Sports & Leisure

Friday, November 1, 2002

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Oldies hit the ice today

There's a generation gap forming at the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Oldtimers Tournament.

While the tournament itself is just a teenager, its players are getting older.

"There was a big shift toward the 50-plus divisions this year," said Finn Poulstrup, chairman of the 18th annual tournament.

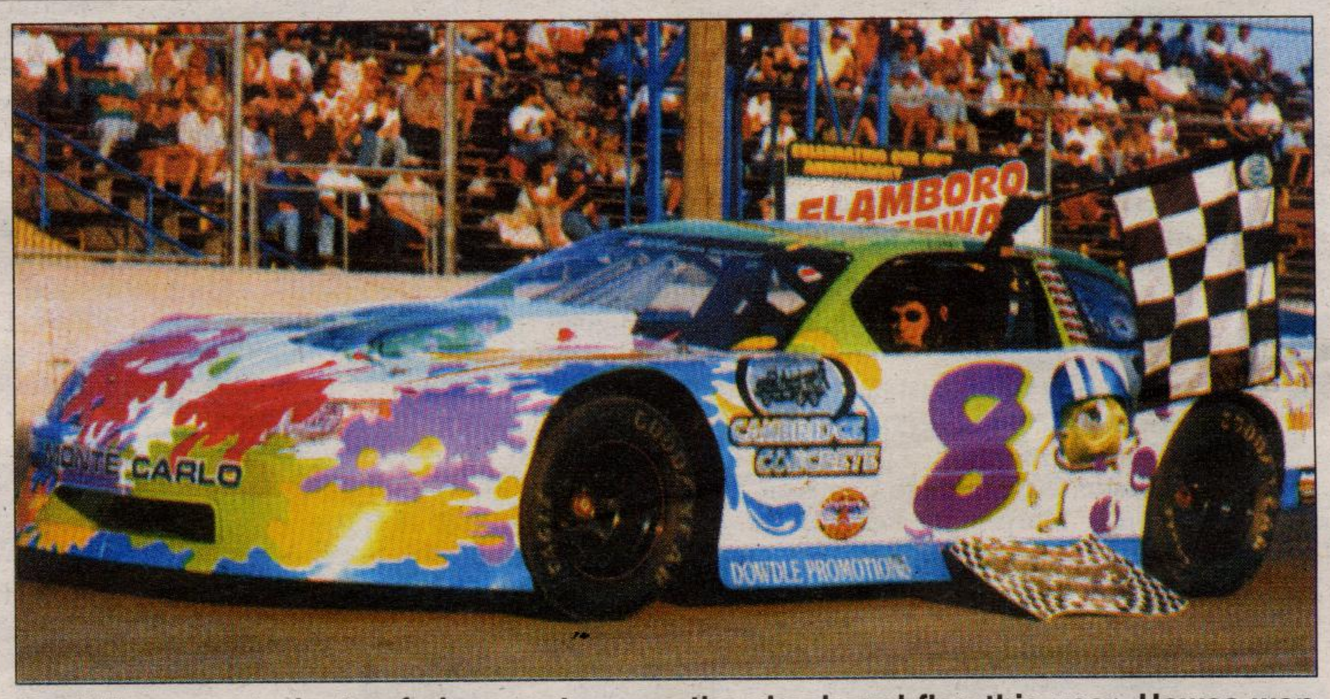
The tournament had two 45-plus divisions last year but no over-50. This year there will be eight teams in two 50-plus divisions.

Poulstrup said there is also a move toward the recreational divisions. The tournament's premier division in the past, the 35A, didn't get enough entries. But the entries poured in for the 35 C, D, E and F divisions. The 35C division had every team return from last year's tournament.

Admission to the tournament is free and the Blue Line Club will be open throughout the weekend.

In all there will be 30 teams in six divisions. They will play 54 games over three days, beginning Friday at 6 p.m. at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

The championship games begin at 2 p.m. Sunday and the final game starts at 4:30 p.m.



Paul Howse got plenty of chances to wave the checkered flag this year. Howse won the season title in the late model sportsmen division at Flamboro Speedway. The Norval driver won five of the 17 feature races this year and clinched the season title on the final night of racing with a second-place finish. Photo by Dave Franks

Acton wins playoff opener

The Acton Redmen earned a second chance to avenge losses against the only teams to beat them this season.

Acton posted a 6-2 record to finish third in Halton's Richardson Division. They trailed Lester B. Pearson (8-0) and Georgetown (7-1)— the only junior boys volleyball teams to hand Acton a loss.

Wednesday, Acton advanced through the opening round of the playoffs defeating Nelson with relative ease, 25-17, 25-17. The Redmen worked their bench throughout the victory and looked as relaxed when the score was tied, as they did when they were well ahead.

