

They find the key to victory — twice

The Key Centre has begun to shake off the basement cobwebs by edging the Legion 19-17 in Men's Slo Pitch action.

The concept of less being more appears to appeal to Key Centre players. They only fielded nine men in their win over the Legion, and brought the same number to defeat MSE 17-8 subsequently.

Willard Rath was deadly at the plate, as usual, when Wally's Meats upended Halton Pool 11-7. Rath clubbed a homer. Rath launched another as Wally's Meats doubled Primus 14-7.

Chris Heath followed suit as Wally's meats pounded the Key Centre 25-3. He banged two homers. Bruce Rankin added a solo round tripper.

Aim Lock was on a tear, piling up three victories in most recent action. Jim McCrossin led the way, going 4 for 4 when his team trounced ReMax 17-1. They also beat the Key Centre 29-8 and edged

Halton Pool 11-10.

The Waltzing Weasel split with The Dickens, winning 25-13 and losing 22-5. They recouped to best the Key Centre 19-13 and then shaded the Legion 11-9.

MSE slumped with losses to The Dickens (8-5) and Key Centre (17-8) but rebounded to batter The Waltzing Weasel 18-8 and steamroll Primus 19-3. Scott Prior clubbed three homers to highlight that victory.

Despite round trippers from Rath, Bruce Rankin and Heath the Dickens managed to stymie Wally's Meats by a 25-15 margin.

Halton Pool rained on Primus' parade to the tune of 16-7 in spite of solo homer heroics from Mark Yorke on the losing side. The poolsters also pulled the plug on Bruce Hood Travel 21-15.

Howard Mott and Rob Radbourn hit homers as ReMax downed the Legion 19-10. ReMax also

edged Brancier 21-18.

The Legion is struggling to find mid-season form after setbacks at the hands of Bruce Hood Travel, ReMax and Key Centre. This despite Hector Campbell's 4 for 4 outing in the 19-17 loss.

Primus pulled out a pair of lopsided wins, trouncing Key Centre 31-7 and beating The Waltzing Weasel 15-2.

Brancier slowed down Wally's Meats 15-9 thanks to a six-run ninth inning but took it on the chin 24-9 from both Bruce Hood Travel and ReMax. This despite Doug Thompson's 5 for 5 night.

Bruce Hood was on a tear with wins over Aim Lock (17-12), The Waltzing Weasel (12-9) and a 36-15 bombing of the Legion, highlighted by Roy Gilmore's 5 for 6 outing.

Club branches out to embrace more outings

By MELANIE CUMMINGS
Special to The Champion

If a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, then would a cross country ski club that also cycles, kayaks, and hikes in the summer still be called a ski club?

Perhaps. Nonetheless, a name change for The Halton Cross Country Ski Club is under consideration.

The club's manager/secretary Joe Lechner suggests that maybe 'The Halton Outing Club' would better reflect the 25-year-old group's new realities. However, a name change, if any occurs, is likely a year or so away, he added.

With or without a new name the 630 members of this massive club are quite aware of all that it offers. No wonder. An impressive club newsletter published five times a year is dominated by pages and pages (20 in the last issue) of upcoming hikes, social outings, canoeing and kayaking trips and cycling schedules.

The rest of the issue carries reflections of the past season's ski trips. The mood of each adventure echoes pure enjoyment, no matter what ski conditions prevailed.

Lechner is already preparing ski trips for the winter, repeating favorite club destinations such as Silver Star, British Columbia — described in a member's story as that province's "winter paradise" — Ottawa, Haliburton and Mount Ste. Anne in Quebec.

The club has the advantage of capitalizing on group rates for cheaper bus and flight fares, accommodations and meals. Travel becomes much more affordable for members embarking on the many day, weekend and longer trips offered, said Lechner.

Club outings are also as close to home as 90-minute hikes along the Waterfront Trail in Oakville every Monday night, or Thursday nights when routes in Burlington's older neighborhoods create the backdrop for hikers.

