

Schmidt, ladies X-C team gives good performance

The World Cup ladies cross-country ski team recently put in some good performances in Europe, Angela Schmidt of Midland among their ranks.

The first race the girls competed in was March 5 in Lahti, Finland in a five kilometer race, Schmidt placing 34th in a field of 65 skiers.

Her teammates placed as follows: Esther Miller in 15th, Joan Groothysen in 22nd, Shirley Firth in 45th, her sister Sharon in 48th and Celine Giguere in 60th.

All racers for the Canadian Ladies' team were within one and a half minutes of the winning time.

Two days later, the ladies were in Falun, Sweden and their first race was a 20 kilometer race.

Shirley Firth was 12th in that race in which there were 50 racers and her time was within two minutes of the winning time.

Groothysen was next for Canada in 27th while Sharon Firth was 31st.

Miller placed 37th while Schmidt couldn't quite get anywhere as she struggled with wax problems on her skis.

Relay

The following day, Sharon and Shirley

Firth, Groothysen and Miller were entered in the four by five kilometer relay race and they placed fifth in a field of 12 teams.

Shirley Firth did extremely well in her particular leg of the race, finishing within 10 seconds of the fastest time recorded by any of the lady racers.

Race

The Canadian team's next race was in Oslo, Norway March 11 and a large field of competent Norwegian skiers dominated the top spots there.

Miller of the Canadian team placed the highest in 25th while Groothysen was 33rd, Shirley Firth 27th, Sharon Firth 37th and Schmidt 40th.

All Canadian ladies were within 15 seconds of each other showing how tight the race was for the five kilometer course.

Miller, Shirley Firth and Groothysen entered a three by five kilometer relay race the following day in which there were 17 teams entered.

After the first leg of the race, they were seventh in team standings but dropped to 11th after the second leg and held onto their 11th place finish at the end of the third leg.

Illness

Two days later, Schmidt began to feel ill so she decided to sit out the 20 kilometer race and rest up for her races in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories.

Shirley Firth placed 14th in the 20 kilometer race while Sharon Firth was 22nd, Groothysen in 34th and Miller in 38th.

Schmidt never really completely recovered but she continued to race when the team arrived in Whitehorse March 18.

In a North American five kilometer warmup race, Schmidt placed 14th out of a field of 50 racers.

Her teammates fared better with Shirley Firth finishing fifth, Miller in sixth, Groothysen in seventh and Sharon Firth in ninth.

A 10 kilometer World Cup race followed March 21 with Schmidt coming in 19th in a field of 55 competitors.

Shirley Firth was sixth in that race with her sister Sharon placing seventh, Miller 10th and Groothysen 14th.

Illness overtook Schmidt two days later and she was forced to drop out of the 10 kilometer North American race which wrapped up the proceedings.

World Cup class talent

Sharon Firth recorded the first Canadian Ladies' team win, taking the top honours in that race and her sister Sharon came in second.

Miller came in third to round out the top three spots with Groothysen taking fifth and Giguere coming in 11th.

There were 30 racers in that competition.

Upon returning to Midland, Schmidt was lamed up with a combination of the flu, tonsillitis, fever and a virus for three days but is up and around now.

Coverage

One thing that has come out of the races in Europe and Whitehorse, is the realization that coverage of downhill skiing is much better than cross-country skiing.

Schmidt sees this as a sad fact but adds the placings of the ladies cross-country teams are equivalent to a top ten placing by a Canadian downhill skier.

Yet, the recognition just isn't there. Nevertheless, Schmidt is not downhearted and says she will be there next year when the World Competitions come around again.

Run for Fun set

It's that time of year again when Midland and area runners are getting ready for the Midland YMCA-CKMP Run For Fun.

This year, it's the third annual event and it will be held April 26 at 2 p.m.

To be eligible for the run, you must have registered before April 25 and you are urged to practice so you won't strain yourself.

Start with a warm-up doing slow jogging and limbering exercises and then advance into a jogging run, ending off with a warm down.

Limit yourself to four to six practice sessions a week and don't try to race.

Starting point for the run will be Midland YMCA in Little Lake Park and there will be four courses set up, a two mile course or 3.2 kilometers for novices, four miles or 6.4 kilometers for intermediates, six miles or 9.6 kilometers for seniors and eight miles or 12.8 kilometers for masters.

Fees for entering the run will be one dollar for children 16 and under, two dollars for persons 17 and over, three dollars for couples, and 5 dollars for families. All participants will receive Run For Fun pins and there will be random hidden prizes along the course route.

For more information, call Dave Hamilton at Midland YMCA at 526-7828.

Forms are available at Midland YMCA with attached copies of the four routes.

The men, women and young people in the St. John Ambulance Brigade are thoroughly trained in First Aid, and must requalify every year.



Well done Bulls!

