15,000 for arthritis research and educational programs. Everyone is invited to participate. For more information call Donna Abbott at 332-1635 or Tom Wingle at 336-5124.

Birthday splash

If you want a birthday with a splash, the indoor pools are available for parties. The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department will have qualified staff on duty. For booking information call 873-2600, ext. 276.



Four members of the Georgetown Runners made the trip to Boston last month to compete in 100th edition of the Boston Marathon. Making the historic run were (from left) Charlie Upshall, Colin Royce, Dave Booth and Jim Clark.

Sharing a piece of history....

Local runners take part in Boston Marathon

By HERB GARBUTT

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The crowds, the drive to continue despite the pain and the thrill of seeing the finish line — they were all special. But nothing was more special than simply having the chance to share in a piece of history.

It was that opportunity that inspired four members of the Georgetown Runners to take part in the Boston Marathon last month.

With the best-known race in North America, if not the world, celebrating its 100th anniversary, Dave Booth, Jim Clark, Colin Royce and Charlie Upshall joined 30,000 runners in a historical race through the streets of Boston.

"I've always wanted to run the Boston Marathon," Booth said. "It's always been a lifelong dream."

While Booth was the only first-timer at the race, his three running mates found the experience much different this time around. Because of the centennial anniversary, the Boston Athletic Association, which runs the event, allowed

more runners to take part. The race also drew enormous crowds, which lined the entire route.

"I had run the marathon once before (in 1990) but it was totally different this time," Upshall said. "It was unique. It was like a 26-mile parade."

The race may have provided the biggest challenge of the day but getting started was a feat in itself.

All 30,000 runners had to be bussed to the starting line on the outskirts of the city. The runners were then organized into 'chutes', ordered by the runners' qualifying times. Once the starting gun sounded it took about nine minutes for the Georgetown runners, who were in chutes in the middle of the pack, to start moving. It took another six minutes just to reach the starting line.

Once on the course, it didn't get much easier. Because of the number of runners it was difficult to maintain a constant pace.

"You were continually boxed in," Booth said. "You were expending so much energy going side to side just to get

around other runners."

"With the number of people, there's just no way you're going to do your fastest time," said Royce. "It was more just to be a part of it and celebrate the 100th anniversary."

Given the conditions, the four still turned in very respectable times. Clark was the first to finish in three hours and 11 minutes, off from his time of 2:57 in a much smaller field the previous year. Upshall was next at 3:26. Booth and Royce, who ran together for much of the first 23 miles, finished two minutes apart at 3:43 and 3:45 respectively.

For some there was more than the course and the sea of runners to contend with. Both Royce and Clark were battling tendonitis.

"I was at the doctor's on a physio table on Friday in Georgetown," said Clark, a veteran of five consecutive Boston Marathons. "We were talking about running and she asked if I had run the Boston Marathon and I said 'I'm going there tomorrow.'"

Upshall was also nursing an injury after a freak accident

just before the race.

"During my training run I stepped on a potato," he said. "I had to ice my ankle before the race but once I got into the race, I was just taken over by the event."

Clark, said the crowds played a large role in helping the runners overcome the physical demands.

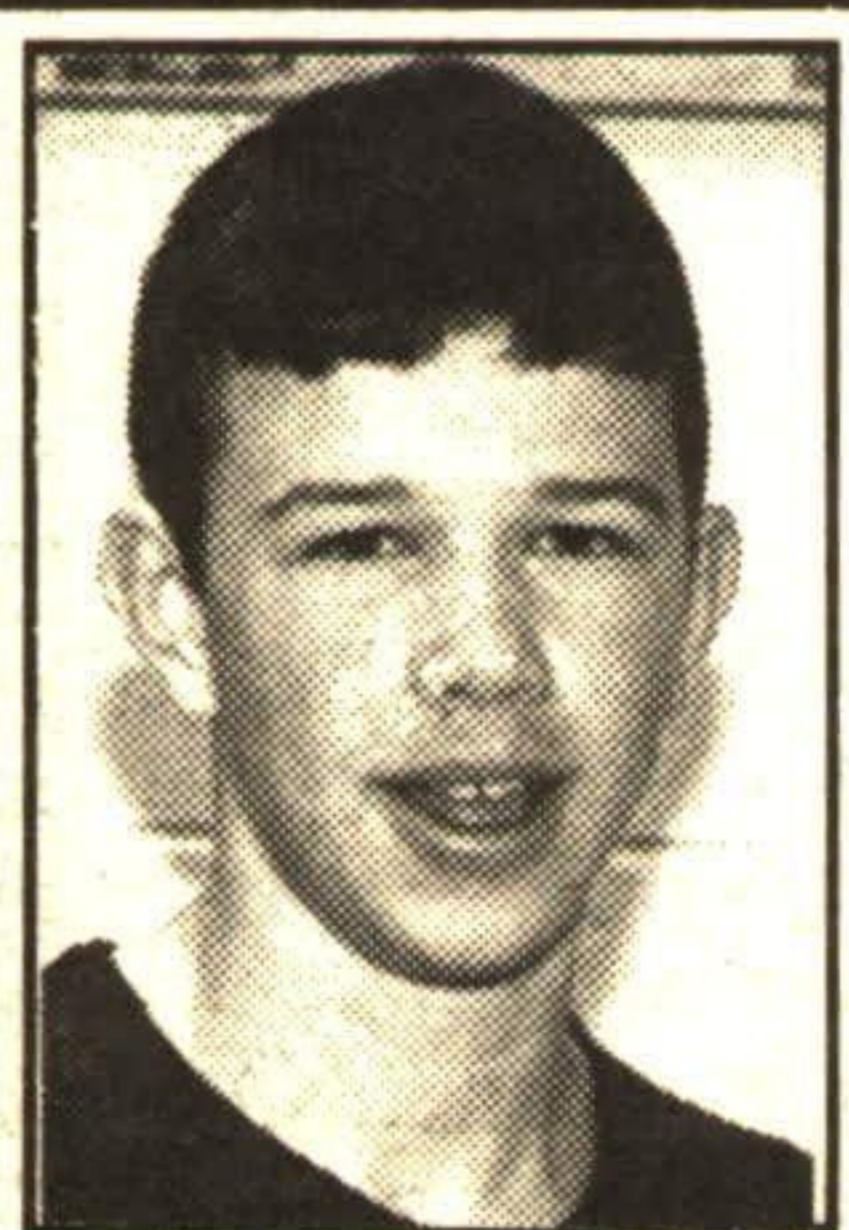
"The last three miles your body wants to shut down but you get adrenaline from the crowds. It's a very physical marathon—there are a lot of hills. Without the crowds on a course like Boston, a lot of people wouldn't make it."

