



On your way, Graham

Markham High's Craig Chuba, left, hands the baton to Graham MacDonald of Thornlea high and he's on his way to complete this area's miles in the big Cross Canada Run to celebrate High School Sport

Week in Canada. The baton will eventually travel right across Canada. Proceeds go to high school sports. All area relay teams participated. The pick-up was at the town hall Wednesday of last week.

Hill soccer league hosts Mexico squad

By Jane Stel

Richmond Hill will get a taste of some "south of the border" soccer action come the last week of July and the first week of August.

That's when a Major Mosquito team from Mexico will be competing against one in the Richmond Minor Soccer Association.

The boys will be billeted by the parents of the local team. A series of exhibition games and social events are being prepared for the 10 day visit.

This will be one of the highlights during another booming season forecasted for 1977 with 525 youngsters registered

to date. There will also be a senior ladies' team ages 18 years and up organized for the first time.

Formation of the teams is now under way and all registered players should be receiving word from their respective coaches within the next 7 to 10 days.

Town representative team coaches have already been out trying to get their teams together. A Soccer-A-Thon has been scheduled for June with hopefully all players participating.

The association hopes to raise some money for its development fund. Monies raised will be

richmond hill minor soccer

shared equally with York Central Hospital. More details on this later.

The Richmond Hill Minor Soccer Association will have a float in the Richvale Lions Youth parade next Saturday.

Any youngsters from the soccer association wishing to participate in this event should be at Pearson Park by 12 noon in order to be in the line-up.

The parade will then proceed to Hillcrest Mall's parking lot where anyone wishing to sponsor one of our local teams should call Les Trotman at 884-6317. Any prospective coaches should contact Ed Kenny at 883-1253.

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Starting gun fires!

By Bob Thompson

Track and field competitions among the local high schools fires off Thursday at the Thornlea track.

The south zone, consisting of Bayview Secondary School, Thornlea, Langstaff, Thornhill, St. Roberts, Woodbridge and Markham, have always provided keen competition and Ontario finalists in this sport.

Enthusiasm to capture the overall award at the York County championships seems to be secondary this season among the six local teams participating.

Emphasis appears to be placed on the development of individual athletes for the Georgian Bay and OFSAA competitions.

In my view, lack of proper training facilities, increased qualifying competitions, and finances, have combined to cause this setback in enthusiasm for track and field by local high schools.

The pathetic facility situation with Richmond Hill is well known with only one 400-metre track at Langstaff Secondary School being available and this facility is in need of extensive repair.

The addition of yet another qualifying meet after the Georgian Bay finals is designed to minimize the number of competitors who will advance to the OFSAA finals in Sudbury one week later.

Final exam time has always been pressing close on the heels of the track and field season and the loss of study and classroom time has never sat well with many of the local educators.

The lack of proper facilities also forces our high schools to travel great distances for the championship meets. This year's York County championships will be held outside the region at Etobicoke Stadium in Metro Toronto, the Georgian Bay finals are slated, once again for Parry Sound... a good two hours drive north.

A semi-final meet for OFSAA is scheduled for Brantford, 100 miles to the west; then the OFSAA

finals are in Sudbury, over a two day period in the hinterlands of our province.

It is of little wonder that many of the high schools have cut back from large, everyone participates teams, to select coaching

for only the enthusiastic and talented athletes.

Eventually this emphasis on key athletes will add track and field to the casualty list which already includes football and senior girls basketball.



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