

# Markham teams can't use fields

**By STEVE NICHOLS**  
If any of Markham or Unionville's high school rugby teams have a bad season, they could put part of the blame on the Markham Parks and Recreation department.

It appears the teams are not allowed to play on their respective fields until May 1 because the department wants the fields to dry. So where have the schools been practicing for the upcoming season that starts this week?

Right now, the Unionville High School (UHS) junior squad, coached by Mike Clare, is training on a corn field off to the side of the school.

"We've been practicing on corn stubble and gravel," said Clare,

who was at the reigns of last year's Senior Ontario Champion Markham District High School (MDHS).

"And when I need a flat surface, I practice in the parking lot. It will be a disadvantage because the team is starting from scratch," he added.

MDHS Senior, Junior and Midget teams practice "on odd bits of ground around the edges of the field," according to Junior coach Dave Harris.

And Brother Andre Catholic High School's Midget team is tuning up for its first season on the pavement and in the gymnasium.

However, with this problem facing the local schools, the favorite to take the York title at all levels again this year is MDHS.

But, according to Clare, UHS's first-year Juniors "will be giving Markham a good run for its money. "Markham has always been the proverbial team to beat, but we have a lot of potential," he said.

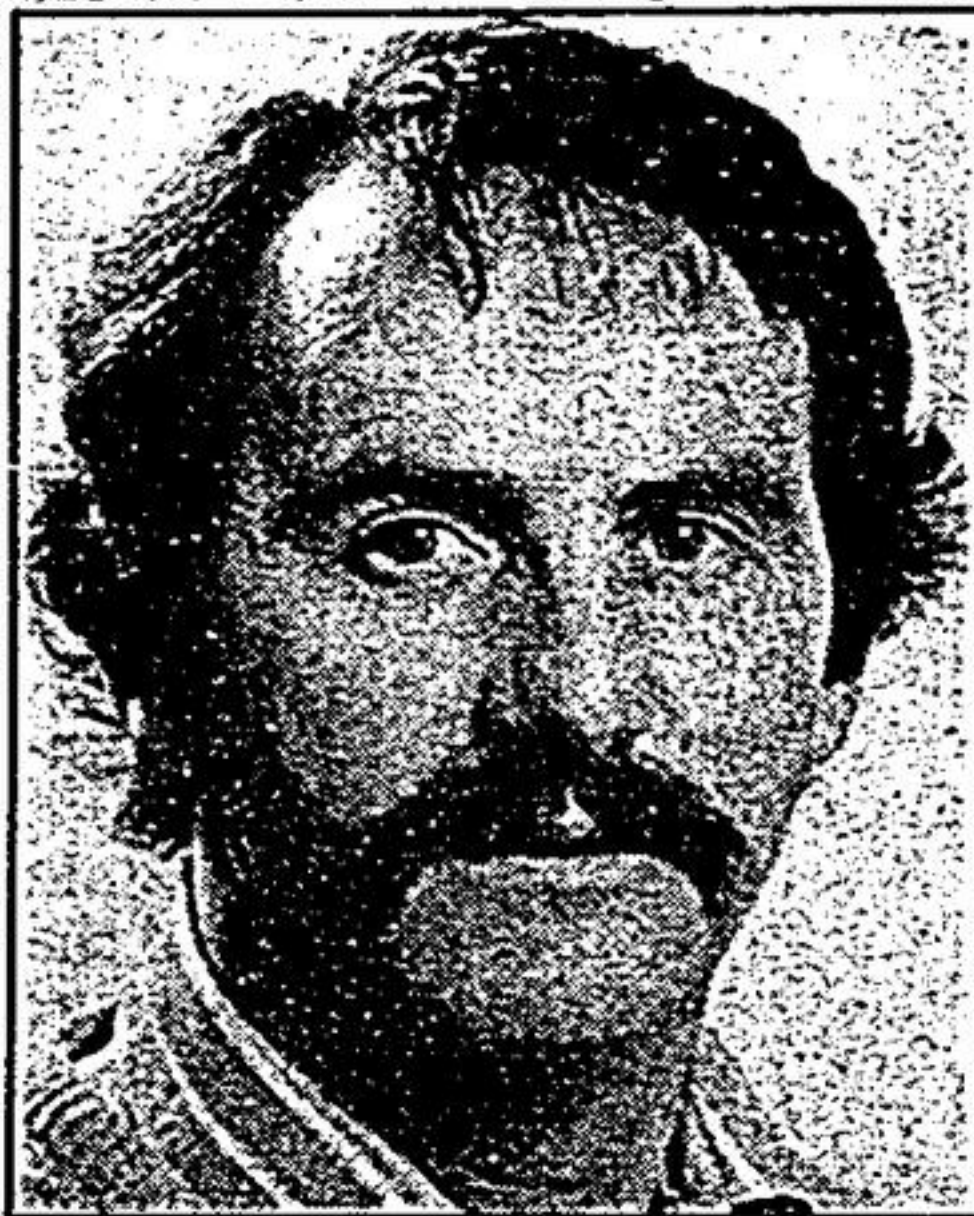
Leading the way for UHS will be captain John Naoum, forward Mark Kline, back Horace Martin and prop Rick Lopez.