"Even when they're (Acton) down a few points they're confident they can come back," said coach George Douzenis.

Acton displayed a solid setting game Wednesday, giving its attackers good opportunities, even on the difficult sets.

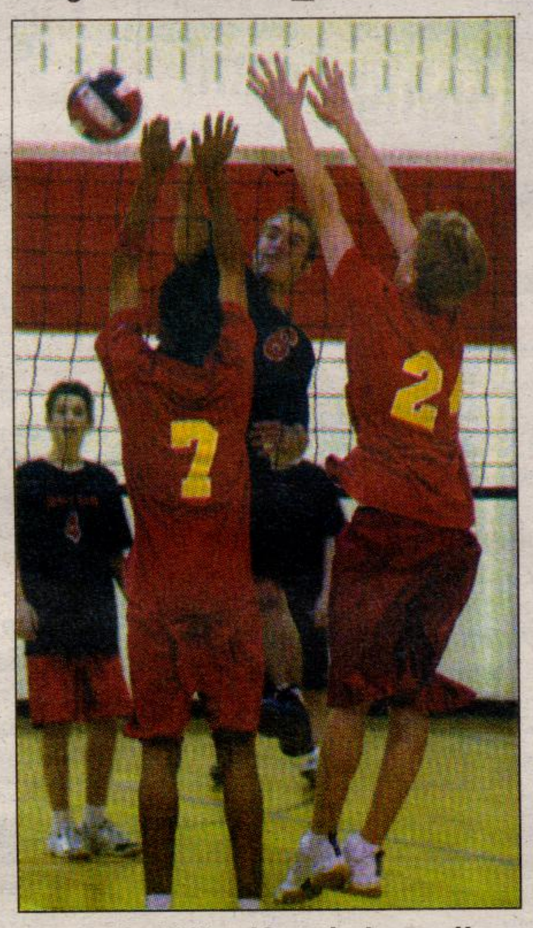
"The game revolves around the setters," said Douzenis, who rotates three players through his setting positions. "They set the pace of the game."

Wednesday's victory sets up a rematch with Halton Hills rivals the Georgetown Rebels. The teams went to three games in their regular season match with the Rebels rallying for an 18-25, 25-20, 15-10 victory.

Douzenis feels the team has improved since then and is looking forward to another opportunity to play the Rebels.

"The team is working together well as a unit," Douzenis said. "I'm confident the team will do well. We've come a long way since we played before."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Acton's Mike Kosziwka spikes the ball past a pair of Nelson blockers in Wednesday's junior boys volleyball game. Acton won 25-17, 25-17. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Local driver wins late model title

Howse about that for a finish!

Paul Howse had a monster season on the race track this year.

After finishing second in late model sportsmen standings at Flamboro Raceway last season, the Norval resident set out with the goal of capturing the title this year. When he climbed into his Monte Carlo for the season's last race, Howse held a slim two-point advantage in the standing. With more than 100 points available on the final night, Howse had little margin for error.

"It's the only time in 10 years I've seen him nervous before a race," said his wife Tara.

A third-place finish in the opening heat dropped Howse behind Rob Moss but he regained the lead with a victory in the second heat. When it came to the feature race, Moss won but Howse crossed the line right behind him. The one-two finish gave them each 101 points for the night and Howse held on to the season title.

Howse won five of the 17 features over the course of the season and was top-three in six others. He also won 13 of 34 heats and had 24 top-three finishes.

Still, Howse could have made it a lot easier on himself. On the final night, Moss came looking to borrow some parts just to get his car on the track. Howse wanted the championship, but didn't want to win it that way.

"It's just sportsmanship," he said. "I never even really thought about it. I just gave him the parts."

Howse also knew what it was like to be in Moss' position. Two weeks earlier, he had blown the motor in his car.

"I thought we were done," he said.

But Howse borrowed a car from John Farnan for a week to keep him in points contention. It also bought some time for his engine builder Matt Walker to get the car back on the track. It all paid off when he clinched the season title.

It was also a nice reward for Howse, who works on the car anywhere from 10 hours a week for routine maintenance and set up, to 40 hours if the car is involved in a crash.

It can also be an expensive venture with a new set of tires costing $1,000. If all goes well and no major repairs are needed, it can cost $30,000 to run a car for the season.

One area Howse can save himself some money is in making his car look good. He operates his own business, Finish Line Painting & Restoration, and decorates his car himself. The distinctive paint splotches are becoming a trademark but his son Jordan is usually the inspiration behind the design. Last year it was a *Toy Story* theme. This year it was *Monsters Inc.*

"I like to be different every year. It's usually whatever Jordan is into at the time" he said. "I like to do it for the kids."

Right now, Howse is leaning toward *Rescue Heroes* for next year. And if all goes well, they'll save another season championship for Howse.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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