

SPORTS AND LEISURE

Sgarbossa shines in Colts' debut

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Scutt sharpens game for World Masters trip

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Staff Writer

Georgetown's Chris Scutt has ruled local-area dart leagues— heck, he's even beaten the reigning open world champion— but he's about to get a glimpse of the big time in the sport of darts.

The 35-year-old roofer qualified for the 2008 Winmau World Masters Finals for the first time in early December at Bridlington, England, thanks to a fifth-place finish at the Canadian championships in Winnipeg and has stepped up his playing sessions in order to hold his own against approximately 300 players from 69 countries.

"It's my first chance, so it's all really new to me, but it's great to be involved in the oldest major tournament in the world, and this is the 35th anniversary," said Scutt, whose parents were born in the U.K.

He has visited England a number of times and while he admits there might be a bit of sightseeing on the trip this time around, he's expecting a intense atmosphere in The Spa venue when the competition begins, under the glare of BBC-TV cameras.

"This is a huge event over there and I'm interested to see how good the competition is going to be," he said, adding that consuming alcohol is forbidden for participants during the course of play.

"It can get pretty serious when you're down to the elimination rounds. The nationals in Winnipeg were 10 hours of junior throwing darts and it can get tiring."

Scutt, who is president of the Halton Darts League, qualified to compete in the World Masters in both singles and doubles events and will be one of five members of the Canadian team.

He has won the overall for the

Halton loop eight consecutive years, and has been the top thrower in the Brampton/Bramalea league and the Brampton Summer Pro League.

After several trips to the Ontario and Canadian championships, Scutt feels he's ready for the biggest test and has stepped up his playing to every second night, using the down time to spend with sons Ryan, 4, and two-year-old Evan.

Scutt also competes in mixed doubles at tournaments with his wife Rachael.



CHRIS SCUTT

As part of his preparation for the December competition, Scutt keeps in contact with three-time world open champ John Part of Oshawa, whom he sheepishly admits to have beaten "once or twice" at tournaments.

"It's great for experience to play against him and we exchange e-mails once in a while," he added.

A fund-raiser to help Scutt cover the costs of his trip overseas will take place at Georgetown's Royal Canadian Legion on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 1. Cost is \$10 per ticket.



Stingers stampede at Optimist meet

Braden Leonard of Stewarttown Public School didn't let a little footwear malfunction prevent him from finishing third in the boys' 13-year-old race at the annual Optimist Club of Georgetown's cross-country running meet held Wednesday at Cedarvale Park. Leonard crossed the line just ahead of his Stewarttown teammate Alex Robertson (right). The younger age groups were scheduled to run their races on Thursday afternoon. Seven area schools— also including Centennial, Georgetown Christian School, Mackenzie-Smith Bennett, Silver Creek, Post's Corner and the new Gardiner entry— took part in Wednesday's meet, with Stewarttown winning five of the six overall age group team titles. Alex McKenzie (11-year-old boys), Hayleigh Bell (12-year-old girls) and Bryan Bartle (12-year-old boys) won their respective races. For results from Wednesday's races, see page 5. Photo by Eamonn Maher



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