

# Sports



**MIKE TOTH**  
Sports Editor

**TOTH-SOME MORSELS** — Here's a stocking full of festive morsels scraped together at random from the snowy sleighground of Mississauga's sports scene. May the bells of Christmas jingle the merriest of tunes to you all...

Remember Byron MacDonald, the "mystery Mississaugan" of the Munich Olympics who gained instant international fame when he suffered an unsporting hernia during the opening ceremonies of the quadrennial cavalcade of amateur sports? He went on to splash for himself fame in the pool, too, becoming one of Canada's few to finish among the top six. This past August, he won himself a bronze medal at the World Student Games in Moscow. Now, "merman" MacDonald is at it again. "I am presently enrolled at the University of Michigan pursuing a master's of Education degree that will help when I decide to become a swimming coach," he says.

But first things first — and it seems the top item on Byron's list of festive season priorities is to travel to Vancouver for the Commonwealth Games trials.

"I think I stand a pretty good chance of making the team and defending my 1970 Commonwealth victory in New Zealand," he says.

MacDonald became a Commonwealth swimming champion in his butterfly specialty in Bonnie Scotland four years ago.



**GAIL ANDREWS**... power skating

Gail Andrews, a staff member of the Walter Tkaczuk Summer Hockey School — where, being the only female on the staff of instructors, she earned the "Golden Blonde of St. Mary's" nickname — heads the annual Mississauga Christmas power skating school this week.

Sessions are slated for Cawthra Arena Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, while Clarkson Arena has afternoon classes from Wednesday to Saturday.

For further information, call the Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department...

Malton Marvel Waterproofing team's double-barrelled scoring thrust is paying off, much to the delight of coach Bob Blackburn. The Malton squad boosted its Mississauga Hockey League minor peewee white unbeaten streak to nine straight games via a 5-2 victory over Cooksville.

While Marvels' leading goal-getter centre Andy Hess was held to a solitary tally, Frank Kursis, number two man on the scoring hit parade took over and tipped the scale with a hat trick.

Mississauga North Stars atom Penmens, who occupy the runner-up spot in their division of the Metro Toronto Hockey League, will be heading for Erie, Pennsylvania, for an international shinny get-together.

Teams from Ontario, New York and Pennsylvania will be battling for top laurels in the under-10 tourney, which gets under way on Boxing Day and concludes in time to get the Mississaugans home for New Year's Eve.

A pair of Mississauga Cycling Club competitors paddled their ways to recognition. Charlie Charron, in his first year of competitive pedal-pushing, was awarded a Canadian Cycling Association medal for a first-place performance, while Jim Georgas collected a trophy from the Oakville club for his efforts in a Sheridan Park road race.

Streetsville is on some sort of a losing streak these days. First the cosy town identity is just about to get lost in the Mississauga jungle of mis-planning.

Now, Streetsville is losing one of its most famous sports personalities former Toronto Argonaut great and later defensive coach Jim Rountree.

Rountree is moving his family to Florida. The one-time Argo star's son, Jim junior, plays hockey with the Streetsville association in the winter. Last fall, he showed signs of following in his dad's footsteps while starring for coach Peter Martin's Chic Murray team in the Mississauga Football league.

# Christmas Stories

## Alan Eagleson: hockey's pendulum pusher melting the ice



By JOHN STEWART

Alan Eagleson is a pendulum pusher. That's not one of the more recent euphemisms thrown at the Bay Street lawyer by his army of detractors but it is the way the former Mississauga resident sees his job.

"Sure, some of the salaries of hockey players are astronomical," says the man who has risen to fame and fortune as agent for Canada's most renowned ice stars. "But I don't have any sympathy for the owners when I see what they've done in the past."

"For 50 years the owners have had their way. Now for three years the players have their chance and everybody is upset. My job is to see the pendulum stays to our side as long as possible."

Eagleson admits his image with the average hockey is tarnished because of the bartering for enormously inflated sums of money beyond the comprehension of even some of the young players who receive it. "My job is not to appease the public. They can hate me all they like. I have to do the best job I can for my clients."

One of the few things the lawyer's many critics can't argue with is his ability to satisfy those clients.

Part of doing that job properly is being a bit of a huckster and "using every bit of information" to sell your client the former Lakeshore MPP claims.