This is a young, inexperienced roster, but Clare but believes this will not be a disadvantage.

"I think the boys will rise up to the occasion and gain a lot of experience (as the season progresses)," he explained.

The first-year mentor considers the team's strength to lie in its determination and the play of the forwards, but the squad "will also have to work on its back play."

Clare probably based his confidence on the squad's first outing, a



**IAN ODGERS**  
MDHS Midgets inexperienced

4-4 exhibition draw with Thornlea. Along with UHS, competing in the Junior loop are Huron Heights, Thornhill, King City, Thornlea and MDHS.

According to MDHS Junior mentor Dave Harris, his team is "looking strong — I think."

This year's squad is basically last season's Midget team (winners of the '85 Georgian Bay and Ontario high school crowns) so Harris is optimistic about his chances. The team's strength will be its backs.

"They look like they're going to be strong runners and good ball handlers," he said.

On the other hand lack of game experience will be the squad's major weakness.

"They're first year Junior players so they've had only 18-20 rugby games in their entire life," the Markham resident pointed out. "That's always a difficult thing to overcome because they haven't had the exposure to rugby."

Harris' coaching philosophy is to concentrate on individual skills and because of the lack of practice space, he has had time to put his theory into affect.

"I'm a big believer that if you can get a whole lot of players that have good individual skill then the team skills will come a little later," he explained.

Expected to shine this year for the Juniors are David and Andrew Gallifent, and Paul Kerr, who transferred from Ottawa.



**DAVE BROWN**  
Back for MDHS Seniors

MDHS's Jim George takes over from Clare at the helm of last year's senior Ontario champs, and he believes the squad's chances of repeating are good.

"There's only two teams in our league (York Region) this year and that's Woodbridge and Huron Heights. So league competition will be a tune up for the Georgian Bay finals," he predicted.

To compensate for the lack of league games, George has lined up several tournaments, including a competition at Anderson Collegiate in Pickering.

Returning from last year are Eric Grant, Kevin Wilson, Brian Bastien, Scott Mcleod, John Hick, Jim

Monk, Brian McMaster, Todd Owens, Paul House, Dave and Chris Brown, Iain Forster, Jamie Aldcorn and Mike Lind.

Coming up from the junior ranks are Ken Jorgenson, Dave Spence, Brian Izzard and Chris Angliss.

The MDHS Midgets will be coached for the 10th year by Ian Odgers, who's hoping for another provincial title.

It's mainly a brand new squad for Odgers, but he'll still have the services of returnees Scott Stover and Chris Lloyd-Smith.

Along with the team's inexperience, he believes the lack of practice space will be a factor in his crew's play this year.

MDHS will compete this season against Thornhill, King City, St. Roberts and Brother Andre.

But Odgers considers most of the competition will come from schools in the Durham Region.

Trying to wrestle the title from MDHS Midgets in '86 will be Brother Andre, Markham's new Catholic high school.

The first-year team will be coached by rookie mentor Rick Maloney. And he definitely is a rookie.

Maloney will be learning for the first time, along with his team, the fundamentals of rugby. Helping teach the Midgets will be co-coach Dominic Scuglia.

Maloney is realistic about his team's chances this year.

"I don't think we'll win a lot of games, but the kids are very eager and enthusiastic," he pointed out.

## Novices lose pair

The Markham Rotary Club Novices dropped a pair of hockey games in a recent 108-team Montreal tournament.

A third-period goal enabled St. Hubert to blank the locals 1-0 in the first game, which was dubbed the world's largest Novice competition.

In the second game, Markham did manage two goals but its opponents, Federation Sportif '76, tallied five.

Scoring were were Brett Strano and Scott Cavanagh. Assists went to Ryan Treacy and Mark Ellwood.

## 5 Winstonettes in provincials

Five local residents will be jumping, swinging and tumbling in Ottawa May 10 and 11.

Winstonette Gymnastic Club members Lynsey Coughlin, Brige Cheung, Erin Egan, Erin Fleming and Stephanie Kruuk, along with two coaches, will help represent the Metro East team in the provincial finals.

They reached the championship after qualifying at the third and final Metro East Regional meet held last weekend in Oshawa.

Also joining the team from the Markham club are Scarborough's Kari Peters and Tanya Semeniuk.

The Argo A team will consist of Coughlin and Egan from Markham, Cheung from Milliken, and Peters.

Ranked second on the provincial team, Coughlin made the squad after attaining scores of 9.05 (out of 10) on the vault, 8.66 on the uneven bars, 8.1 on the balance beam and 9.25 (first) on the floor exercise for a fifth-place overall score of 35.06 points.

Cheung, ranked fifth on the team, registered marks of 9.15 (third) on the vault, 8.3 on the uneven bars, 8.6 on the beam and 9.2 (second) on the floor exercise for a

fourth-place overall score of 35.25.

Fleming from Unionville will be the only representative on the Tyro B team.

Ranked second on the team, she attained scores of 8.4 on the vault, 8.3 on the bars, 8.8 (first) on the

(CONT. ON PAGE 24)



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