

Weekender

Sports

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Unionville barefoot skier sets a record

By PAUL PIVATO
When it comes to slicing barefoot through the water, tow rope firmly clenched in teeth, Union-

ville's Ken Harper is one of Canada's ablest tacticians. At the Eastern Canadian Barefoot Water Ski Tourna-

ment last Saturday in Ottawa, Ken set a new Canadian barefoot slalom record.

He shattered the old mark by nearly 100 points.

The 14-year-old Unionville High School student was the tournament's overall champion and grabbed three gold medals in his first official competition.

Ken, who's been barefoot skiing for five years, also took first place in the boys slalom and tricks competition.

In the summer Ken practices with his father Jim at the family's Muskoka cottage.

And when the lakes turn to sheets of ice, Ken heads down to the Barefoot International school in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he skis with the world barefoot slalom champion.

While attending barefoot school in Florida this winter Ken added some new "tricks" to his repertoire.

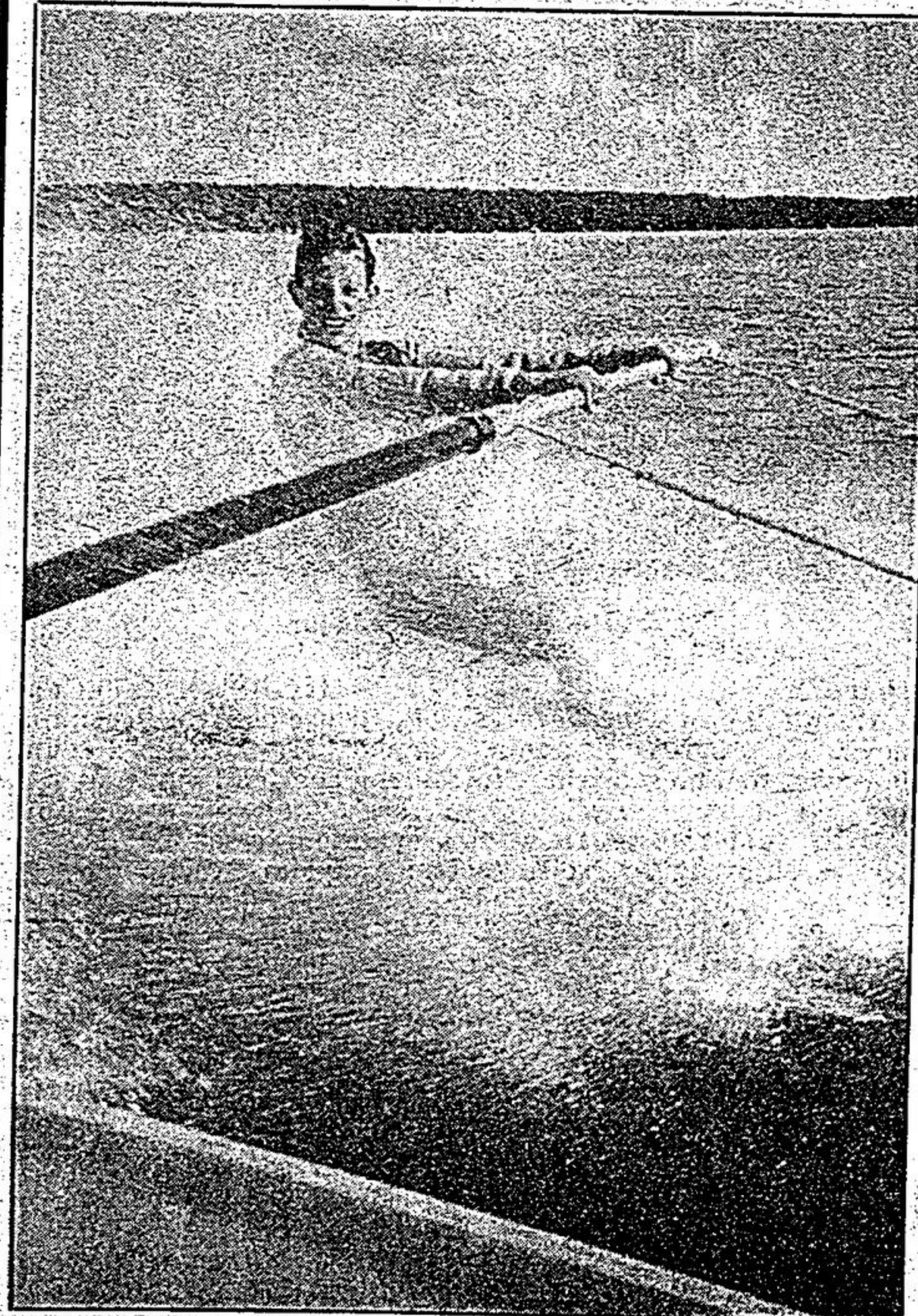
His new tricks — such slight of foot skills as tumble turns and toe holds — were quite evident at last weekend's competition when he dethroned the reigning Tricks Champion of Canada.