"Take Gary Monahan for instance, an under-rated solid NHLer," says the perpetually animated Eagleson. "He has never made a million and maybe he never will. Two years ago he was making a very small amount. The Chicago Cougars of the WHA held his rights and offered him a reasonable raise but the Leafs also came up with some money."

"Then his WHA rights were sold to the Toronto Toros. The Leafs didn't want to lose anyone last year to the Toros so we were able to get Gary nearly a 100 per cent raise. I never like to be specific about salary details but he went from the \$25-30,000 range to about \$55,000."

Eagleson came to prominence in 1966 by negotiating a landmark contract for then-rookie NHLer Bobby Orr. Shortly after that with the encouragement of Orr and goaltender Eddie Johnston Eagleson established the NHL player's association.

"Orr was the most significant thing ever to happen to the National Hockey League or the player's association," says the man who now administers the considerable business of Bobby Orr Enterprises Limited.

"He was responsible for major changes in the salary structure. He was the star and best player. If he hadn't lived up to expectations..." Eagleson lets the negative thought hang. "But because he became involved the rest of his team was prepared to join the Association and make it work."

Other players, most memorably Ted Lindsay and Doug Harvey, had been traded and blacklisted by owners for trying to organize themselves. But Orr's inestimable abilities put him beyond the realm of such power tactics.

Eagleson says the player's association could not have been formed without Bobby Orr.

Could it have been formed without Allan Eagleson? "Sure, I was just in the right spot at the right time," says the new resident of Toronto.

But Orr has been quoted as saying, "the players were frightened of getting traded if they joined the Association at first. Eagleson set it up out of his own law firm. He paid to get the goddam thing rolling."

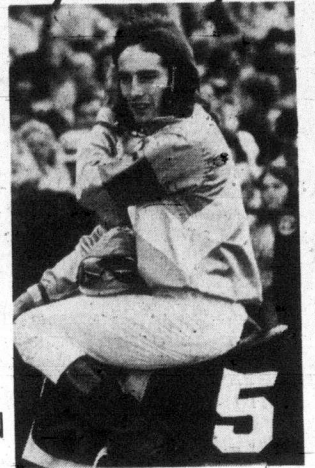
Uncontestedly it was not a position for the faint of heart. Obviously, Eagleson had the aggressiveness and candor to make it work.

Seven years later Eagleson is still crusading. The reserve clause in hockey player's contracts is his current target.

"I want to have available for the average hockey player what is now available for the stars," the Eagle says. "There's been a lot of over-

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## Sandy Hawley: jockey's ride to winners' circle is not easy



By JOHN KERNAGHAN

Sandy Hawley was dead serious, but deceptively relaxed Nov. 30 as he sipped tea and talked about the jockey as athlete.

"Riding probably looks pretty easy, just as a hockey player makes his job look easy. But they're both hard jobs."

The comment was innocent enough at the time, but in retrospect, with the Canadian Press polling of Phil Esposito as Canada's Athlete of the Year and Hawley the pick of Toronto print media as the winner of the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's outstanding athlete, the record-breaking rider's comparison certainly isn't dated.

Mississauga's finest equestrian, at a presstime count of 505 wins (20 more than the record of Willy Shoemaker that Hawley pursued all year), was asked how he felt the man on the street viewed his athletic value.

"I really don't know what the average person thinks of this as a job, but if a person off the street tried to do the job, he couldn't just as he couldn't play hockey as a professional."

Hawley amended that, pointing out that he even without the restrictions of being oversize your average man couldn't handle the pace or pressure of big-time racing.

Now, writers or broadcasters in the hinterland beyond the Golden Horseshoe aren't going to understand that. Racing to them is strictly a Toronto area vice.

So it was that the 24-year-old jockey's accomplishments didn't impress nation wide and gain him the CP vote.

It did however, strike home where Hawley haunted the 20-year-old record, and awarded him the Marsh trophy.

The Whitby native's odyssey was covered as closely as a Royal courtship. The racing public's spirits dipped and peaked as Hawley had big days or was shut out completely.

It is legend, of course, how over a few discreet pulls of beer last New Year's day, Hawley was challenged with the record and a 500 win mark by agent Colin Wick.

"Colin said 'Let's go for the Shoe's record and then shoot for 500'. I said 'beautiful, let's go'."

