

Launching a new track season!

By Bob Thompson

Richmond Hill and Thornhill high school track and field athletes are presently hard at work preparing for the 1977 run, jump and throw season.

The new season is showing an increased interest in the hurdle events with Bayview, Thornhill, Langstaff and St. Robert's fielding a good calibre of competitors. Thornhill Secondary School, as is

traditional, will field a strong group of hurdle competitors.

Coach Keith Hotrum oozes enthusiasm for midgets Lisa Bates and Vivian Wood.

Juniors Patsy McLean, Joan Hon-surger, Ann Smith, and Andy Jackson are also expected to shine.

The middle distances will have OFSAA finalist Doug Brown and Tony Bryan showing well.

Thornhill's greatest strong is with the midget bracket with a surprise perhaps in the 100 metre relay.

Premier on the hurdles is Mary Ann Ball of Langstaff who has consistently achieved Ontario finalist ranking and should repeat again this year.

Mahal gone

Local sprint talent is at a low ebb with the departure of Eleanor Mahal of Markham and Liz Srebrnjak of Woodbridge although the first year midget competitors always seem to come up with a surprise or two each year.

St. Robert's school is high on Saskai Vreind, a junior, and Ball of Langstaff will probably repeat as the 200 metre representative.

Middle distance runners will have to contend with the Neufeld sisters of Markham, both Ontario champions at 800 metres.

The boys face the unhappy prospect of meeting Barrie's Mike Forgrave and Thornhill's Doug Brown.

Long distance

The long distance athletes stand a good chance to join Thornlea's Graham MacDonald and Peter McLelland at this year's finals. Bayview Secondary will field its usual strong team to battle with Thornlea for local supremacy.

In the field events Dennis Limoges of Thornlea appears to stand alone in the senior boys shot put while the midget boys could hold a couple of surprises from Richmond Hill High and St. Robert's.

Girls

The girls field events are generously sprinkled with the green and white of Richmond Hill High.

Seniors Cheryl Paxton and Leslie Rogers are back, both OFSAA representatives in discus and high jump. Junior Jane Toporowski returns for discus and shot put.

Bayview is currently rebuilding track and field interest among the area's largest student enrolment.

Twenty-six dedicated athletes train four days per week with the most potential being shown by the distance track competitors.

Showing good early season form are Steve Charles, 1500, Martin Stringer, 3,000, and Richard Thompson, 1500.

Hurdles

The hurdle duo of Darlene Christie and Jamie Willock are expected to do well as should senior Steve Vent in the sprints.

Couch Gerry Boguski considers that four or five of his athletes will advance past the Georgian Bay competition. He also feels confident that the red, black and white colors of Bayview will be around come Ontario finalist time.

MacDonald tops

Thornlea has high hopes riding on the strong legs of its 1500 and 3,000 metre runners led by OFSAA finalist Graham MacDonald, junior Peter McLelland, also an OFSAA finalist returnee.

Sue French also insures that the purple and white colors will be prominent at the Georgian Bay finals.

Other Thornlea athletes who will be difficult to dislodge from future competition are seniors Jim Vetere, 200, Dennis Limoges, shot put, and Terry McLelland, 400.

Midget Kirk Dickson and junior Nancy Davidson could surprise in the 400 metres.

Like most coaches in the south zone, Ross Balantyne has adopted a "wait and see" attitude concerning the Thornlea athletes.

But his enthusiasm for the senior and junior distance runners is hard to conceal. The team trains every day with 50 athletes attending practice.

St. Robert's

The orange and brown colors of St. Robert's Catholic School will be making a first-time appearance in local high school track and field competition.

Fifty athletes have been training daily under the watchful eyes of six volunteer staff members and coach Gerry Brand.

The junior team will be headed by Sakai Vreind, hurdles, and Sandra MacDonald, high jump, while Joan

Barton, shot put and discus, and Louis Ledinek, hurdles, could also record victories.

Best of a strong midget team appears to be Vivian Rutledge, hurdles, Karen Stuart, 100, Dave Matys, hurdles, and Norm Murphy, 800.

Coach Brand has expressed surprise at the lack of enthusiasm exhibited by this year's grade nine students but still feels his athletes will provide a few surprises in local track and field.

Girls strong

The oldest high school in the area, Richmond Hill High will field a team built on strength generated by their field competitors.

Seniors Cheryl Paxton, discus, and Leslie Rogers, high jump; juniors Jane

Toporowski, discus and shot put, and Lynn Whittingham, discus, are four Ontario finalists returning for another year.

Midget Dan Henderson, discus, and senior Leslie McGregor, sprints, show promise of also making the final trip to Sudbury.

Coach Jim Muir has 30 athletes training Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to carry the green and white colors of RHHS to victory.

In 1976 the south zone schools in our area qualified 11 boys and 11 girls to the Ontario finals.

In 1977 we can look for an increase in these numbers as the schools commence their specialized training programs.

