



Agony and ecstasy

At left, Brian's Auto Repair goalkeeper Barbara Putica gets hoisted aloft by boisterous teammates after their double round shoot-out victory in Saturday morning's semifinal of Under-12 girls soccer at Lions Sports Park. Above right, Leslie Wernham of Pasqualino Cafe couldn't quite stop this shot in the marathon encounter, while Brian's Auto Repair player Christina Fernandes (below right) gets congratulated after scoring in the second round of the shoot-out, which helped highlight Milton Youth Soccer Club's house league champ day.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



Winning or losing — maybe it's all in the attitude

The ball is going directly at the hole. It goes in, I win \$15,000. This is at the Mayor's Tournament for the United Way Friday at Granite Ridge. My teammates from The Champion had agreed, if one of us gets it in we give the others a \$1,000.

Tim Coles, production manager at The Champion, mentions that if he gets it in, he's not buying the traditional round at the clubhouse, he's skipping out of there.

Good idea, I figure, wondering if that also meant skipping out on your teammates and their \$1,000. I'm going to keep an eye on him.

We also discuss the option of just saying we got the hole-in-one, because we don't see anybody watching, and then splitting the \$15,000. That option is dismissed rather quickly by my honest teammates, at which point I also pretend to be honest. We find out when we get closer that there was somebody watching, anyway.



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

Earlier we had a closest-to-the-hole competition at another Par 3, the winner of which won a couple free breakfasts at the Mohawk Inn. Editor Karen Smith wanted to win this prize, and when it was my turn to shoot she tried to jinx me by saying:

Out in left field

"Oogedy Boogedy."

Oogedy Boogedy, I finished fourth out of four people in that competition. She didn't win either, so serves her right.

I never win anything. At least anything in an individual competition. I've won some awards and team competitions, but nothing on my own. I think there are certain people who have that killer instinct that helps them win those things. I don't have it. In fact, going back to my childhood, all my ribbons say "participant" on them.

Meanwhile, halfway to the hole, my ball is still on a perfect line. I'm already thinking what I could spend my \$12,000 on, not to mention the thrill of a hole-in-one. And I'm contemplating whether or not I'd really have to give \$1,000 each to my teammates.

Actually, I can win events that have cards in them. You can debate among yourselves whether poker is a sport or not, but they show it on TSN, so I say it is. I've won several poker tournaments, but I could win more of them if I had a killer instinct and put people away.

One time, I reached the final table on an on-line tournament. Eventually, there were only five people left, out of the 100 or so who started. I'm in fifth place, with little hope of moving up. That was my attitude; I'm not likely to win, so I won't.

I had to go to an appointment, so I asked my oldest daughter to play it out for me. She knows how to play Texas Hold 'Em, but doesn't have the experience, knowledge and acquired skills necessary to win. Not like I do.

When I got home an hour later, I learned she had won the whole tournament. I would have pretty much conceded and been happy with fifth place.

Maybe that's the difference between winners and losers. Winners think they're going to win, and losers think they're going to lose. Then we get what we think we're going to get. Now, if my daughter sees that I've got to the final table, she asks me half-jokingly if I want her to finish it off. And I think seriously about it because I know I'm more likely to lose than win.

The ball is now almost three-quarters of the way to the hole, and it's pretty much a sure thing. I'm getting ready to do a dance. My heart is beating more rapidly.

But, then a strange thing happens, although not too strange for me. The ball starts to curve. It curves and curves until it's over the fence to the left of the hole and out of bounds.

I lose again, but no big deal, I'm used to it.

Under-10 boys finish with huge win

Season finales don't come much more exciting than this.

Persevering through a highly-confrontational closer last Tuesday in Cambridge, Milton's Under-10 boys rep soccer squad scored with under five minutes remaining and then turned back a huge free kick by their hosts in the dying seconds of play to prevail 2-1.

It was the Magic's only comeback win of the season, and just their fifth overall in league play.

Coming out from between the pipes to don the striker's role in the second half,

Mitchell Adamson ended up potting the golden goal — converting a nifty cross-feed from Mackenzie Robertson in low.

Striker-turned-netminder Matthew Hunter shared the spotlight with some crucial saves at crunch time. He also booted the ball away as time ran out after midfielder Liam Robinson robbed Cambridge on a somewhat questionable last-minute free kick.

Robinson also contributed offensively, knotting things near the end of the first half.

Also standing out were Ross Morgan,

Connor Ramsden, Eric Schroder and Adam Blay, all of whom offered gutsy performances in the rough showdown.

"It was great, a real character effort," said coach Hugh Robinson.

The season-ending win helped overshadow a heartbreaking 4-2 defeat at the hands of Ancaster August 30 at Lions Sports Park.

Milton collapsed down the stretch and gave up two goals in the final few minutes after deposits by Robertson and Kevin Entmaa — about the only two bright spots on the night — kept victory hopes alive.

Girls volleyball tryouts set to start soon

The Waterdown Raiders Volleyball Club begins tryouts for their 2004/05 season next week.

Prospective players from grades 5 to 12 will start auditioning for one of six teams September 23 at Waterdown District High School, with other tryout sessions being held on September 27, September 30 and October 4.

Tryouts for the Under-12 and Under-14 teams begin at 6 p.m., with tryouts for the Under-15, Under-16, Under-17 and Under-18 squads starting at 8 p.m.

There's a \$20 camp admission per player. Those interested in trying out or learning more about the club are asked to call Jos Nederveen at (905) 628-0582.