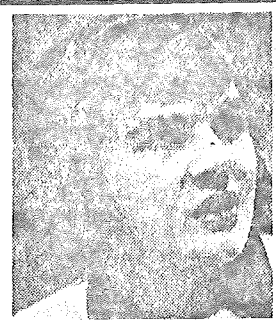


a v.i.p. and me

(very interesting person!)

“My sights are set on hockey as a career. I would like to continue as far as I can. I don't have a team in mind, you have to take it as it comes. Right now, it seems to be everything with me. It's all I am doing right now.”



By **KATHLEEN A. HICKS**

ARCHIE CHASE:

- Defenceman: Streetsville Derbys
- Peel Wrestling Champion: Third Place
- Member: Mississauga Canoe Club
- All-round Athlete

ME: This is your second year with the Streetsville Derby hockey team. With the hockey season nearly coming to a close, how beneficial has your experience with the Derbys been?

ARCHIE: Playing with the Derbys has been very beneficial. You pick up things twice as fast, because you have to learn everything there is to know about hockey. If you don't put your mind to it and learn these factors right away, it catches up to you, and shows in your playing. You are playing against a better calibre of hockey players, so you learn quickly. We are drilled a lot stronger in this league. We have longer practices, too. We practice twice a week, an hour on Sunday and two hours on Thursday. The practices are fairly similar to when I was in the Mississauga Hockey League, but there's a lot more to it. We are on the ice that much longer, so we work that much harder, and it shows how much work and effort you put in when you are out on the ice for the games. I think my interest in hockey has added quite a bit to my life.

ME: Having been asked to attend Pennsylvania University last fall, what was the decision behind turning it down and staying on to play with the Derbys and finish Grade 13 at Port Credit Secondary School?

ARCHIE: It was the thought of getting my Grade 13, because after you have been to college in the States, you have to have something to fall back on when you come back up to Canada. So it's a little beneficial if you have it. I was going to get a scholarship to go down there to play hockey; if a scholarship comes up for me again, I would like this very much, because it would really open up my career for me.

ME: What future do you feel you have in hockey?

ARCHIE: My sights are set on hockey as a career. I would like to continue as far as I can. I don't have a team in mind — you have to take it as it comes. Right now, it seems to be everything to me. It's all I am doing right now.

ME: As a sport, why does it top all other sports you've played that makes you feel this is where your future lies?

ARCHIE: It's an exciting sport, and I've always enjoyed skating. I enjoy playing hockey in itself, more than anything else. I've played so many other sports, but I always come back to hockey. All the other sports relate to hockey in some

ways by keeping me in shape and such; this is why I do a sport through the summer to prepare me for hockey in the fall.

ME: For being a defenceman, you do very well on scoring and assisting. What thrill is involved with the finality of a play?

ARCHIE: Being on defence, you can watch the play while it's happening. As you work it up the ice, you are behind the action, so you get to see everything that's going on, whereas the forwards don't. It's great seeing a play set up and watching the actual outcome, especially if the play is finalized by a goal.

ME: Do you remember the excitement of putting on your first pair of skates and your efforts in learning the feat of skating?

ARCHIE: Yes, very much. I was keen on it right from the start. I didn't begin to play hockey until I was Atom age. I think it was better that I started late, because I enjoy it that much more. When you start too early, I don't know whether you get burned out or what, but you lose interest in it. I feel that by starting later, you realize more of what is going on, you do much better, and this encourages you to be a more skillful player.

ME: You got your background in hockey with the Port Credit Minor Hockey League. Will you tell me some of the highlights of those years?

ARCHIE: My father managed the team I was on for quite a few years. When I was in Peewee, Dick Groves was coaching then, and he taught me a lot. I had about three coaches during that time. In Midget, we won the championship. Min Fancheto was the coach — I was with him 3 or 4 years and he encouraged and guided me along. We had an exceptionally good team that year, with great players like Larry Patey. The team shifted from year to year, and we just kept moving up together, which made it a lot of fun to play on.

ME: Your family had the hobby of participating in Go-cart racing. When did you become interested in this sport?

ARCHIE: That was the beginning of everything. When I was fairly young, I couldn't do any athletic events because I was in the hospital for five years with a kidney ailment. Because I couldn't run or anything, my parents thought I could work a go-cart because I wouldn't have to do anything physical, and there wouldn't be any exertion on my part. We had a fairly fast go-cart; my Dad's a good mechanic, and he did a great job with the motor. I used to ride in the Lions' parade every

June, and that was always fun. When I was about eight, we started in go-cart competition. There was a circuit around Toronto, Georgetown and Mount Forest. We travelled a lot, each club would have their own particular week for their race. I don't know whether these club tracks are still operating now. As time went on we did better and better at qualifying and winning.

ME: For your last year, you, your father, mother and sister won events at the Georgetown track and the Georgetown Herald caption read: He who Chases Chase Chases Champions. What excitement is there in receiving this type of plaudit?

ARCHIE: At the time I didn't think too much about it, but that was really the peak of our go-cart racing. Georgetown has the only track with powder-puff racing; that's when my mother and sister got into the racing. Then Georgetown became a family involvement. The races were every Sunday, and the whole family would go, and it keeps us together a lot, which is great.

