

Olympic silver medallist to speak at Synchro Showcase

The Halton Hills Synchro senior team was in synch but were edged for first place at the Brant Synchro Invitational.

The senior squad finished second with just a .2 difference between themselves and the host Brant team, which held on for first in the 15-and-over, Trillium 7-and-up division.

The senior team consisted of Jennifer Comstock, Kara Edwards, Kristen

Grifferty, Alicia Kelly, Laura Kelly, Beth Rutherford, Melissa Vinden and Erin Wolter.

Halton Hills also turned in three other top-three finishes. Jessica Bodig, Ashley Killick and Ashley Pilkington were third in the 15-and-over, Trillium 4-6 division.

The other intermediate team, made up of Meghan Ananthan, Michelle Doell, Amy Faulhafer, Meagan McGuire, Emily Thompson, Samantha Thompson and

Stephanie Wasylyk, was also third. They were competing in the 12-14, Trillium 4-6 division.

The three teams of novice swimmers were taking part in their first competition. Nicole Culp, Carley Doell, Kendra Peacock and Brenna Thompson were third in the 11-and-under, Trillium 1-3 division. Mandy Greaves, Cristal Sargent and Laura Takahashi were fifth. In the 12-14 Trillium 1-3 division, the team of

Julianna Krock, Jessica Parker, Carly Smith and Jennifer Varey were ninth.

The Halton Hills Synchro team will be holding its annual year-end show, Synchro Showcase '97 on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Georgetown Indoor Pool. In addition, Olympic silver medalist Lisa Alexander will be the guest speaker. Admission is \$2 and \$1 for children 12 and under. Call Patti Bodig 877-9145 or Candi Wolter 702-1052.

Sports & Leisure

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Zonneveld getting his kicks as head coach for soccer club

By HERB GARBUTT
Staff Writer

The Georgetown Soccer Club has taken a big step to develop its players and coaches.

David Zonneveld has been hired as the club's new head coach. Zonneveld's role in the full-time position is to design and develop a program for youth soccer and an ongoing training program for coaches.



DAVID ZONNEVELD

"It's a five-year plan," said club president Roger Roy. "The initial two years are to put the plan in place. In the three years after that we hope to see the benefits."

With 1,756 players (331 more than last year) and 147 teams, Roy said the timing was right to implement such a program. Because of the rapid growth, Roy said 60 per cent of the club's teams were led by first-year coaches last year. One of Zonneveld's main tasks will be to help coaches with little or no experience.

"Realistically, I can't work with all the kids," Zonneveld said. "I would like to but it's just not possible. What we're doing is setting up the program and developing them through the coaches."

The program Zonneveld has developed sets out specific skills which players should

learn at each age level. As they progress, skills are added. Zonneveld hopes that not only will players remain interested in the game, but so will the parent coaches.

The initial focus will be on the younger age groups. Zonneveld said older age groups will not be ignored but that players with 10 years left in the system as opposed to one or two will obviously benefit more.

It is expected that once players spend a few years in the system, a rep program will be established for Georgetown.

