

Sports

Nielsen is a Master in field of athletics

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Correspondent

Seventy-year-old Dickson Hill senior Peder Nielsen refuses to let his advancing years keep him from experiencing the thrill of victory in the field of athletics.

Nielsen returned from the recent Ontario Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships at York University with a gold in the weight throw event and a silver in the shotput. The retired IBM department technician will add the new medals to the collection he has accumulated since taking up competitive track and field back in the early 1980's.

It was at that time that Nielsen, who came to Canada from his native Denmark in 1951, became involved with the Toronto Latvian Club. The combination athletic/social organization used a private Bloomington Sideroad/Kennedy Rd. property for track and field events, while also maintaining a hall in Toronto for social events.

Nielsen was persuaded to join the now defunct club by Dickson Hill neighbor Helmut Lange. Lange has also gone on to achieve at the masters level. He

finished first in both the shotput and weight throw events in the 66-year-old category at this year's Ontario championships held March 5 at York.

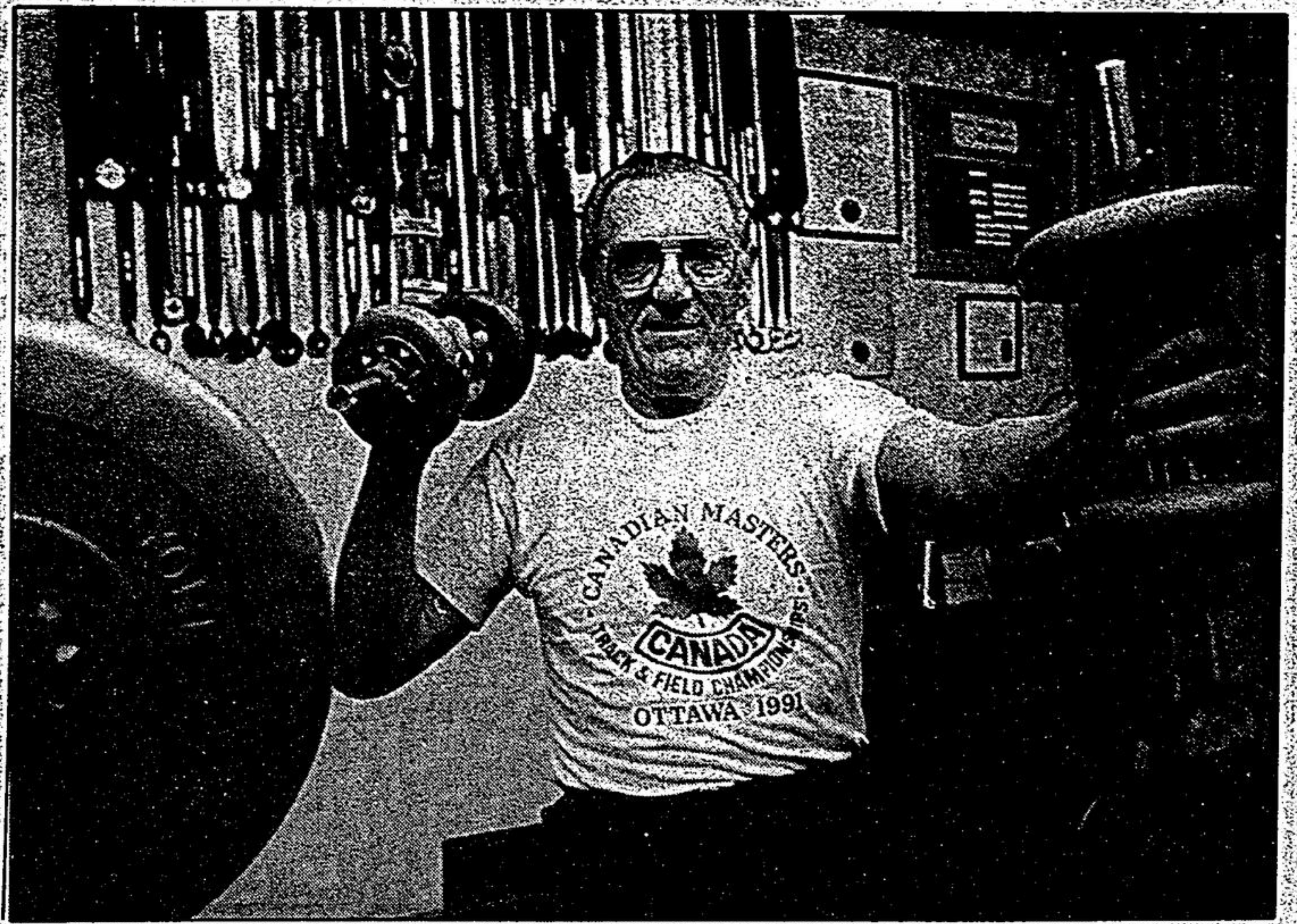
Upon his retirement in 1989, Nielsen took advantage of York's free offer to seniors to work out at the well-appointed indoor track and field facility. He drives to the Steeles Ave. and Keele complex for workouts twice a week on average.

"They have great facilities at York," Nielsen told the Tribune Tuesday. "When you're retired you have a little more time, and it's not too crowded during the day there."

Nielsen said there are added bonuses to working out at such a well-equipped complex. "You see big name track and field athletes like Michael Smith and Ben Johnson. It lets you pick up a little technique when you see former Olympians training."

He also trains in his home fitness room. In the good weather, he runs at the Stouffville track and field complex.

