

Female goaltender stars in men's league

17 The Canadian Champion, Wed. Feb. 3, 1988



Milton resident Joan Osborne has enjoyed playing goal in a men's hockey team for many years. Osborne, pictured here with husband Scott, reveals how it feels playing a "man's sport" here in town. See accompanying story.

By MIKE FITZGERALD
Behind the thick leg pads, face mask and protective equipment, a 5 foot 8 inch, 125 pound woman protects the mouth of the goal against shots blasted by her teammates. And Joan Osborne's teammates shoot hard — they're all men.
"I'd rather play on a men's team. The game is faster, the shots are faster, and I have to be much quicker. It's far more challenging."
Joan Osborne has been skating since she the age of two and she's been playing hockey since she was 13.

Now, Joan plays with the Milton Chrysler fun team, after being introduced to the team by her husband, Scott. At the time, Scott's team was in desperate search for another goalie to "man" the nets. Scott's team agreed to giving Joan a try in between the pipes.

"They were all surprised to see how well she played and they all became frustrated when they couldn't score on her," recalls Scott Osborne with a smile.

Joan grew up in Georgetown playing shinny hockey with her two older brothers and would almost always play in goal. Joan obtained her first official hockey experience against boys, at the time when her father coached house league hockey in town. When his team was short players for practises, Joan would help out.

"I liked playing in net. I wasn't afraid to get hit."

Joan made the Stewarttown boys team in Grade 8. She played Novice and Atom, in the A, B and C divisions. She also played with the woman's league Canadets for awhile. Joan noted that despite her impressive playing record, trying to find competition was always difficult, especially for a girl.

"I used to try out for the boys team in Major Midget (14 and 15 yr. olds) and they told me I was good enough to make the team, but, because I was a girl they wouldn't let me play."

"I sometimes had a hard time at school and some people resent that I still play today. But I didn't quit because of that, it didn't seem to bother me that much then."

Joan met her husband through

hockey, when they were just kids.

"Her dad used to coach me when I was 12 and she was just a stick girl for the team. But we didn't get to know each other really good until high school when we started dating. Although, if it wasn't for hockey, we wouldn't have met," said Scott.

Joan also plays some baseball, soccer and lifts weights. Although Joan is indeed an excellent goalie, she is only 5'8" and weighs 125 lbs. and must match other players more than 6' and weighing more than 200 lbs. And the competition is still difficult because of her gender.

"Sometimes they'll shoot harder to show you that you shouldn't be there (playing hockey), or they may shoot softer and that really ticks me off," said Joan.

"But after a while they realize she's as good as anyone else," added Scott.

Joan won the Most Valuable goaltender award in Ontario, for her play in the Inner Division in 1985. Last year out of 173 shots taken at her in four games, Joan only allowed 27 to escape her. One game in particular, Joan faced 65 shots.

"She's got enough trophies packed away to cover the length of this wall

(at least 10 feet)," said Scott.

Although Joan has cut back somewhat on her hockey participation, due to some minor lower back troubles sustained from her beloved sport, she still looks forward to each game.

"I've got mixed emotions on the Justin Blainey case (13 year old Toronto girl that won the right to play boy's hockey). She's 13 now so it's not that tough — it's when she gets 17 and 18 that things will get really tough," said Joan.

"But there are girl's hockey teams in Toronto that play really good hockey, rough hockey," added Scott.

Joan has been playing the position of goalkeeper for a number of years now and she's hoping to continue. Joan prides herself on the fact that she's the only example that men aren't the only people who can play ice hockey.

"If I have children and they're girls, and if they want, they'll be playing hockey."

Jr. Mustangs win Loyola basketball tournament

The Milton Mustangs junior boys basketball team gave themselves just the boost of confidence they were looking for this past weekend.

The junior eagers from Milton District High School obtained this shot of inspiration by capturing the championship title while competing in a tournament hosted by Loyola of Oakville. Milton was pitted against seven other teams from Halton and one from Mississauga.

Mustangs won all three of its games to earn the tourney crown. Milton defeated their hosts 67-41, Perdue 55-46 and then Queen Elizabeth Park 49-45 in the final.

In addition to their win, out of the eight teams vying for the championships, two MDHS players were named to the tournament's All-Star team. They are Lance Postma and Micky Hans.

Milton led throughout the first game against Loyola, receiving a stellar performance, up front from Postma, who tossed for 19 points and the star of the game Kelly Ewing, who scored 11 baskets. Guard Ben Swarbrick played an outstanding defensive game, while chipping in with 10 points.

Mustangs got off to a "very poor start" against Perdue in the second game according to co-coach Dave Mitchell. The junior eagers fell behind 13-2 by the end of the first quarter after giving up several turnovers, but managed to come back

in the second frame.

By the third quarter, Milton had regained its composure and the lead, as Hans led the offensive attack with 15 points. Postma had 12 and Antonucci struck with five consecutive foul shots. This combined with some fine defensive work, providing MDHS with a substantial lead in the fourth quarter.

The final matchup with Q.E. Park featured another classic come-from-behind win for Milton. Q.E. jumped out to a 26-16 lead with some "really superb" shooting and maintained its lead to 30-20 by halftime. Mustangs galloped back into the fray with determined efforts from Postma, Ewing and Swarbrick. Milton pulled out front with the lead in the fourth quarter and managed to hang on for the win.

Local bowlers reach final

Six men's 5-pin bowling teams from across Ontario have qualified to bowl in the provincial championships.