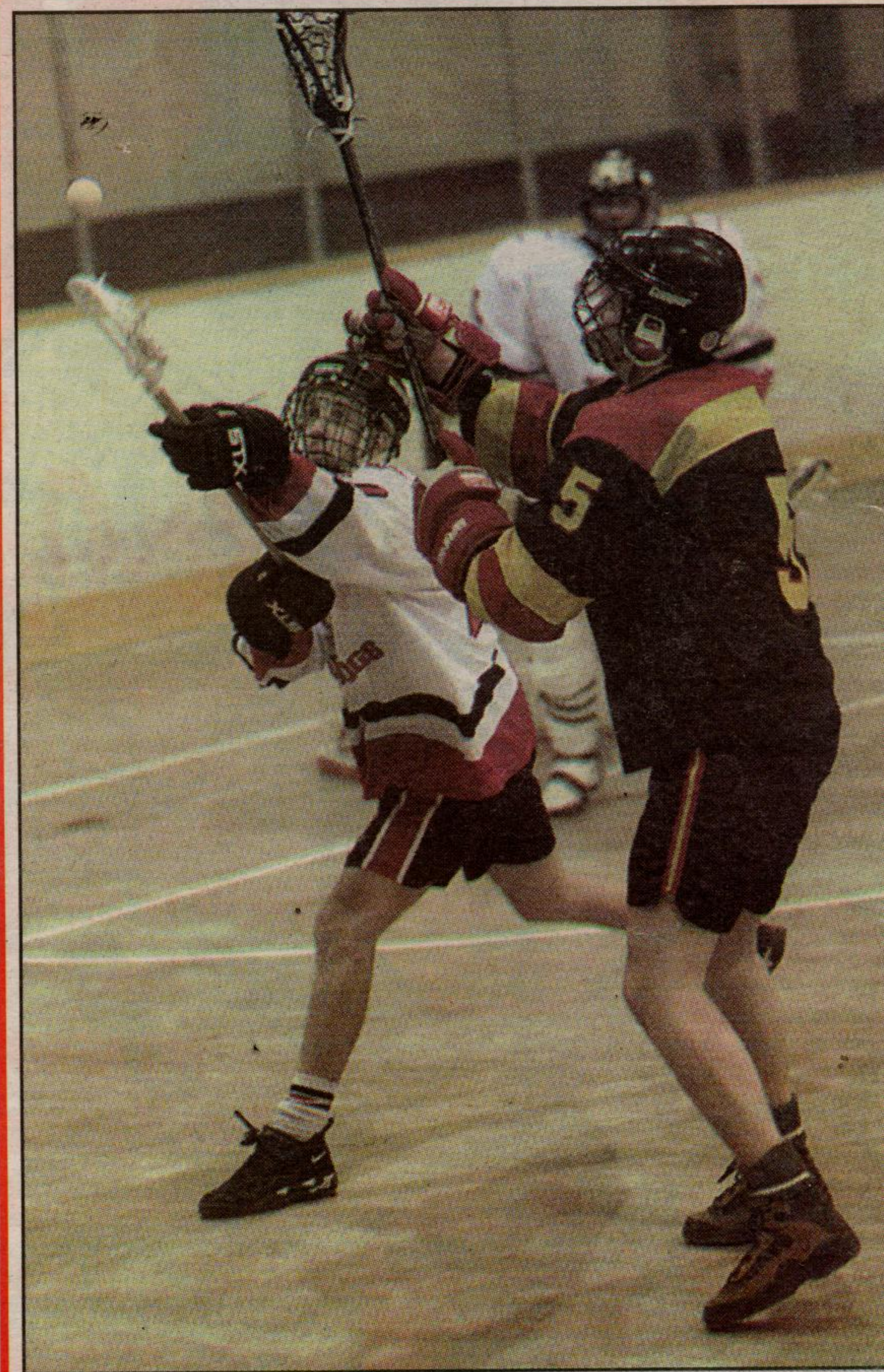
"We'll gradually move toward that end," Roy said. "We'll consider one team or so per year but it depends on the availability of coaches and the technical skills of the players. We're not in a rush. We're not going to speed up the program. We're not going to put a deadline date on it."

Zonneveld said both rep and house league programs are important to a club's success.

"You need (rep) soccer to make sure players who have better skills stay interested or that they don't leave town," he said. "You need good numbers (to start a rep program). Some places starve their house leagues and don't have competitive teams at the rep level. There's a very solid foundation here."

Zonneveld played youth soccer in the National Soccer League and with a number of senior clubs.

The Georgetown native began his coaching career in high school. He has coached house league, all-star and rep teams, guiding the Milton U-19 girls to a league championship last season.



Long Knight for Nepean

Georgetown's Andrew Craig battles Nepean Knight Dylan Carter (5) for a loose ball in Sunday's Jr. B lacrosse game. The Bulldogs won a slow paced and low-scoring game 6-3 for their second straight victory. The Bulldogs host Milton on Saturday. See story on page 26.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Gems set to host fastball tourney

The Georgetown Gems Girls Fastball League will host a tournament this weekend. Thirty teams will play in four divisions—mite, novice, bantam and midget.

Games will be played at both the

Georgetown Fairgrounds and Georgetown South beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The local teams will play their first games at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday.

Teams from Bowmanville, Niagara Falls, Kars and Port Perry will take part.



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