

THE SPORTS BEAT

By Glen May



Come golf with me

If you're a golf addict and you just happen to be in the cottage country of Lake Simcoe, it's a must to visit The Briars Golf and Country Club at Jackson's Point.

The Briars is situated in a lush veldt of greenery in Ontario. It's fairways were first opened in 1922, and although it is registered as a private course, guests of the adjacent lodge are allowed to play, provided they pay a green fee.

A few days ago I journeyed the 50 miles north of Toronto and became a guest at the lodge, also named The Briars. It is run by a most congenial host, John Sibbald, and he has a "working agreement" with the golf course. John informed me that "two-thirds of the guests" use the golf course facilities.

Picking up my putter, I wandered over to the pro shop, window-shopped my way to the cash register and looked up. I encountered a smiling face and a pleasant personality, who, after a few minutes of conversation, turned out to be the club professional, Fred Allin.

Naturally, we talked golf, and naturally, the pros and cons of golf coverage via newspapers. Our chatter was only interrupted by golfers signing in or dropping by for their clubs or to borrow a putter or make a purchase. After about 10 minutes of this, I realized Fred Allin had a good thing going.

But this didn't seem absurd or out-of-place. Fred is the type of individual you can't help but take an immediate liking to, as his "hi, you're welcome" attitude predicated his every move and speech. This became apparent as a few of the people passing through the pro shop just stopped by to chat and say hello. To react on the public this way, you have to have that special something.

During our conversation, it was discovered that we had a couple of mutual friends. Fred commutes each day from Orillia, a 40-minute drive from The Briars. He explained that he has just finished building and winterizing a cottage and drives back and forth each day as he doesn't want to leave his wife alone.

Get the picture? Fred Allin — an A-1 nice guy.

Well, off I went, charging onto the first tee and slammed a low shot, hooking it behind a shrub. Being an eternal optimist, I gambled on a wood for the next shot and cracked a beauty, 35 feet ahead into another bush.

Let me tell you that The Briars is one beautiful golf course. It's nine holes of challenge stretching over 3,081 yards.

Although I was considering a blow-by-blow description of my turn on the links, I'll spare you the boredom. Let's just say it was my first game of the year, I only scored the first nine, and carded a 44 which included three pars.

'Nuff said about that.

I did want to mention that, after having played on many of Canada's golf courses, The Briars will rank with most of them for both a test and a picturesque setting. The course consists of two three's, two five's and five four's.

The only true birdie holes are the fifth and seventh. The seventh is 110 yards straight away to a large and true green. The fifth is a short and straight easy four. It's only 295 yards.

The next time you're in Lake Simcoe country, drop into The Briars and set a spell. You'll meet a couple of fine fellas and have a most pleasurable time.

I might even see you there.

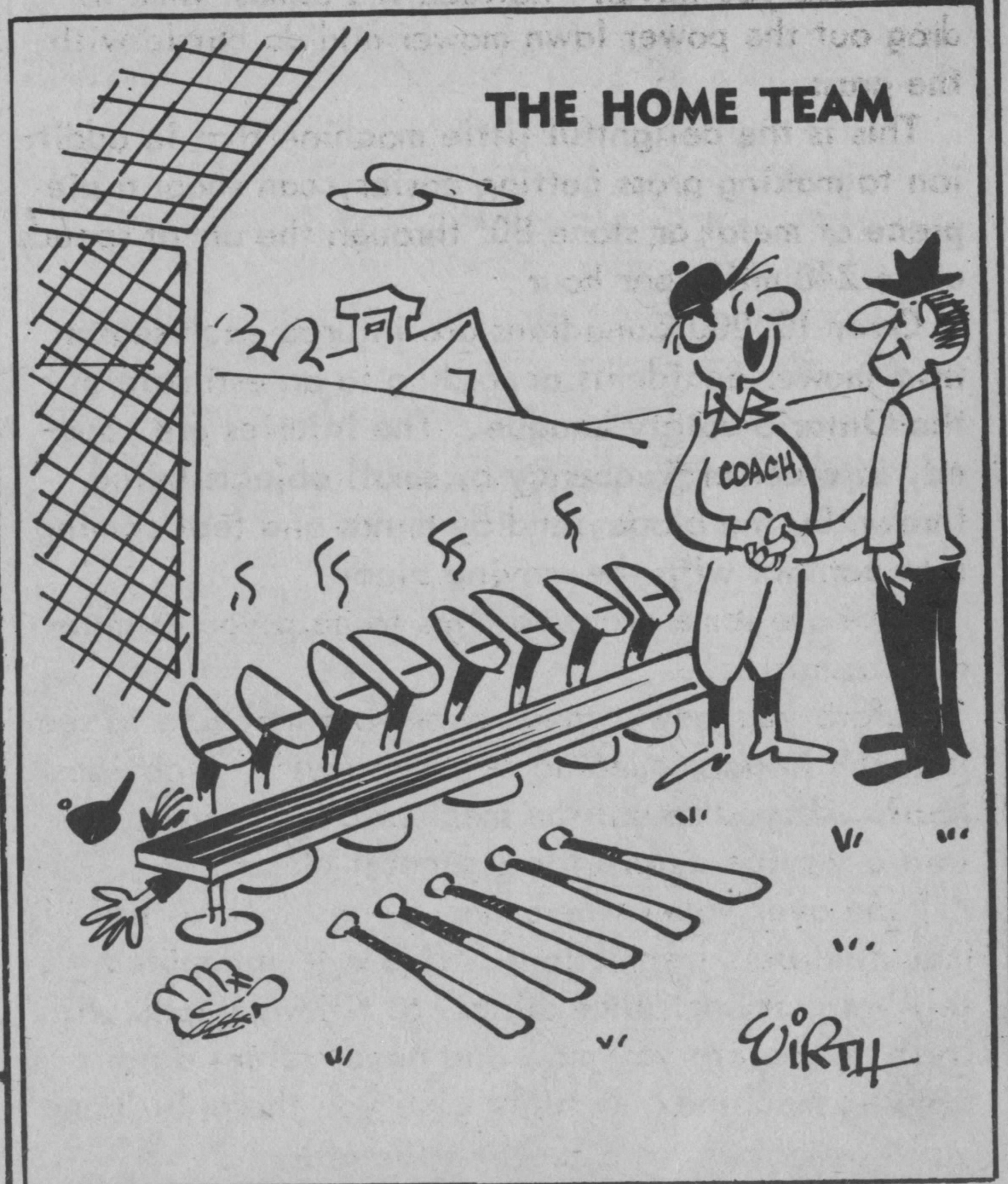


Shown in the photo at left by Marg Lundburg, is Wanda Gorman, who won Honorable Mention in the North Western Ontario Conservation Poster Contest for 1968, in the Lakehead division.

SCHREIBER LIBERALS ARE CONFIDENT

The third meeting of the Schreiber Liberal Association was held May 17th. President Harold McParland reported on the Atikokan nomination meeting. This was attended by eight delegates of the Schreiber riding.

All felt that they have a winner in the election of Keith Penner, who was chosen to lead the Liberals in the Thunder Bay Riding. Newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer Lawrence Trembley, reported on the financial statement.



"It's our first win of the season!"

MAKE IT PAY

Efficiency experts are men who claim they can teach others how to mind their own business.