

Uxbridge touch football

Some out for fun, some out to win

BY KELLY CONNELLY

The Gorgon Touch Football League in Uxbridge is divided into two groups — the serious teams and the not-so-serious clubs.

Deciding what category the Goodwood Partiers or Beach Boys fall into isn't very hard. It's a good bet these squads will end up in the bottom consolation tier come playoff time in November.

The "serious" contenders

Then come the serious contenders. To listen to Team 4's Bob Forsythe describe the inherent gap between strong and weak clubs, you get the feeling his club can do no wrong.

"We play everybody, but we only take a few of the teams seriously," he says of the 10-team league.

Does Team 4, which lost the semifinal last year to eventual champion Uxbridge Printing, have any areas it must work on? "We don't have to improve," Forsythe bluntly points out.

Well, what are the squad's strengths? "Everything, our offence, our defence, our kicking. Uxbridge Printing got lucky last year, in my opinion."

Asked if there was a team most likely to give Team 4 a tough challenge, Forsythe replied "The Chiefs will give us the roughest time because they are the second best team in the league — behind us."

Another serious club

Steve Kloosterman of the Chiefs — another serious club — doesn't agree. "We've dominated Team 4 in the last two years. They haven't beaten us in

two seasons," he contends. The Chiefs, defending playoff champs in '84, lost last year's final to the Printers 37-12.

"As long as our players keep showing up and we maintain our strong nucleus, we're going to be up and rising," Kloosterman promises. "St. John's might give us problems though. They're a strong company team and new to the league."

Stable contenders

Printing's Ron Rolston says his club won't let go of the '85 crown that easily. "Our team is exactly the same as last year. We seem to be pretty stabilized. We're going to be the team to beat," he warns.

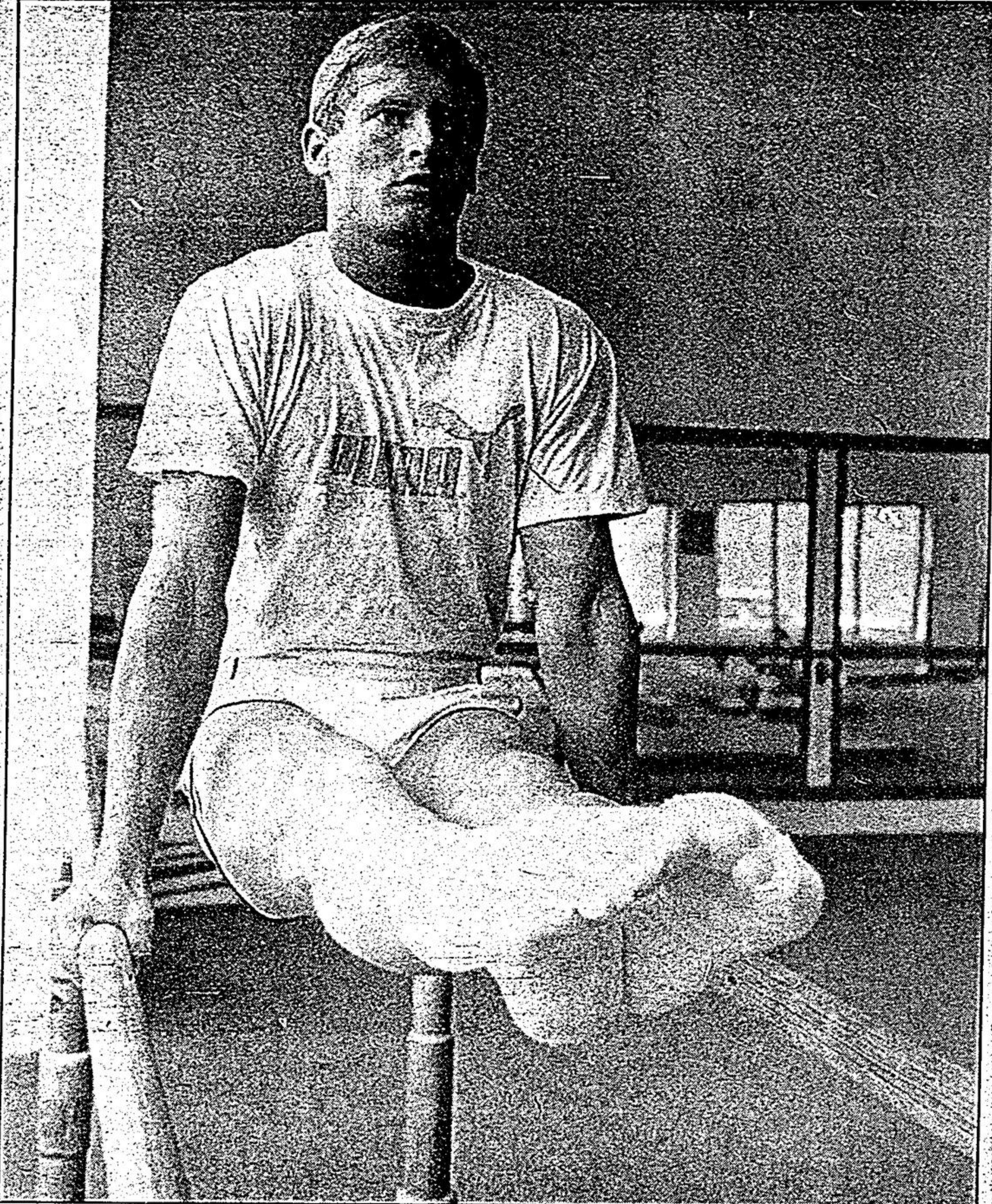
Although Printing lost its opener 29-22 to Team 4, Rolston isn't worried. "Our defence was a little suspect after (the loss), but Team 4 should never have scored 29 points against us."