As of Thursday, the deadpan rider had booted in 505 horses out of 1,889 mounts. Another 614 were in the money, 330 showing and 284 placing.

Nobody but Hawley will know how killing the pace was. Back at the Nov. 30 interview at Greenwood (he had 473 wins at the time) he commented that he felt "good and comfortable" in the saddle still and said the pressure "is easing off as I get closer."

His only worry at the time was the possibility of suspension. He had been penalized four times already — "maybe I was pressing too hard" — and he didn't relish another when only 12 wins from the record.

At the time Hawley was lightly chiding himself for the week's holiday he had taken during the year. "If it hadn't been for that, I might have broken the record here."

As it was, Hawley, wife Cherrie, dog Sheba and cats Buttons and Bows, had to journey to Laurel, Maryland for the record.

How would it feel when he did break the Shoe's mark? "It's been a long year, in fact I haven't really stopped in two years. I think you would have to be really happy in yourself, that you have accomplished something."

"It would also be very good for Ontario racing."

When he booted in 7-5 favorite Night Train Lane Dec. 7 at Laurel for number 486, the highly modest Hawley had only a mild "feels great" comment on his own accomplishment but high praise for the horse. "He has a lot of class."

He was more ecstatic at breaking 500 on Dec. 16. "This is the greatest thrill of my life." He acknowledged his mount Charlie Jr. with a "thank you" and a mock invitation to a party he threw in celebration.

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## GRAHAM LEGGAT:

### The man behind the O'Keefe Foundation

By MIKE TOTH

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

But no Virginia, Graham Leggat is not the jolly old fellow with the ho-ho-ho and a sleighful of goodies, even though you have to search far and wide east and west in the land of barley sandwich to stumble upon someone with a pleasant chore of stuffing a \$1 million gift into the stockings of amateur sports.

Matter of act is that Glasgow-born Leggat, who established himself as an all-time soccer great while playing for a handful of British glamour clubs and representing his native Scotland in international games 25 times, is a loner in this respect.

You see, this articulate Lorne Park man — long accepted on the sports banquet circuit as one of the most brilliant after dinner speakers — is the general manager of the O'Keefe Sports Foundation, a million dollar gift the brewing company has made available to quench a big thirst.

"We have already committed funds of more than \$600,000," said Leggat when we discussed O'Keefe's intoxicating sports scheme and his role in it. "So far a total of 32 different sports have benefited from the Foundation."

A wide variety of sports, alphabetically ranging from archery to weightlifting and

geographically stretching from Newfoundland to Canada's pearl of the Pacific province British Columbia, have been given grants.

The objective of the Foundation is to encourage greater participation in amateur sports and raise the standard of performance by providing the best in coaching skills available anywhere in the world. With this aim in mind, the foundation is working hand in hand with Canadian amateur sports bodies to provide assistance in conjunction

with their development plans.

Leggat is general manager of the Foundation, responsible for executing and administering the project. Allocation of the funds is determined by a 10-member Board of Trustees, chosen on the basis of their involvement and understanding of the needs of amateur sports.

There is John Hudson, for instance. Former national track and field coach, Hudson is founder and executive director of the



Graham Leggat (right) presents Ontario soccer championship trophy to Port Credit captain Neil Thomas after last year's atom division final. (Times photo by Ray Saltz).

Coaching Association of Canada — a sports body that has played a vital role in our rapid rise in the international sphere.

Other members are track star Abbie Hoffman and assistant professor of political science at University of Guelph; Dr. Roger Jackson, winner of rowing gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 1960 and now a sports consultant to the Federal Government; Maria Jelinek, former world pairs figure skating champion; Geoff Elliott, two-time Commonwealth pole vaulting titlist and now president of the Canadian Gymnastic Federation and associate professor of physical education at the University of Alberta; Dr. Stuart Maddin, president of the Canadian Federation of Amateur Aquatics; Dr. Gaston Marcotte, director of athletics at Quebec's Laval University and past president of the Quebec Sports Federation and Amateur Hockey Association; James Snell, former vice-president of the Canadian Yachting Association; Dr. Paul Des Ruisseaux, a member of the Canadian Olympic Committee; and CTV sports director, Johnny Esaw.

The Foundation is operated independently from the brewery with the Board of Trustees making the final decision on the awarding of

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