Ken also performed surface jumps, a trick where the skier jumps into the air, as well 180 degree turns while skiing backward and barefoot.

His more heady tricks involved clenching the tow rope with his teeth and wrapping the rope behind his neck.

"The sport is so young and developing so fast," said Mr. Harper, who identified the Americans and Australians as among the world's most dexterous and sure-footed skiers.

Ken plans to enter another tournament and ski with some members of the Canadian barefoot team that will compete in the world championships in West Germany this August.



Fourteen-year-old Ken Harper of Unionville, shown in action here, is one of the top barefoot water skiers in Canada.

Peewees stun Richmond Hill

Dave Rudy went the distance for Markham as the Chesebrough-Pond's Peewees stunned Richmond Hill 12-3 in recent York Simcoe baseball league action.

In a return engagement however, Richmond Hill doubled the score on Markham 8-4. And, in tournament action in Niagara Fall last weekend, Markham won its first two games before bowing out to a powerful Stratford squad.

In league play, Rudy allowed only four hits and struck out three for the win. Brad Prentice went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored three runs and managed one RBI. Bill Field had three hits on three trips to the plate and knocked in two runs.

In the second game, Steve Soobrattee's valiant efforts at the plate and as a reliefer weren't enough as Markham lost 8-4 to Richmond Hill.

Soobrattee scored two runs and smacked a single and a triple in a losing cause. He also struck out the side when called on to relieve

starter Mark Pullen in the seventh inning.

Markham Peewees started out well in the Niagara Falls tournament nipping South West London 7-5 and edging Oak Ridges 7-6. However they were eliminated 12-8 by Stratford in their third game.

Against London, Prentice had one run and one RBI to lead the Markham offense while Perry Brazeau picked up the win on the mound.

Rudy and Soobrattee teamed up on the mound in the second game to edge Oak Ridges. Prentice went two for four at the plate and scored two runs and knocked in a run. Bill Field had two hits and one run and Kevin Rout had one RBI and stole home to score a run.

In a losing cause against Stratford, Rudy managed two hits, two runs and two RBIs and Soobrattee was three for four at the plate with a home run and two RBIs.

Soobrattee and Kevin D'Andrea shared the pitching duties in the loss.

It's a hole in one

Some people buck all the odds — they get struck by lightning or win a \$10 million prize in the lottery.

And although he never took a lightning bolt in the chest or raked in a bundle of lotto bucks, Micheal Thomas of Libeck Crescent in Unionville beat all the odds.

On July 28 at approximately 7:15 p.m., the 59-year-old Unionville man shot a hole-in-one.

Using a pitching wedge, Mr.

Thomas sliced a 90 yard shot from the 9th hole of Unionville Fairways.

He and his wife Doreen watched as the ball hit the green, took one bounce, and plopped into the cup.

"I threw my arms up in the air and dropped the club," recalled Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas said it was his first hole-in-one since he started smacking golf balls back in 1964.

Markham Soccer

Manning boots two to pace Mosquitos

Cheryl Manning booted in a pair of goals to pace the Knob Hill Farms minor Mosquito girls soccer team to a 5-2 victory over the Richmond Hill Lions.

The locals led 3-1 after the first half on goals by Manning, Tracy Richard and Suzanne Dixon.

Richmond Hill turned on the firepower in the second half but Markham's defence — bolstered by Sadie Parr, Dalene Tamkei and Jacqueline Adams, called up from the Service Tire Atoms — held the opposition to just a goal.

Heather Black scored and Manning notched her second of the game to round out the scoring for the locals.

The Minor Mosquito's victory snapped a two-game losing streak.

Mitchell leads Mosquito girls

In other action, Wendy Mitchell



ANDREA PARK
Scores for Mosquitos

connected for five goals as Markham's Dairy Queen mosquito girls trounced a short-handed

King City squad 9-1.

Kimberly Gellard netted a pair of goals while Andrea Park and Cindy Ryan each picked up a lone marker for the locals.

King City scored its only goal on a penalty kick.

Senior men edge Alliston 3-2

Playing one man short in the first half, Markham's McArthur Ford senior men's soccer squad held on to edge Alliston 3-2 last Saturday.

Captain Mike Riddell continued his scoring streak with a pair of goals while James McMillan picked up a single for the hometown team.

Frank Fiore and Neil Cooke played strong games for the locals in the backfield.



Stephen Williams (left), Kevin Hoo, John Edwards and Angelo La Rosa battle for the ball during Under 8 action in the Markham-Unionville Soccer Club's invitational tournament last weekend.

— Bill Lanning