

Fish and Game news

with ARN COULSON



Fishing's improved

WE HEAR COMPLAINTS from fishermen that our fishing industry is going down the drain. Well I, for one, think our sports fishing is the best it's been in 20 years. The tremendous pressure on our lakes and streams over the last 20 years has put a strain on our fish population, to say the least. Where could you go 20 years ago and catch a five-lb. brown trout or a 20-lb. coho salmon? Speckled trout fishing in southern Ontario has doubled with the stocking programs of local fishermen and clubs. The provincial ministry of natural resources has spent millions of dollars on restocking programs. We guess some people are never satisfied. Ask Don Kearney, Jim Smith, Lorne Lyons, Laverne Blacklock, Donnie and Jack Pearson—all tried and true fishermen—if fishing hasn't improved tremendously.

Our trout season opened a couple of weeks ago and most fishermen caught fish. When I was a kid, we had to be satisfied with a couple of suckers, a few bullheads and some skinkers. And we were mighty proud of the stringers of small fish we used to bring home. There used to be an old saying—10 per cent of the people take home 90 per cent of the fish.

By the time you read this, the pickerel season in southern Ontario will have opened and the odd fisherman will have gotten his catch of this beautiful eating fish the first day.

To catch pickerel, you must be very patient and wait for your fish to take your bait. If you try to set the hook on the first nibble, you have lost your fish.

Minnows are your best bet for the next couple of weeks, then a large dew worm trolled slowly will do the trick.

The Kawartha, Lake Nipissing, Lake Scugog and Sydenham River are the hot spots just to name a few. When pickerel are hitting, it's hard to stop fishing when you have your limit.

Remember—possession limits shall not exceed one day's legal catch (six fish). Fish are considered to be in possession of an angler whether they are on hand, in cold storage, in transit or elsewhere.

For years, we have condemned judges for not handing out stiffer fines to fish hogs. Well, right now they are. Fines of up to \$1,000 are not uncommon. They can also confiscate cars, boats, etc. Let's not make the news this way.

In the did-you-know department: 38 per cent of Ontario residents fish at least once a year.

• In 1980, this province sold 644,550 non-resident fishing licences and almost all went to Americans.

• About 40 million days of fishing are enjoyed by people in Ontario.

• 71 per cent of all fishing by Ontario residents is done south of the French River.

• The value of fishing gear owned by Ontario fishermen is more than \$230 million. Fishermen pay their way.

Flag football underway with exhibition games

By Larry Beaulieu

The exhibition season of the Milton Flag Football season opened last week after a year's layoff from the sport.

Results of the first games in pre-season were in line with those at the closing of last year.

The first game of the year featured last year's champs, The Charles Hotel, handing Gallinger Motors an 18-0 whitewash. Led by quarterback Dave Murray, The Charles dominated most of the play and when Gallinger did pose a threat, they were victimized by dropped balls and interceptions.

Scoring for The Charles were Pete Murray with a touchdown and a two-point conversion, Dennis Gluck with one touchdown and four points from the toe of Dennis Glead. Interceptions by Gluck and Bob Tummson along with a fumble recovery by Walt Dowhayko led the defence.

Rick Horne had one touchdown for the Gallinger team.

In the second game, Miltoyne Real Estate edged last year's hard-luck team, the Milton Tribune, 18-17. This was a well played game with both

teams showing explosive offence and steady defence as a scoreless fourth quarter showed.

For Miltoyne, Tom Blanchard, Bruce Herbert and Mike Barton each scored majors to build an 18-9 lead and then the realty company held off a rally by the Tribune to secure the win.

Scoring for the Trib were Don Kessel with two majors and Brad Flowers with a field goal and two extra points.

The final contest of the week had the always steady Sargent Farms defeating Canadian Tire 15-8 in a hard-fought defensive struggle. While both teams had various scoring chances, both offences were turned back by way of interceptions.

Scoring for the winning Sargent Farms was done by Terry Houghton and Mike Kendrick with one touchdown apiece, a two-point conversion by Jim Silcock along with a convert by John Matwyszyn. The defence was led by Fred Bakes with two interceptions and one by Mike Kendrick.

Lee Fairbanks handled all Canadian Tire's scoring with a major, a convert and a touchback.

Belvedere atoms edged

Milton Belvedere major atoms had two exhibition soccer games last week and were on the losing end of both.

Belvederes lost 3-1 against the powerful Oakville A team, who won the Ontario Championship last year. Oakville scored once in the first half and added their other two in the second half.

The only goal for Milton came during the last five minutes of play when the Oakville goalie well out of his net fumbled a shot by Sean Foggin and Foggin fired the rebound into the empty net.

