

Timing factor in popularity of sport

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 every day when we had a chance. Eventually, they left and I played with the boys and didn't feel out of place."
 Finances can also be a fac-

tor. Green fees and equipment make golf an expensive game but it's not unreasonable compared to hockey, Mr. Fritz argued.
 "Breaking it down time-wise, golf costs less to play," said Mr. Fritz, who coaches hockey. "We tend to make the sacrifices for hockey, but not for golf — and that's the difference."
 Mr. Fritz acknowledges top-of-the-line clubs are expensive. However, it's more important for neophyte youngsters to learn the basics of the sport first.

"Any club will work," he noted. "It's the ability of the player to hit the ball that's most important."
 Timing is another factor. Mr. Fritz said the popularity of girls' hockey grew with the success of the gold-medal winning Canadian women's team at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Meanwhile, Canadian golfers such as Lorie Kane haven't had much success to inspire teens over the past few years.

But the situation is far from hopeless. Girls as young as five can be encouraged to take up the game, Mr. Fritz said.
 The CJGA apparently agrees. It began a Junior Linksters program this past summer. The six-event series, which is geared for those between five and 12 and adjusts the course distances for various ages, has attracted some female participants.

As a teacher at Markville Secondary School, Mr. Fritz would like to see schools do more to encourage the game. "In the time I've been teaching golf programs haven't changed in high schools. The game is only taught for a brief period of

time. Plus students are using old clubs and just hitting balls into a field."
 Mr. Fritz sees no reason why high schools can't create a golf league instead of the current practice of holding just one regional championship.
 The idea sounds great, but some schools have limited resources, said Sheila Coleman, Markville Secondary's physical education head and an avid golfer.

"I came from a school (Stouffville District Secondary) where we had golf as a physical education elective," she recalled. "We had equipment like mats and soft golf balls and space to do it. And we were within easy distance of a driving range. Here, we don't have the equipment or space and we're not close to a driving range."
 While associations such as the CJGA, youth golf clinics at various courses or improvements to programs at the high school level would help, the bottom line is the pot of gold still exists right now for girls hoping to earn an athletic scholarship.
 It's ultimately up to them if they want it.

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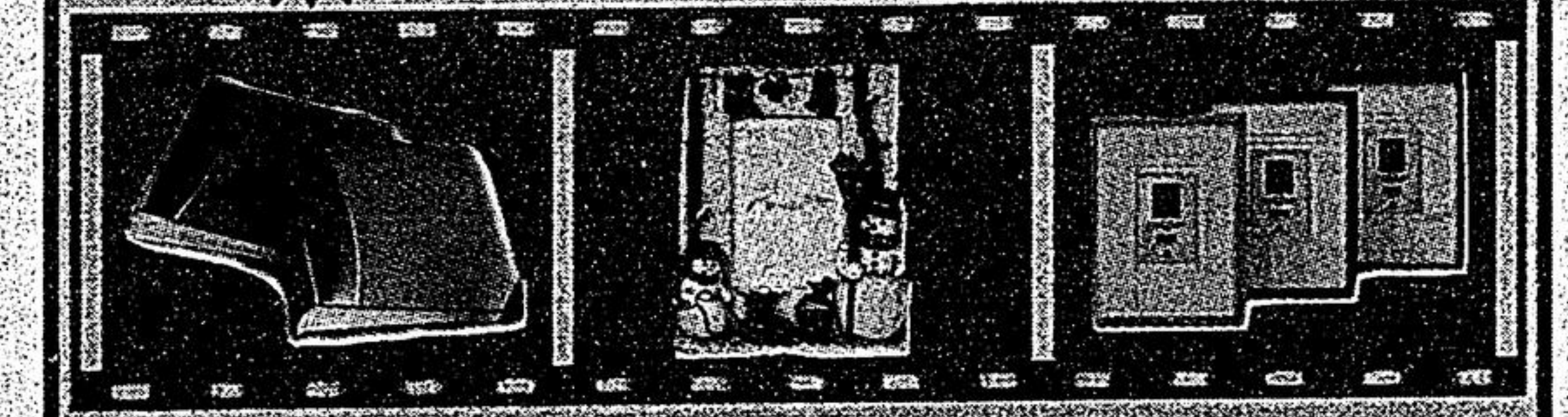
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what you're about to work on. Yet when you climb aboard the oblique and the abductor-adductor, it's anybody's guess.
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Workout hits the mark

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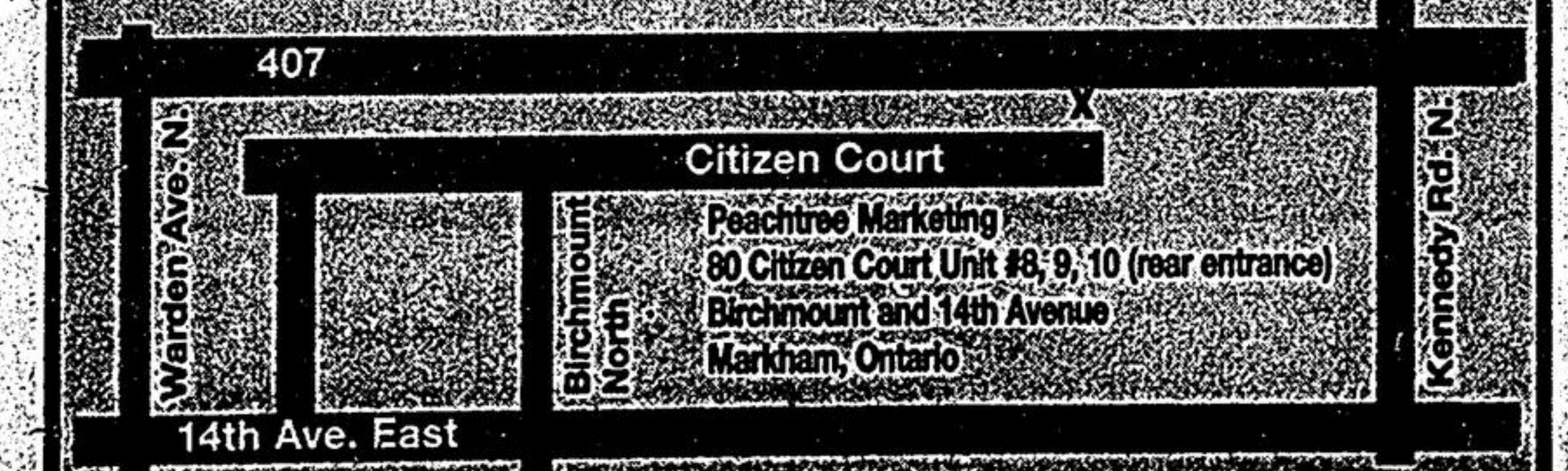


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