

Football lone casualty of high school teachers' job action

It's game on for high school sports. Local high schools will have eight teams competing in four sports beginning this week. Football is the only sport that won't be hitting the field at Halton secondary schools.

"Football is a higher risk sport and (players) need time to train," said Sue Amos, co-ordinator of physical and health education for the Halton District School Board.

Georgetown District High School will have cross-country, junior and senior girls basketball, junior and senior boys volley-

ball and senior girls field hockey teams.

Acton High School will have junior and senior boys volleyball teams but the girls basketball teams have been shelved for now.

"We're still being held to our responsibilities of four classes plus preparation time until the end of October," said Dave Boycott, head of physical education at Acton High School. "Unfortunately, some (coaches) are still in four (classes) and they just didn't have time. Once we get by this transition time we'll pick up our regular sports."

Boycott said he expected about a six-game season for basketball although Acton's season may run longer because it is hosting the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) A qualifier.

Cross country will hold a Halton championship with the winners moving directly to the OFSAA meet on Nov. 7. That bypasses the regional Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) meet.

Field hockey, which just squeaked in a day before the deadline to cancel the season, will also have an abbreviated season.

"Field hockey may be very condensed," said Jim Hall, head of physical education at GDHS. "It may even be a one-day tournament but the winner will still go to OFSAA."

The number of teams in each sport will depend upon the number of schools that opt out. Halton separate schools will not be playing as the Halton Catholic District School Board and its teachers have not yet reached a contract settlement. Teachers are not participating in extra-curricular activities until an agreement is reached.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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Raiders get a Scenic view of 6-0 shutout win

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Staff Writer

A 24-hour optometrist could have made a fortune Saturday night.

Surely a 6-0 final on the scoreboard in favor of the home side would have sent local junior hockey fans scrambling to have their eyes checked. But their eyes were not deceiving them. It was true. The Georgetown Raiders, a team with a .121 winning percentage over the past five seasons, was running roughshod over an opponent.

True, the Niagara Scenic appear to be ready to take up residence in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League basement where the Raiders have lived comfortably for the last four years, but Saturday's victory over the 1-9-1 Scenic was still an indication of the improving Raiders' capabilities.

"At the beginning of the year we thought we had a good chance of winning 50 per cent of our games and that's what we're shooting for," said Stace Page, whose hat-trick lifted his goal total to 12.



Jason Read of the Georgetown Raiders gets sandwiched between a pair of Niagara Scenic players during Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League game. The Raiders blanked Niagara 6-0 for their first shutout in three years.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

That lofty prediction would have seemed like the impossible dream three weeks ago but the Raiders, now sporting a 5-7-1 record, continue to toy with that mark. The Raiders' turnaround actually had them entering a game in the unusual position of being the favorite but coach Jay Anderson said despite their early success, the team can't afford to take any opponents lightly.

"We're not going to get anything easy," he said. "These are games the organization has lost in the past but they are games we have to win. We still have to work hard for them."

Probably the hardest job in recent years has been guarding the Raider net. That task fell on David Digironimo, who made his second start of the season on Saturday. He turned in a 26-save performance to earn the first Raider shutout since Jonathan McCarthy blanked St. Michael's in October, 1995.

Digironimo had earned the number one job with the Shelburne Bulls at the beginning of the season but when things soured there he joined the Raiders. He has had to adjust to a back-up role behind second-year

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Ready for world amateur Lapointe in the swing

With her last tune-up event behind her, Mary Ann Lapointe's golf game is firing on all cylinders. Lapointe last week entered the U.S. Mid-Amateur in Houston, to keep her game sharp as she prepares for the World Amateur Golf Championships in Chile next month.

The three-time Canadian amateur champion fired back-to-back 71s on a 6,090-yard course that was made even more difficult by heavy rain throughout the tournament. Her two-round total put her atop the leader board in a strong field that included the top North American amateurs.

"I've been working really hard and to have all that work pay off was great," she said. "It's probably the best I've played in a long time."

After the opening two rounds, the tournament switched to a match play format. Lapointe won her opening match 6 and 5 and started well in the second round. She birdied two of the first three holes to go up by two. Bogeys on the seventh and eighth holes tied the match and her opponent from Alabama took the lead by sinking birdie putts from 40 and 65 feet. The match was suspended after 14 holes because of the rain and when it resumed the next day Lapointe ran out of holes as her opponent held on for a 2 and 1 victory.



MARY ANN LAPOINTE

Although she was disappointed to not be moving on, Lapointe said she was happy with her play but just ran into a player on a roll.

"She was just red-hot. She made five putts that on a regular day you might get one of them. That swings the match a lot."

Since returning from Houston, Lapointe has been trying to squeeze in as much golf as possible and has lined up some matches with some of Ontario's top amateurs to keep the competitive juices flowing. Still, she said it's tough to match actually playing in a tournament.

"You just don't get the adrenaline flowing compared to a tournament. Compared to the last time (going to the worlds), I'm way ahead of the game," she said. "You just have to push yourself a little because this is a world championship and it's no time to start relaxing."

Although it will be the fifth world event for Lapointe, she said the nerves are still tough to overcome because she'll be competing for her country. Lapointe said this year's team is the strongest of the five she has played for and said they'll be looking for a top-10 finish. Personally, Lapointe will be looking to top her best individual finish, 18th, when the tournament tees off on Nov. 12.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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