Fullbacks Daniel Belvedere and Irenej Vrban both put in strong defensive efforts to keep the Oakville players back. Milton goalie Sean Wakely made several key saves during the game and could not be faulted for the three goals against him, which were shot from well out and high over his head.

In the second contest, Milton lost 1-0 against Erin Mills. The game was a see-saw battle between the closely matched teams, until Erin Mills scored with just over a minute to play in the first half. Milton's defence was caught out of position allowing Erin

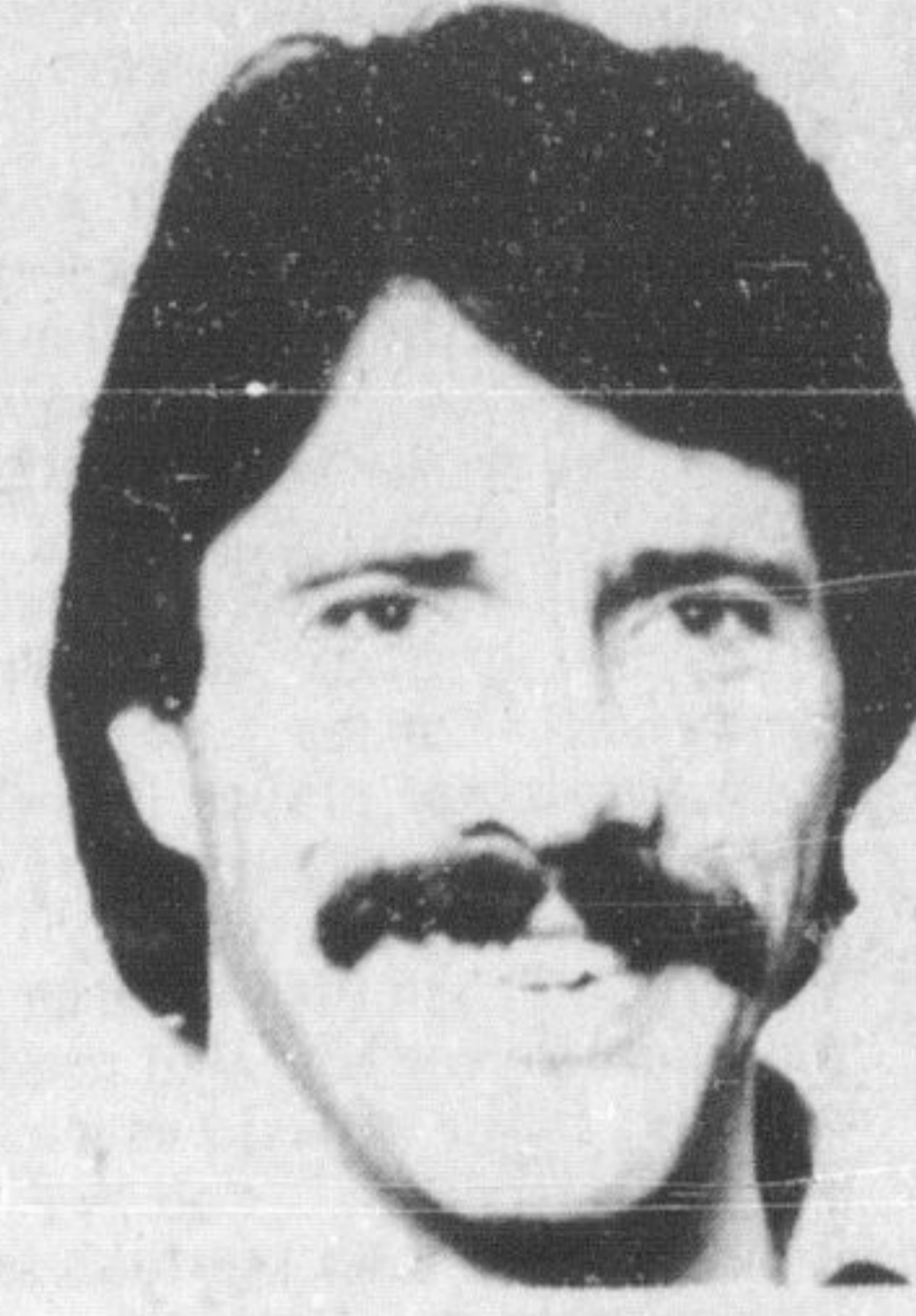
Mills leftwinger an opportunity to shoot one past Milton's goalie.

Halfback Bill McIntyre, throughout the game, continually aver-

ted several offensive endeavors by Erin Mills.

Forwards Scott Devlin and Robby Mifsud had two scoring opportunities each stolen from them.

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Sam Lenarduzzi

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