Nielsen still remembers his first exposure to track and field in 1946 as a soldier in the depleted Danish army. With the country facing bankruptcy and its armed forces stripped of all



PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Peder Nielsen, 70, goes through a workout at his Dickson Hill residence in preparation for another Masters Track and Field meet. In the background are some of the medals that Nielsen has won.

their military equipment in the aftermath of the Second World War, the enlisted men had nothing to do but work out.

"We were forced to do something with our time. We had shotputs, discus, and a few javelins, along with some bicycles. So we used them for training, along with some high jumping."

Today, Nielsen can be found preparing for annual events such as the Ontario Masters event and the National Masters Championships. He has competed at the Pan American Mas-

ters Games, which are held every four years, and is considering entering the World Masters Games if they are held in Buffalo or Rochester, N.Y. next year.

He also competes in meets held in such Northern Ontario centres as Sudbury.

"There are lots of first generation Canadians of European heritage up there, and they're still into track and field," said Nielsen.

Nielsen rounds out his fitness pursuits with golf in the spring and summer, and indoor golf

and cross country skiing in the winter.

With the coming of spring, he will begin training for a triathlon to be held in Scarborough in May, then prepare for a pentathlon proposed for July at the former site of the Latvian Club on the Bloomington Sideroad. He'll also take part in the Ontario Outdoor Championships at York.

For Nielsen, taking part in competitive meets serves the dual purpose of keeping him fit while giving him the chance to establish ongoing friendships.

Williams makes good time

A Stouffville youth ran a disciplined race to finish first in the atom Boys category in the 1,500-metre event at the Bramalea Bullets Indoor Track Meet Sunday at the Metro Toronto Track and Field Centre at York University.

Luke Williams, an 11-year-old member of the Stouffville Track and Field Club, held back for the first half of the race, then poured it on to win in a personal best time of 5:08.9 minutes. Williams passed the second-place runner in the final 100-metre stretch to claim his victory.

Stouffville's Wendy Wright finished ninth overall in the 1,500 m bantam girls' category, posting a time of 5:59.7.

Brenda Robbins was fifth in the Bantam Girls shot-put with a distance of 7.04m.

Stouffville's John and Mark Robbins competed in the 60m sprint, with John Robbins posting a personal best of 11.8 seconds.

Other Stouffville participants were Candace Robbins, Joan Tamlin and Amy Williams.

In all, 404 athletes competed at the meet.

A golden day for Reed at provincial track meet

Local runner Dave Reed brought home two gold medals at the recent Ontario Masters Indoor Track Meet held at the York University indoor facility.

Reed, a 39-year-old Musselman Lake resident, finished first in the 35-39-year-old class

in both the 1,500-metre and 3,000-metre races.

He posted a time of four minutes and 13 seconds to finish first overall in the 1,500m race.

His time of 9:02.88 in was just 1.25 seconds behind the overall winner in the 3,000m event.

Red Wings rake Maple Leafs

Bill Thornhill broke loose for five goals to lead the Gallo Real Estate (Sherri Hayes) Real Estate Red Wings to a 6-1 victory over the Rand Pools Maple Leafs as the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League's 40-and-Over Division began its playoff round robin Sunday at the Rec Centre.

George Sled had the other Wings' goal, while Garth Krisman managed the lone Leafs' score.

Glenn Whitebread and Gary Husbands each fired a pair of goals as the second place finishing Villeneuve Heating Flyers doubled up the Smurthwaite Heating Bruins in their first post season match up.

Garth Bell and Laurie Montgomery notched the Bruins markers.

The Stouffville Travel Black Hawks, who finished on top in the 40-plus loop, started off the playoffs with a 4-2 win over the May Real Estate Whalers.

Bob McKinnon potted a pair for the winners, with Joe Infurnari and Sam Castorini adding singles. Randy Lee and Don Barnes countered for the Whalers.

Ken May's two goals helped the Spring Lakes Nordiques forge a 3-3 tie with the Occasions Catering Blues.

Bill Anderson also clicked for the Nords, while it was John Visser, Bill Ormson, and Don Mar-

mon clicking for the Blues.

John Carrick of the A & S Construction Flames took the 30-and-Over Division's top goalkeeper award as the junior circuit closed out its regular season.

Carrick's crew, which ended up second in the standings, edged the Stomark Rental Kings 2-1, giving the crafty netminder a two-goal bulge over Richard Bartley of the G & R Flooring Jets.

Wayne Thompson looked after the Flames scoring, while it was Doug Marshall picking up the Kings' goal.

Bartley's first place Jets were upset 5-3 by the last place finishing Boyd's Sports Sharks.

Kelly Burrows lit the lamp twice for the Sharks, who got single scores from Bob Hughes, Pat Madigan, and Joe O'Connor.

Bill Root, Jim Hamm, and Naz Nicastro replied for the Jets.

The third place Village Capitals closed out the regular schedule with a 5-2 win over the Hunter's Nest North Stars.

The Caps got goals from Ian Billich, Rob Barber, Doug Taylor, and Bill Housser. Kevin McGuckin and Mark Fockler scored for the Stars.

The 30-plus division begins its playoff round robin Sunday.

Clippers host hockey tournament

The Stouffville major and minor novice Clippers will be hosting a tournament on March Break at the Rec Centre.

Beginning Wednesday, the minor novices play their first game against Unionville at 7 a.m. followed by the major novices, who take on Newmarket at 9 a.m. and Richmond Hill at 5 p.m.

Championship games will be held on Thursday with the minor novice match at 5 p.m. and major novice at 6 p.m.