Trips further afield include Tobermory, Algonquin Park and the Finger Lakes in New York. Rest assured the hike doesn't cover those hundreds of miles — a bus

takes members to those havens.

Lechner assures the club is not full of fitness gurus, but has levels of exercise suited to every outdoor enthusiast.

For example, the hiking schedule lists whether the journey is done at a slow or moderate pace, or is geared to the more experienced hiker. There's even Alpine hiking for the really adventurous all-terrain travellers.

The varied fitness interests of cyclists in the club are also what led to the creation of sub-groups. Where the Hares and Road Runners are geared to experienced riders, the Turtle Cycling Group rides at a more modest pace.

Now, with the years of practice the Turtles have gained, the club created another sub-group called the Snails for those who haven't hoisted themselves on the seat of a moving bicycle for awhile.

Canoeing and sea kayaking are the newest additions to the club's roster of activities. Introduced last year, it is repeating popular day trips to local waterways such as Rockwood Conservation Area, Cootes Paradise, Christie Conservation Area and along the Grand River, as well as an overnight trip to Dorset, Ontario.

Again novices are invited as are veteran canoeists and kayakers. And you don't have to own the equipment needed — the sites chosen all offer rentals.

Lechner credits the club's 25 year existence to the variety of activity it has always offered and continues to do. The club's membership list is a mix of single men and women, teenagers, families young and matured, and seniors. Members come from around Halton, but some are from St. Catharines, Guelph and Mississauga.

The annual membership fee is \$55 per family, \$35 for a single membership or \$20 for students.

For more information about the Halton Cross Country Ski Club call (905) 634-2012 or toll free 1-877-877-4550, or visit its Web site at www.spectranet.ca/~hski-club.

Springer awards announced

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and Natasha Brancier was lauded for sticking the most beam routines. Eleanor Pineau-Levman and Valerie Massel were Teammates of the Year.

Pineau-Levman got the Most Potential award and Amanda Steddy was Most

Improved Springette. Anne Wormald was deemed Most Determined to Succeed. Stephanie Proulx was Most Dedicated Springette. Vicki Chliszczyk was given a plaque honouring her commitment to gymnastics from 1987 through 1999 as she bows out of competition.

Dowdell's saves key

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diving saves and shoulder blocks to keep the Flying Dutchmen grounded.

Owen Sound capitalized on the powerplay to stay within striking distance through the early going, but eventually succumbed to a well-balanced attack from the Mavs. Darryl Brown registered his first multi-goal game this year — scoring 11 minutes apart in the second.

Maverick notes: Over the past six games the Mavericks have outscored their opponents 84-34 ... Milton travels to Brantford tonight for a make-up game with the Six Nations Red Rebels. Friday they host Guelph before closing out the season in Owen Sound Saturday.