Midland Bulls Rugby team is off and running for another season. As a matter of fact the fellows will be in Ajax tomorrow taking part in a 12-man relay race and then a week tomorrow the club will be hosting Brock in a "friendly" on the pitch at

Midland Secondary School. Those interested in becoming a Midland Bull are invited to call John Nix but you must be prepared to take your lumps since rugby is probably the toughest teams sports of its kind ever invented.



The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 68 Penetanguishene

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 p.m.
Executive will meet 7:30 p.m.

Nominations for the 1981-82 executive will be held. Associate members (sons and daughters) are now eligible to hold a position on the executive. Members with voting privileges should attend and consider running for office.

Our Branch must continue to be progressive. To do so we need new ideas and some new blood.

What can you offer as a member?

See you Tuesday.

The Executive.

Ball hockey, anyone?

If you are over 18 years of age and would like to play senior ball hockey, you are asked to call Bill Puddicombe, Jr. at 549-7914 on weeknights between 5 and 8 p.m.

Midland Minor Baseball Registration

Sat., April 11
Midland Centennial Arena
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

T-Ball 4-8 Pony League 9-10

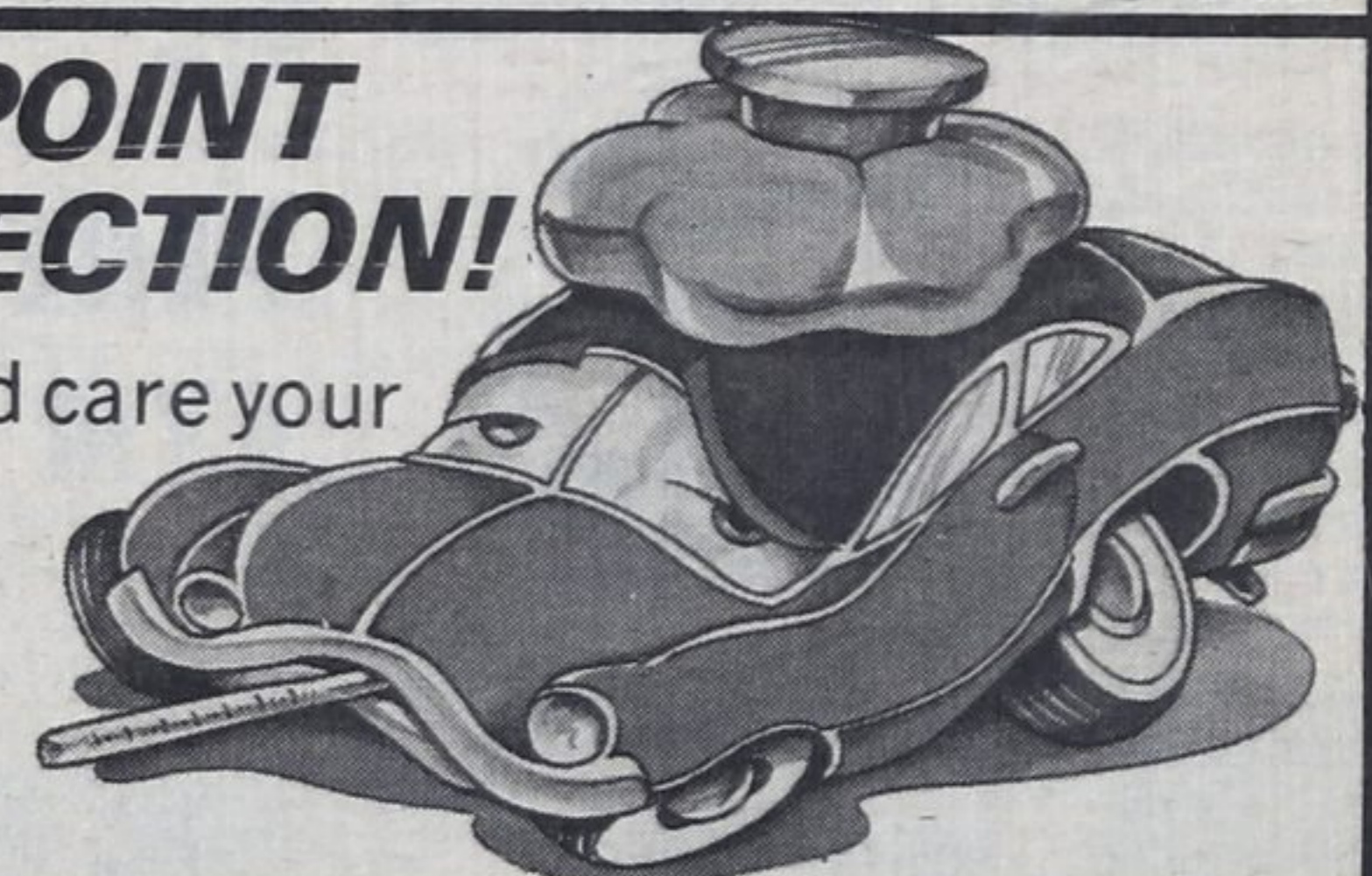
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