

1971 - a vintage year in sports

Worst things first. "I don't think we owe anything to any sport group," said trustee John Hart as the board of education turned thumbs down on another plea by the Mississauga Crusaders Rugby Club to get permission to turn the facilities at the old deserted Britannia Road School into changing room and playing field. At the club's own expense, naturally.

That civic-minded (?) quote, which may have cost Hart a chance or three in the Sports Personality of the Year stakes, came in October.

Since then, the Crusaders have found themselves a home by way of a portable classroom.

And Debbie Van Keikebelt was named Canada's top female athlete of 1971—which has nothing to do with the ups and downs of the rugby club's search for home.

But it reflects the wide range of sporting activities which made year 1971 memorable in these parts.

Debbie's rise to the top was, without a doubt, the most spectacular sporting achievement.

There she was, a Cinderella 17-year-old Clarkson high school student, invited to compete in the Maple Leaf Gardens Indoor Games in February. The invitation came from John Hudson, the

director of the meet and possibly Canada's top authority on track and field. Hudson was Debbie's first track and field coach and predicted a great future for his protegee.

But, it was Debbie, the unknown, who went into competition, mainly to provide some sort of opposition to British Columbia's Debbie Brill, Canada's reigning queen high jumper.

When the meet was over, it was Debbie Van Keikebelt, an established star.

She did it by finishing a close second to Miss Brill, in high jump and by matching a Canadian native indoor record with a time of 6.9 seconds in the 50-metre hurdles.

In May, Miss Van Keikebelt wrote a new page in the history of ladies pentathlon by cracking Pat Winslow Bank's U.S. and North American record in a meet at Etobicoke Centennial Stadium.

Less than three weeks later, Debbie made sure of a place on the track and field team which was to represent Canada in the Pan-American Games in Columbia. She became the first female athlete in North America to pass the 5,000-point mark in an event which requires tremendous all-around ability (high jump, long jump, shot put, 200-metre dash and 100-metre hurdles.)



Some of the top teams of Southern Ontario are playing in the first Clarkson invitational minor-atom tournament at Clarkson Arena. Dixie defenders (light jersey) are able to foil this attempt by Eringate, but lost the battle 4-1.

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SPORTS



Ah, gee, fellows (and women's libbers), don't tell me you've already forgotten all about Pierre?

Not Pierre, the Prime Minister, but Pierre Pilote, one of the greatest defenseman in the history of the National Hockey League.

Pilote called it quits three years ago and waved goodbye to 14 years in the NHL (most of them with the Chicago Black Hawks). However, he's well and alive, living in Mississauga in a lovely home on Broadmoor Ave., just a slap-shot east of Hurontario.

"We love the place and the neighbors," said Pierre the other night as he returned home from coaching a bantam team. The 40-year-old father of two boys and two girls devotes most of his time to business, family and hockey.

He coaches the North York Rangers, perennial foe of Mississauga and Dixie Royals rep teams in the Metro Toronto Hockey League.

Why not a Mississauga area team? "I have never been asked directly to coach here," he says.

I got a distinct feeling that you wouldn't have to twist his arm too strenuously to talk him into a change of alliance next season.

While his eldest son, Pierre, 14, plays for his team, another son, eight-year-old David, is right winger with Cloverleaf of the Mississauga Hockey League.

"David really wanted to be a goalie," said Mrs. Pilote, trying to hide a smile. "But he changed his mind, because his feet got cold standing in goal."

The girls, Denise, 16, and Renee, 11, attend Port Credit Secondary School. Renee spends a lot of time perfecting her figure skating and preparing for a skating test with the Port Credit Skating Club.

"She never skated while we were in Chicago, only picked it up here," said Pilote.

Pilote attained just about every honor a hockey player could wish for. He helped Chicago Black Hawks to a Stanley Cup championship in 1961; was chosen for all-star honors eight consecutive seasons between 1959 and 1967 (second-stringer during the first three, then a charter-member of hockey's greatest six for five years from 1962).

He was recipient of the James Norris Trophy three times in a row (1963-64-65). This mug of recognition is given annually to an NHL defense player who demonstrates throughout a season the greatest all-around ability in that position.

Pierre had no peer during his limelight hockey years in the art of efficient patrolling of the blue lines.

Was there any disappointment in an illustrious career?

"Only one," he said. "During my last year of junior hockey (he never played organized shinny until after his 16th birthday) at Fort Erie, they didn't choose me as the most valuable player. I thought I deserved it."

He retired at 37, when he was still a highly regarded player, after a season of service with Toronto Maple Leafs, the only NHL club he played with beside Chicago.

"It takes guts to quit the game and leave a good and comfortable NHL income behind you," he said. "The sudden loss of sweat money is the one thing that scares most players."