Clark hasn't had his fill of history just yet. He is planning to go to Greece in October for the 100th anniversary of the original Olympic marathon.

Until the four marathoners tackle their next challenge, they and the other members of the Georgetown Runners are looking for some company. The club runs every Sunday morning and has members of all calibre from beginners to national triathletes. Anyone interested in joining can call Gary Brand at 877-8826.



DESIREE BARRETT



JAMIE BIRRELL

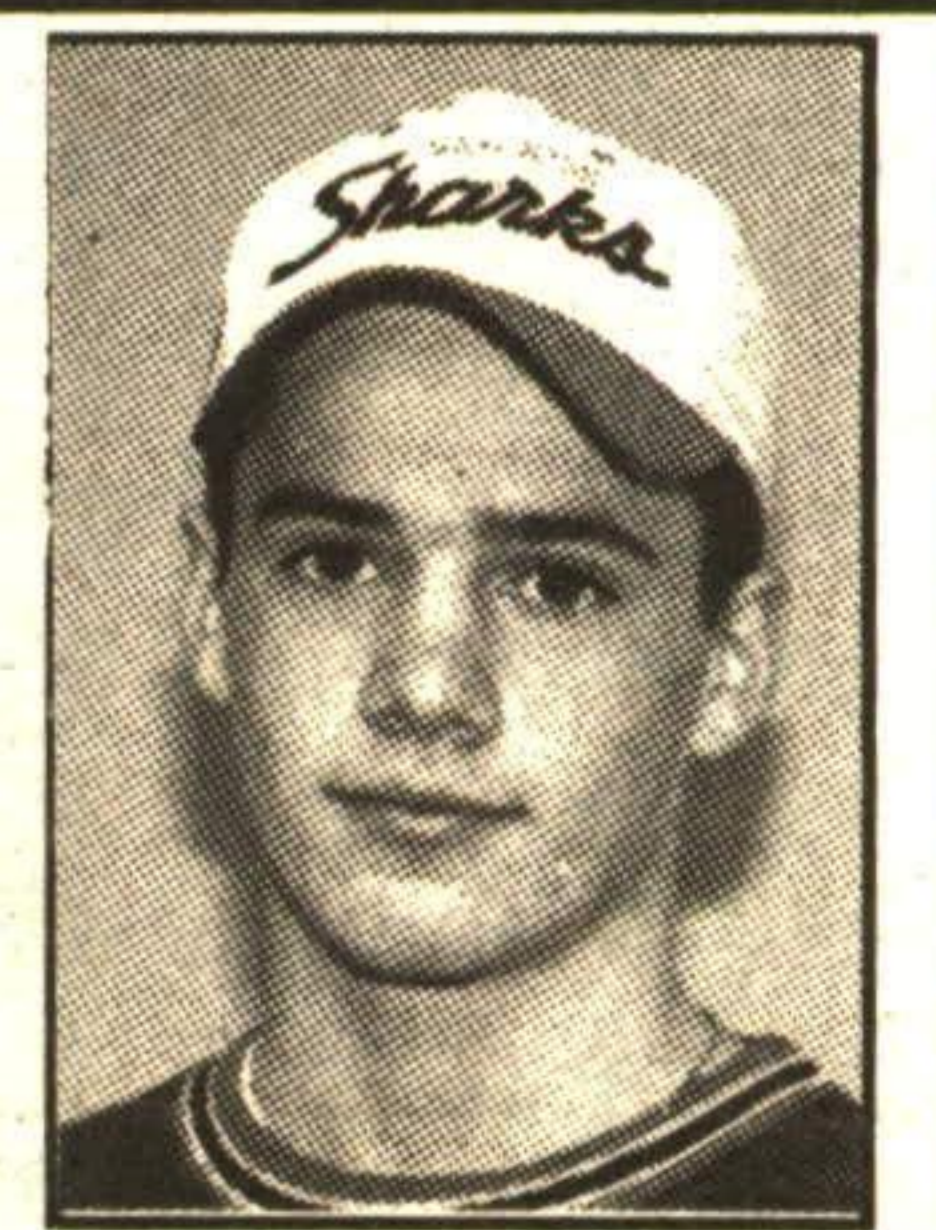
Athletes of the Week

The Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Desiree Barrett and Jamie Birrell. Desiree is the goalie for the Redmen senior girls soccer team. Jamie was selected for winning both the junior and senior singles division at an in-school tennis tournament.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Robin Zander and Geoff Bahr. Robin is the starting pitcher for the undefeated GDHS ladies fastball team. Geoff, catcher on the GDHS baseball team, was selected for both his contribution to the team.



ROBIN ZANDER



GEOFF BAHR