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Second Section

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Former gymnast

Marilynn Hayden recalls Olympics of another era

By NATE GILDERDALE
With the start of the 1988 Summer Olympic Games, athletes from all over the world will go through one of the most overwhelming, emotional experiences of their lives. For former Olympic gymnast Marilyn Hayden (nee Marilyn Miner), the memory of that experience will stay with her forever.

some of whom were 14 years old. In 1962, she was all-round gymnastics champion in the Metro Toronto Gymnastics Championships in the 16 and under class.

her dreams recalled when she was selected to represent Canada at the Olympic Games in October of that year.

New challenge

With countless hours of practice and the pressure of school work, it would have been difficult for most people to find time to sleep. In fact, Hayden says, she had to take on new challenges. Marilyn not only participated in other activities, she managed to excel at all of them. She was Junior Public Speaking Champion at Cedarbrae Secondary School and was crowned Miss Scarborough Cheerleader, taking part in the Grey Cup parade when she was 15.

Hall of Fame

In July 1964, Marilyn's name was added to the Hall of Fame Recreation Honor Roll at Birchmount Stadium, and the list of awards and medals kept on growing. On November 11, 1965, just before her 16th birthday, disaster struck when she fell during a workout at the gym, and tests revealed a blood clot on the brain.

She participated in track and field, horseback riding and softball. She was a member of the school choir and played flute in the school band. She was also an avid painter. Much of the credit for her drive and enthusiasm was the result of her parents' encouragement and caring.

Natural aptitude

Marilynn trained with the Scarborough Winstoneites and the Scarborough Police Youth Club, but even before her formal training began, she showed a natural aptitude for athletics and was often to be found hanging upside down from trees, swinging in heart-stopping backflips or cartwheeling to church at the age of seven.

It was (old) wouldn't be able to work for more than a year, Marilyn remembers. "I couldn't even stand up and walk down the hallway. She recalls hearing her mother crying in the next room. They told her, 'I would never do gymnastics again,' she says.

My mother was a gymnast, she was with me all the time, Marilyn comments. Dad was always there for the competitions. Her brother, Ken, 10 years older, helped her to keep things in perspective. "He told me how important it was to remember people's names, and to be friendly and thoughtful."

Toured Canada

Marilynn's strong faith was instrumental in coping with the ailments that she showed on her higher youth. When she went to the Olympics, it felt like an ambassador. Her motto, "Christ and then for Canada," she explains. Her deep belief led her to speak in church and at rallies, telling people what it



Marilynn Hayden as she appeared during the event, still hobbled back to her. There are four height of her career as a gymnast. The Stouffville resident competed in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, and 20 years later, the memories of the event still hobbled back to her. There are four area gymnasts travelling to Seoul, Korea for the Summer Games this month.

meant to be a Christian athlete. When she returned from Mexico, Marilyn worked on a Canadian Government athletic project as a member of the G.O.C. Canada Sports Demonstration Team. She and five other athletes toured Canada, visiting 15 cities, promoting fitness and sport among young people. For a number of years she worked for Air Canada in sales and public relations.

In 1971, she married Paul Hayden and the couple moved out west with his company, where they lived until their recent arrival in Stouffville. As a result of the move, she left Air Canada and worked some time with the federal government. Eventually she opened her own Marie Norman cosmetics studio, and also became involved in training girls for beauty contests.

Moving to Stouffville was something of a homecoming for Marilyn, whose parents also live in town. She feels very comfortable here, and has been asked if she would consider coaching gymnastics. "I'd like to, but for now, she wants to spend some time with her children. Although I want to commit myself right away," she states. Hudson, her youngest son, 11, (two) and Ryan (to spend some time with him).

Heise Hill team crowned York champions

By BRUCE STAPLEY
While Paramount Films was staging a modern day 'War of the Worlds' just metres away on the Victoria Square Community Centre parking lot Friday night, Don Lofthouse and his Heise Hill Brethren of Christ Church team mates were staging a drama all their own.

But it was Lofthouse who came up with the timely fielding gem of the contest. In the fifth inning, with Heise Hill up 2-1, Gormley's Mike Boadway beat out a bunt and Andre Ertl was hit by a pitch. Both runners advanced a base on a sacrifice fly. Lofthouse then dove to his left to snare a hot grounder, throwing the runner out while still lying on the ground. This ended the inning and saved at least one run.

seven hits in the championship game, he was able to get the big out when he needed it, and was the benefactor of a determined Heise Hill defence.

Skating club registration

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club is accepting registrations at the Trade Fair, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. These include both figure skating and power skating. Location is the Town Recreation Centre. Children pre-school and up are invited. For additional information call 640-4062. Skate Exchange The Stouffville Figure Skating Club is holding a skate exchange, Sept. 12 and 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Rec. Centre. Early drop-offs will be accepted at 478 Elm Road, Stouffville, (evenings).

flawless on the mound, striking out nine Heise Hill batters and giving up only four hits.

Sayers had the big blow as well in his team's shut out victory, a three-run homer in the third inning.

He started game three as well, but was replaced by Paul Boynton after surrendering two runs in the third. But after Boynton had trouble locating the plate in the four-run sixth, Sayers was brought back to finish up.

Gormley had won the league title three years in a row, and seven years out of the last eight.

Laurie Pugh had sensed her team would come back after the white washing they'd received earlier in the evening.

"The guys weren't into the first game at all," she admitted, "but they were there for the second game. They wanted it. We always play better under pressure."



The Heise Hill Softball team were winners of the York Region Christian Men's Softball league crown. In the back row, from left; Marlin (Sparky) Ressler (Pastor); Don Lofthouse, Bradd Hogg, Sandy Todd, Jim Cadieux, Ted Boake, Pat Logeo, Laurie Pugh (manager and scorekeeper). In front, from left are; Gary Shropshire (player-coach), Ted Bennett, Dennis Lofthouse, Dale Wideman, Scotty Steckley, Geoff Logeo, Lee Wideman (batboy). -Bruce Stapley



Stouffville's Keith Acton presents a cheque for \$10,000 to Laura Cole, Director of the Children's Wish Foundation. The proceeds were raised at the recent Williamson Motors Keith Acton, Celebrity Golf Tournament. The Children's Wish Foundation is dedicated to granting wishes to terminally ill children. Also on hand for the presentation were recent Williamson Motors Keith Acton, Celebrity Peter (left) and Sandy Williamson. Chris Garbutt

Umpire withstands the heat in Stouffville Peeewe loss

Maybe it's the time of the season or the fact that both can become accustomed to their position. But whatever it was, they were all dumping hot umpire John White at the ball park Wednesday as the highly ranked Port Perry softball team pasted the lower level Stouffville Peeewe's 10-1.

Stouffville coach Cap Cowan appeared flanked from the start, taking White to task again and again until he could take a copy more in the sixth and final inning.

Jeff Carl and Chad Venning held the Stouffville bats a bay as the duo combined for 10 strikeouts. Meanwhile, Stouffville's Tim Lavell laboured through five innings, striking out seven Port Perry hitters with Jody Infurri nari throwing the final inning. Stouffville finally broke the shutout with a run in the sixth, but it wasn't without a struggle. Brandon Priddy hit the solitary home run, but the inning ended in a 10-1 final score. The Port Perry pitching (Cowan)