

# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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Bulldogs begin series  
with Green Gaels

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Another family affair  
at Bromont

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Special pullout section

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Academic All-America honour

## Butcher caps career at head of the class

EAMONN MAHER  
Staff Writer

Although his U.S. collegiate track career didn't end with the results he would have liked, Georgetown South resident Ian Butcher recently received one of the top awards that an NCAA athlete can get.

The 21-year-old St. Francis University student recently completed his four years of study and athletic eligibility for the men's varsity track team in tiny Loretto, Pennsylvania, graduating in May as an English major and History minor.

And while Butcher is proud of his accomplishments and near record-breaking times on the track for Division I St. Francis, it's his impressive numbers in the classroom that earned him the prestigious *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America award for track & field/cross-country running.

A select few NCAA student-athletes who excel on both stages are nominated for the award and the 18 First Team recipients in 2008 were selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Butcher's amazing 3.99 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0 easily met the academic requirement, but a nagging hamstring injury limited his effectiveness out of the blocks this year in the 200m and 400m events.

"I never really felt healthy the whole year. It's been frustrating," said the Christ the King Secondary School graduate.

"My second year at St. Francis

was probably the most successful competitively and I was nominated then and didn't get it. I thought that was the last I'd hear of it."

Last year, Butcher was on the Red Flash's 4x400m relay team that came within two one-hundredths of a second of breaking the school record at the conference finals, qualifying the group for the NCAA Regionals.

"It was the first year we had a whole team of sprinters healthy enough to run a decent relay and then to have a good team all of a sudden was fantastic," he added.

As for his future plans, Butcher will attend grad school for English at Oregon State University over the next two years but hasn't decided on a career path at this point.

"That's the million-dollar question," acknowledged Butcher an Ontario junior gold medalist in the 400m for CtK in 2002. "I really like school and the environment of it and I'm going to stay as a student as long as possible."



## Getting her kicks at new Acton park

Five-year-old Mary Jane MacDonald from Acton practises up with her coach, Alicia Manuel, prior to the official opening of the first phase of the Acton Community Sports Park. Located next to the Acton Arena and Community Centre, the lit senior soccer facility is the first of its kind for Acton, made possible by a \$100,000 contribution from the Acton Soccer Club. The total cost of the project is tabbed at \$632,000, with phase two scheduled to begin later this year.

Photo by Calvin Dyke

## Lapointe edged at women's amateur

Leading after the first two rounds of the Golf Association of Ontario's women's amateur championships in Belleville this week, Mary-Ann Lapointe of Georgetown was passed during the final 18 holes by Brantford teen Nicole Vandermade and lost by one stroke.

A steady-shooting Lapointe turned in even-par rounds of 72 to lead Vandermade by two shots heading into Thursday's action at the Bay of Quinte Country Club. The North Halton Golf & Country Club member recorded back-

to-back bogeys, a birdie and 15 pars yesterday to finish at +1, but Vandermade went bogey-free and turned in a final round of two-under to deny the 48-year-old Lapointe her sixth GAO women's amateur title.

Meanwhile, at the GAO men's amateur event this week, Georgetown's Robbie Greenwell remained near the top of the leaderboard through the first two rounds of the 72-hole tourney at the Islington Golf Club in Toronto, but shot a 78 Thursday to slip to a tie for 16th.



## All Stars on 'mini' spree

Sixty-five teams from as far away as Sudbury will participate in the Georgetown Soccer Club's annual All Star & Select Mini Tournament this weekend for the 8-10 year-old age groups.

Games will be held at Trafalgar Sports Park, Mold-Masters Park, Miller Park and the

Gellert Recreation Centre beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, running through until Sunday afternoon.

There are 10 divisions in total and the teams will play a 7-on-7 "mini" format.

For detailed schedules, visit the GSC website at [www.georgetownsoccerclub.com](http://www.georgetownsoccerclub.com)



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