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(Photo by Hogg)



(Photo by Hogg)



fred simpson

Meet the coach

I think it would be only proper to call a one minute's silence at this point. We've lost Ken "Satch" Brookes. Too bad. He was a nice fellow, had lots of promise.

He's joined the ranks of other such hockey types as Carl Brimblecombe, Pete Artemchuk, Ralph Beer, and you could go on forever.

I guess I should explain. Ken was named coach of the Richmond Hill Provincial Junior A hockey Rams last week. He replaced the deposed Mr. Brimblecombe. Those other fellows are coaches, too.

Why am I going on like this? Simply because I've been acquainted with Ken for the past nine years since he started out as a "stats" man, was later trainer and assistant coach, with the fledgling Rams' Junior C's of those days.

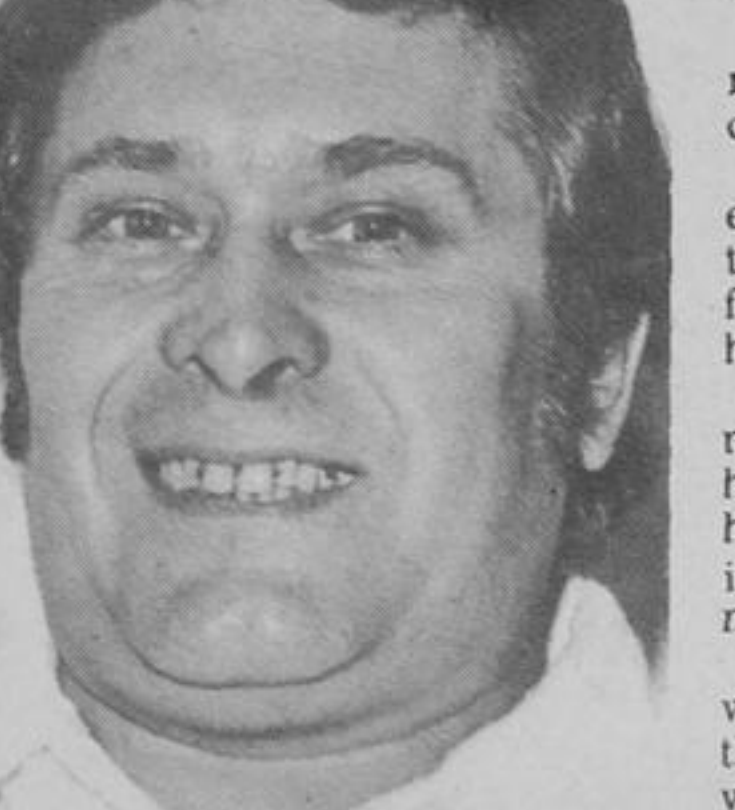
He always appeared to be a rational fellow, has lived in Richmond Hill for 15 years, has two daughters named Jackie, 15; Carolyn, 14; and wife Carol.

Nice pool
Also has a nice house, swimming pool, and a new car. Now why would he want to become a hockey coach, a coach period? Especially in these uncertain times.

That's what I asked him the other day.

Ken thought for a moment and then blamed his wife.

"She made it easier when she pointed out I was around the rink five nights a week anyway. I might as well have the headaches that go with being a coach."



Ken Brookes
...Rams coach

Here comes Carrie

Hey, watch where you land. Carrie Collett of Thornlea secondary school literally hurdles her way into new high school track season.



(Photo by Hogg)

Heading for home

Thornlea secondary school's Graham MacDonald (far right) turns on the speed as he leads the pack in pre-season workout in preparation for another busy track season. MacDonald is

expected to be a standout again in distance running with the potential to rack up a championship.

Wheeeeeee!

Steve Sherman of Thornlea turns move during practice workouts temporary flyer here as he last week. Oh by the way, he did executes a running broad jump land eventually.

Busy days right ahead

By Bob Thompson

RICHMOND HILL — An additional qualifying competition has been added to the 1977 area high school track and field competitions for York South.

The series of qualifying meets decide the final entries in the Ontario finals to be held in Sudbury this year.

In past years, winners at the Georgian Bay Outdoor championships advanced directly to the Ontario finals. In 1977 there is a further qualifying meet after the Georgian Bay competitions.

This will be held in Brantford May 28. Purpose of the additional competition is to reduce the number of athletes competing in the Ontario finals. Last year's discus final, for example, saw 38 girls' qualifying for competition. This will be reduced to 12 this season.

The schedule for 1977 starts May 12 with the south zone elimination meet at Thornlea Secondary School. The following Thursday the York Regional championships are scheduled at Etobicoke Stadium.

This will be followed by the Georgian Bay championships in Parry Sound the next Tuesday.

Subsequent weekends will see the OFSAA semi finals in Brantford May 28 and the Ontario finals on the following June 3 and 4 weekend.

All high schools in the southern zone have commenced outdoor training in anticipation of these competitions.