The qualifying teams are Central Ontario (Milton/Brampton), Huronia, St. Clair, Niagara-Ottawa and York West. The York West zone is the defending champion and two bowlers, Steve Kunopelky and Lorne Shook, are again members of this year's team.

Competition at the provincial level will be keen as the five teams line up to dethrone the Toronto West champions. The provincial finals will be bowled at Sherwood Centre in Hamilton from March 31 to April 2, with the winners advancing to the Canadian championships in Hull, Québec, in May.

The Central Ontario team is comprised of five members, including two from Milton — Al Hardiman and Don Pickard. The remainder of the squad includes three bowlers from Brampton and one from Terra Cotta



This Milton rink including skip Bob McDonald, vice Carol McDonald, Brian Ashford (vice president Gay Lea sponsor), lead Lee Davidson and Alan Davidson as

second won the Gay Lea Better Butter Bonspiel hosted at the Milton Curling Club over the weekend.

McDonald rink curls to title win

Milton Curler Bob McDonald made sure he didn't have butter fingers while competing in a local bonspiel this weekend.

It's a good thing too, otherwise his rink may not have become the overall winners at the fourth annual Gay Lea Better Butter Bonspiel, hosted by the Milton Curling Club. The competition featured 16 mixed teams, half from Milton, in four events. Other clubs visited

from Guelph, Burlington and Richmond Hill.

"Skip McDonald teamed with his wife Carol, who played vice. Second was Al Davidson, and his wife Lee was the lead. The bonspiel runners up were also from Milton. Jim Sifton skipped his foursome to three wins, his wife Anne was vice, second was John Burtwistle and his wife Barb, the lead, completed the rink.



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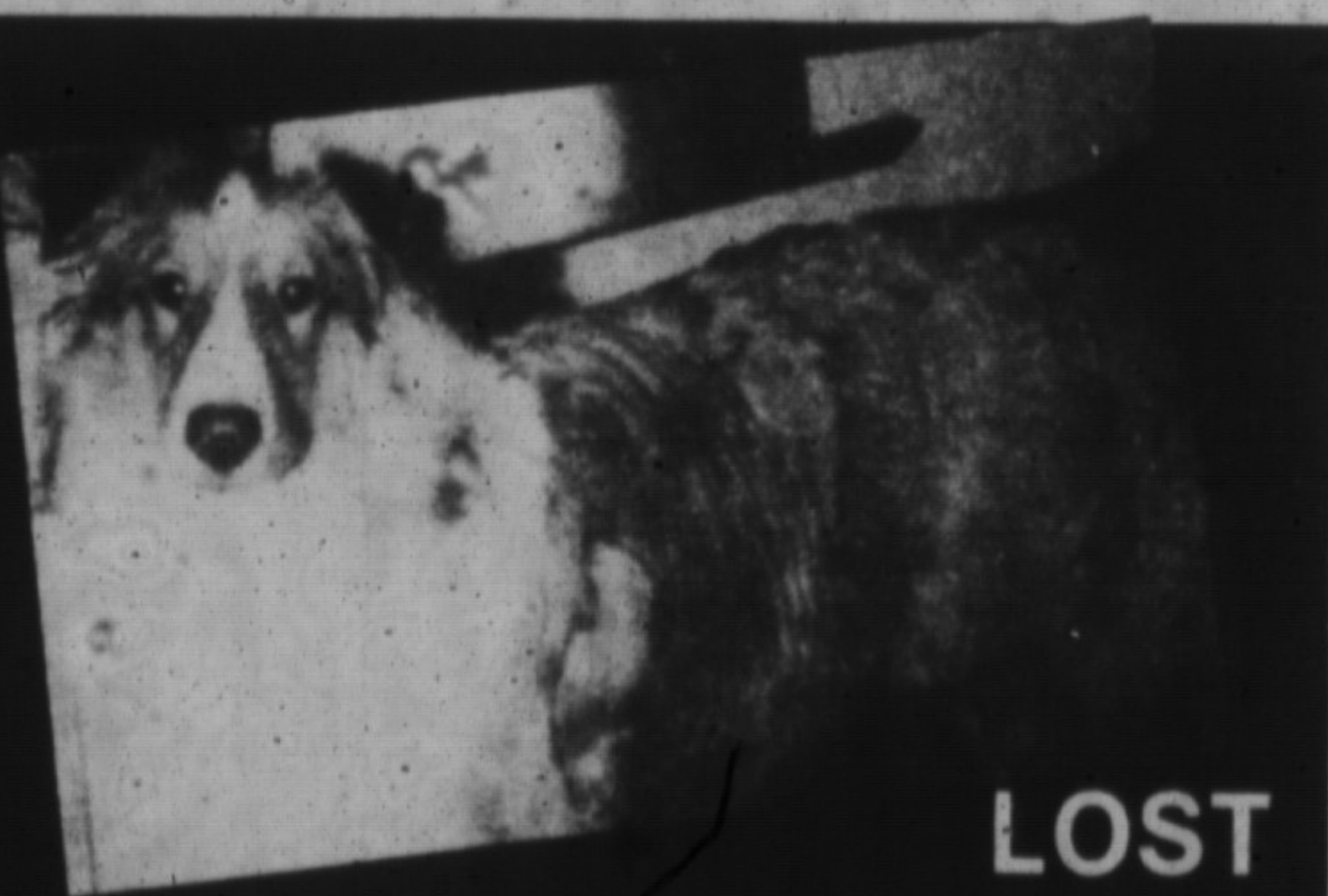
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