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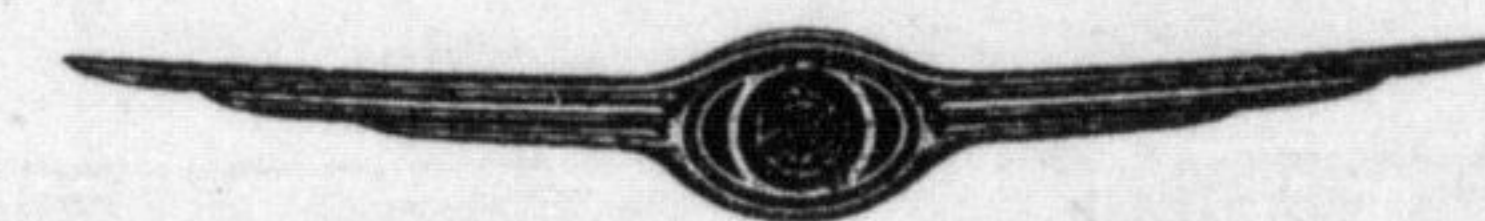
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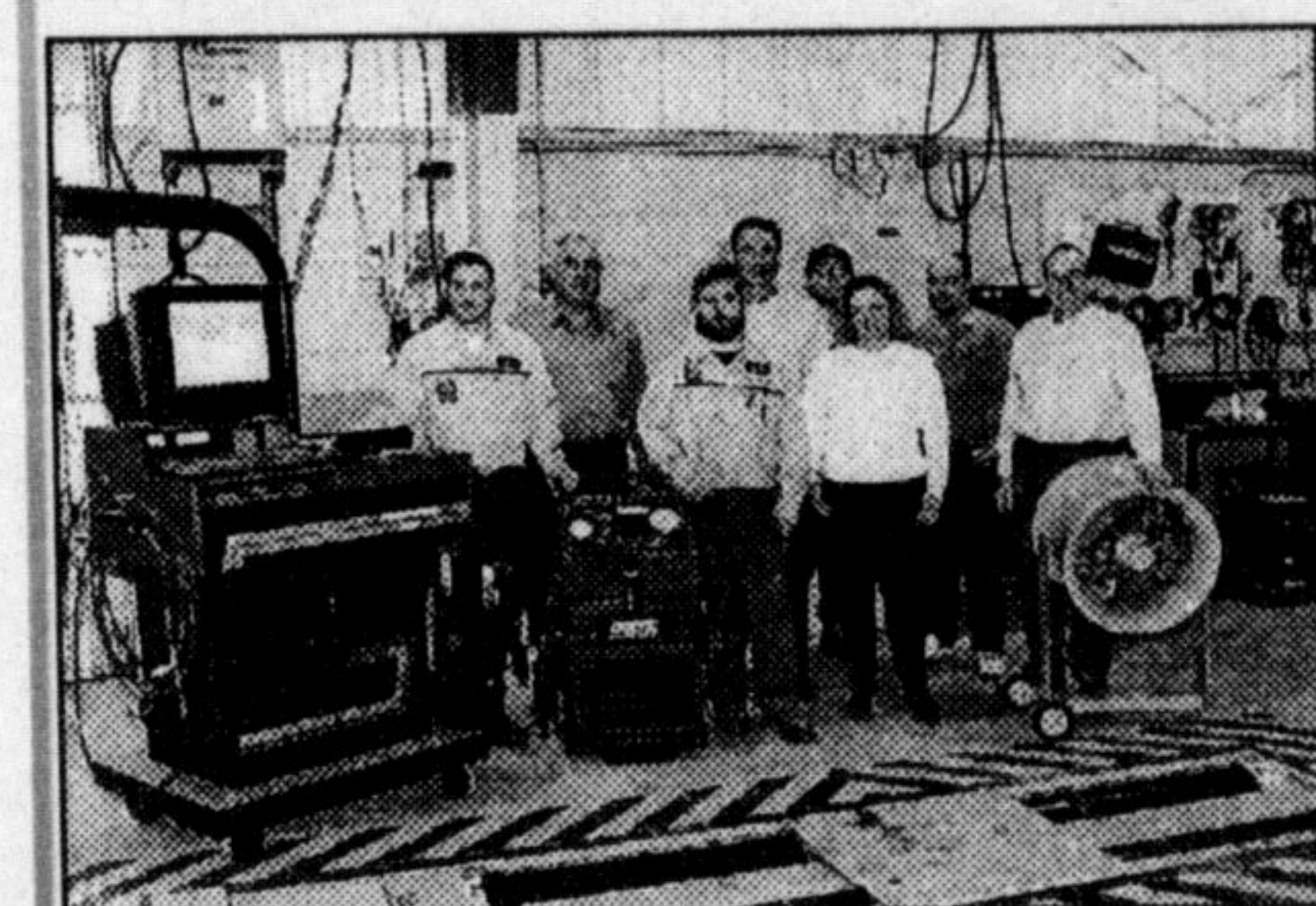
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