The money he made from hockey is "sweat money" to Pierre. He has invested it wisely, owns a car dealership in Fort Erie and a luggage company in Toronto with a sales office (Laing Industries) in Mississauga.

Pierre is an excellent hunter and a dog lover. He's proud of his two dogs which have won several prizes in dog shows across the U.S.

During his NHL career, Pilote played with and against some of the greatest players. Who's the greatest of them all? "Gordie Howe, without a doubt."

Pilote has a philosophy about hockey. "The game's 75 per cent confidence and 25 per cent ability."

He likes good, clean body contact. "If you don't hit or don't get hit, you're not in the game," he says.

Nothing dirty, just good old-fashioned body checks. The way Pierre himself used to do it...



Erindale Raiders star Garth Keeping takes aim at the basket during a high school senior game against Brampton on the last day of school. He made the point and Raiders went on to defeat last year's Peel County champions 50-48 in extra time.

No place like home for Dixie Beehives

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

Dixie Beehives must be wishing they could spread some of their home-ice scoring power to their road contests.

Between a 4-3 loss to St. Michael's Buzzers last Wednesday and a 5-2 beating at the hands of league-leading Richmond Hills Rams Monday, Bees out-classed Buzzers at home Sunday to the tune of 9-1. A week earlier they drubbed Scarborough Sabres 7-3.

Mind you, the 600 odd home town fans thrill to the lopsided wins. But the away losses keep Dixie firmly ensconced in fourth place of the Metro Junior B league.

Beehive president Howard Pallett feels Bees are just "lagging" in the later stages of most out-of-town games. He claims the club let down versus Rams when Steve Colp was credited with a goal that bounced behind the net and deflected off goaltender Pat Devlin's skate. Bees were ahead 2-0 at the time through goals by Colin Gordon and Dave Wells.

Rams also had another goal by the same route in the third period.

To illustrate Bees letdown, Pallett explained the club had only four shots on net in the third period.

But if there is one bright spot on the club it is the line of Larry Patey, Mike Pallett and Paul Sawyer. Bee coach Vern Jackson constructed the trio seven weeks ago when Patey rejoined the club.

The line, who might be labelled The Producers, have contributed close to 50 per cent of Dixie's scoring power since their formation.

Sunday was more than indicative of their play when at least one of them had a hand in six of the nine scores.

Pallett earned his second hat trick of the season in consecutive home games. He collected two in the first period on passes from Patey and another in the second on a set-up from Rick Cornacchia.

Patey counted an unassisted effort in the third plus his two assists and Sawyer contributed a goal on a pass from Ballanger plus an assist.

John Stainton, Bruce Allworth, Dave Wells and Colin Gordon counted the other goals. Bill Lowe scored for Buzzers.

Stainton's goal, incidentally, was the night's finest. He took a diagonal rink wide pass from John Bright then slammed a 20 foot ice level drive for the score.

Bees play Aurora Sunday at Dixie Arena then play the same club away Tuesday.

Notes: Former Bee and now Kitchener Ranger Dan Hinton was the goat Sunday when Rangers lost to Toronto Marlboros. Marlies tallied three goals to win the game while Hinton, Bee badman last year, was serving a double minor.

Joel sparkles in holiday hockey

"Joel, Joel, the angels did say, would keep out the pucks in games where he'd play."

Joel Washington had them singing new carols around the atom major circuit of the Mississauga Hockey League when he celebrated a Christmas early by shutting out Dixie No. 27 for Dixie No. 26, 1-0. Glenn Beaumont got the score.

A spate of single goals from Bill Crerar, Adrian Perez, Scott McCurdy, Craig Stark and Ian Townsend led Erindale to a 5-2 win over Applewood.

Successful junior bronze dance applicants in the fiesta included Joyce Wilson, Lynn Everatt, Kathy Parker, Wendy Formica and Janet Partridge. Shirley Harrison earned her willow and along with Janet Partridge also qualified in the fox-trot.

In the Dutch waltz section of the preliminary dances, those passing were Bobby West, Ann-Marie Piper, Sandra Parker, Donna Roberts, Carol Tansony, Veronica Fisher and Margaret Watts. Canasta qualifiers were Veronica Fisher, Kelly McPherson, Leanne Brister, Jacqui Nicoloff and Shaun McGill.

The swing qualifiers were Susan Anne Dekurno, Diane Kumer, Susan West and Dana Lee Wilkie.

Carson earns his figure

The Credit Valley Skating Club held one of its twice yearly test days with Streetsville's Allen Carson, part of Canada's Canadian junior pairs champions, earning his seventh figure.