The fun stuff

Enough serious bragging. On the not-so-serious front, Goodweed's Martin Swaffield doesn't hesitate to flagellate his own club. "I don't think we have any strengths this season. We need faster guys. We need a quarterback too," he chuckles.

"Really, we're just a bunch of guys out to have fun." And where did the team get its raunchy name — Goodweed Partiers? "It happened one Halloween. Someone changed the signs in Goodweed to read Goodweed."

The teams play their games every Sunday at the high school field behind Uxbridge Secondary. Tomorrow the Chiefs take on St. John's at 10 a.m.



Training in Markham

German gymnast Greg Oortwyn, 22, has been taking time out to train at the Markham Gymnastics Club while visiting his father in Canada. Oortwyn, recovering from a knee injury, is a member of the Hanover club that won Germany's national title in both 1984 and '85.

— Frank King

Softball Mite boys fail to take title

The Unionville Fruit Company softball Mite boys had not one, but two chances of taking their league title. But apparently even that wasn't enough.

Thornhill had to beat the squad twice last weekend to win the York-Durham League Championship and pulled it off, forcing the locals into second spot.

First try

In the first game, Unionville destroyed East Gwillimbury 25-2, in a mercy-rule victory. Kevin Mason, Chris Markson and Eric Goodwin each had two hits, with Markson and David Cox smashing home runs.

Grant Barbesin scored four runs, with three apiece coming from Randy Pipher, Kevin Scott and David Gauthier. Kevin Mason, Goodwin, and Kevin Hogg all came home twice.

Four RBIs were collected by Pipher, three by Hogg, and two each by Goodwin and Cox.

Win against Malvern

Unionville's big accomplishment was beating Malvern for the first time this season, by an 8-7 margin. Pipher and Goodwin

each scored twice on two hits. Cox also had two RBIs.

The locals slipped past Markham 7 to 5 in game three. Scott and Cox each stroked two hits, with Cox scoring twice. Paul Davies crossed the plate three times, and Markson earned two RBIs.

The first championship tangle was a 6-1 loss. Thornhill never looked back after scoring four times in the first inning on 2 hits and two Unionville errors.

That loss may have taken the momentum away from the boys, because they blew the second battle (and the championship) by an 11-1 count. Goodwin had the lone run.

Unionville finished the season with a record of 27 wins and 19 losses. They scored 498 runs and had 353 scored against them.

An exhibition outing against Milliken saw Unionville score twice in the bottom of the eighth inning to take a 3-1 victory.

Kevin Hogg had the first run by stealing home in the fourth inning, while Randy Pipher and Kevin Scott crossed the plate in the eighth.

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