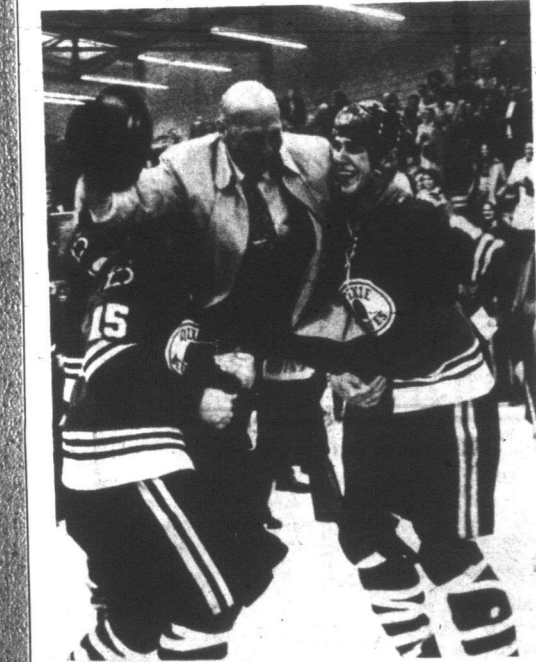
Carson, 20, was judged by representatives of the Canadian Figure Skating Association. The seventh figure is the second most advanced possible, involving circle-eight with several turns.

It took Carson more than an hour to complete testing. In other figure testing, Mary Lynn Donofrio got her fourth figure, Kathy Parker got her first and Susan West and Diane Kumer passed their preliminary figures.

In the dance examination, Sandy Moore collected his Paso Doble senior silver award.

Moore is the central Ontario senior men's champion and will compete soon in London at the Canadian championships.

In senior bronze dances, Allison Goacher got her European and Kathleen Sly earned her fox-trot standards.



Victory... President Howard Pallett is given a free ride by Roger Hunt and Gary Young after Dixie Beehives defeated Hamilton Mountain Bees in Ontario junior B playoff deciding game in April...



Here's the winning form of Mississauga diver Glen Runowski, who surprised just about everyone by finishing first in two events in an international meet at Huron Park Pool in October...

Port Credit and Lorne Park win in junior tournament

Host Port Credit Warriors and Lorne Park Spartans both scored convincing victories in the opening round of the Port Credit Secondary School junior basketball tournament Monday.

Warriors defeated Victoria Park 69-37, while Lorne Park came out on top by a 40-34 count against Silverthorne.

Two other Peel County squads lost. Central Peel went down to Central Commerce (Toronto) 46-29 and Westwood was beaten by powerful Toronto Jarvis, 53-35.

A total of 16 teams are taking part in the tournament, which will conclude today (Wed.) with a full slate of semi-final and final games. Consolation semi-finals are at 1:30 and 3 p.m., while the championship semis are held at 4:40 and 6 p.m.

Finals are at 7:30 and 9 p.m. at Port Credit Secondary School.

George Rueffer capped a fine season by taking the O'Keefe points championship of stock car racing at Pincrest Speedways...

Dean Pickell set a Canadian junior boys record and his sister Cara captured the juvenile girls' title at the Canadian water skiing championships in August...

Louise Brown made sure of another Canadian senior ladies' tennis championship. So what else is new? The Richardson sisters (Janet and Nancy) won a pair of gold medals at the Mississauga junior tennis championships. Other firsts went to Jenny Casselman, Wendy Pinos, Ed Nakon, Neil Jameson and Jeff Dumont...

Mary Ellen Wilcox, Nancy Norris, Nancy Burch, Helen Gschwendtner, Erin Robinson and Dawn Travik came up with unexpectedly strong efforts to win an Ontario argo (under 11) title for Mississauga in January...

Tobin Doty (Custom Concrete) was the individual star, but Wharton Dunare proved to be the top team in the first season of the Mississauga Football League...

Don Paine, 40, captain of the Ramblers cricket club, became the first Mississaugan to be chosen for national honors with Canada for a test match against U.S. in September...

Table tennis player Paul Klevinas, 13, was also chosen to play for Canada against U.S. in a junior competition at CNE. Paul was second in both the junior and midget boys singles at the 31st annual Canadian international championships...

Sailor Don Allen, a bronze medal winner at the Pan-Am Games in Colombia, came first in lightning-class Canadian national competition to cap a successful season...

Lorne Park secondary school student John McLean became Eastern Canadian junior motorcycle champion in 100 cc. competition...

Crusaders rugby players proved best in Niagara Branch Rugby Union play...

Glen Runowski, an 11-year-old diver, attracted considerable attention when he won a pair of firsts in the Mississauga Diving Club's international competition at Huron Park in Oct. More than 60 competitors took part...

And then, there was Michele Borleau, a 14-year-old blonde, who plays hockey for Mississauga senior girls. She's also a bright judo prospect, having won an Eastern Canadian age-group championship title...