ME: You were in softball for six years, playing the position of catcher. Give a little background on these years in ball.

ARCHIE: I got involved in ball through school. A lot of kids were playing, so it rubs off, and everybody else joins. I knew quite a few kids who wanted to put a team together; it was a house league with sponsors from around Port Credit. Dick Groves also coached me in baseball. They were real fun years. Playing catcher is the same as being on defence in hockey; you get to see the complete play on the field. It's an interesting position to play, because you get to play the whole game. But the real reason I chose the catcher position was because of my size; I was very small up until a couple of years ago.

ME: In the summer of '69, you joined the Mississauga Canoe Club, and became a third place winner in the Canadian Championship Paddlers in Competition in Montreal. What has this experience been like for you?

ARCHIE: That was for senior war canoe. I wanted a change from baseball, so I quit and took up paddling. It kept me in better shape during the summer. Also, it is a little more exciting than baseball was, because you are in competition all the time. The first regatta is at Mississauga, then it goes to Mohawk in Burlington and to West Rouge. This year I paddled singles, tandem, fours, and war canoe. But I didn't win anything this year; it was a wipe-out.

ME: I know the Mississauga Kinsmen are behind the

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building of a new Canoe Club headquarters. Do the members have a project underway to help with the building fund?

ARCHIE: We are going to have a bulb drive just before the season gets underway; that brings in extra money for the club, and any purchases made would be greatly appreciated. The building is up — if you look at it, you would think it was finished. They just have to complete the interior now. It's going to be a nice clubhouse.

ME: Two years ago, you did Cross Country running. Why did you quit after a year when you placed fifth of the Peel County seniors in the finals?

ARCHIE: I quit because of the time involved. It ran right into other sports during the school season, and I started to play basketball on the school team, so I couldn't do both. I ran for two years, and it takes a considerable amount of training. It was held at Boyd's Conservation Park in Woodbridge. This park is really hilly, and you have to run four miles through the park on a designated trail. We had to compete with 50 or 60 other runners.

ME: With all the sports you have played, why did you decide to join the football team and play defensive corner half your last year of secondary school?

ARCHIE: Just that — I felt this is my last year in secondary school and I wanted to try everything. So I quit basketball and joined the football team. It did come to mind though, that if I got hurt during football, I wouldn't be too popular with the Derbys. But I enjoyed playing football; it's similar to hockey with a lot of hitting involved — and it's a lot of fun, too.

ME: You have even played lacrosse for one year. What makes you try different sports?

ARCHIE: I played lacrosse when I was younger for one summer, then I went back to baseball. It adds a little variety. Usually friends I know are playing and they tell me how exciting it is and talk me into going on their team. It sounds interesting and I want to try it.

ME: You also wrestle. How did you do in the Peel-Halton Championships in Georgetown?

ARCHIE: I placed third in Peel, then when I went to Peel-Halton, I didn't do so well. I won my first match, but then I lost the last two, so I was knocked out.

ME: What sort of challenge is there with wrestling?

ARCHIE: The main reason I wrestled was to keep in shape during the hockey season. We have football from September to November, and then there was wrestling. I went to about five schools in Peel to wrestle, because I started late and then I competed for the Peel championship in Brampton. Then the top four wrestlers went into the Peel-Halton competition in Georgetown. The challenge is in going out and trying to beat the other guy — putting yourself up against your opponent and trying to be the better wrestler.

ME: Being in a secondary school, where the drug problem is supposed to be centre, are you confronted very often by pushers or drug users?

ARCHIE: I've been around drugs, but if you don't want them, you don't have to take them. Marijuana and hash aren't really that harmful to you, but it's when you start into the chemicals that you really have to draw the line. If you are doing anything in sports, you're unwise to take any of the hard stuff. It can ruin you. I don't think the drug problem is that bad though — not in our school anyway. I wouldn't say it's on the decline, it just seems to be at an equilibrium with everything right now.

ME: When you see this deterioration of our youth taking place, being an ingenious sportsman, what are your opinions?

ARCHIE: I sort of feel that if kids want to fool around with drugs, it's really up to them. If there is someone I know taking drugs, I usually try to find out why he is taking them. I'm not one to tell him not to do it, but I will advise him in some way. Myself, I wouldn't touch it, chemicals can affect you physically, and I have too much pride in myself as a human being. I wouldn't want to ruin any kind of future I might have in sports.

ME: Your father, for whom you are named, works at the Port Credit Arena as assistant

manager, he is Vice President of the Port Credit Hockey Association, and has coached and managed teams down through the years. Are you one of those boys who is proud of his father and openly admits it, or are you the critical type teenager?

ARCHIE: I'm very proud of my father, and I'll tell anyone who asks me. He's helped me quite a bit in hockey. He's not the kind of father who pushes you into things. He lets me do what I've wanted to do. If I didn't want to play hockey, I didn't have to play hockey. Any sport I've selected, I've selected on my own, which makes it a lot better, because now-a-days a lot of kids are pushed into hockey — not just hockey, but sports in general. I think that's where they lose a lot of interest, where maybe if they hadn't been pushed into it at such an early age, they might have had interest in it later. I think it's nice to have your father at games. I don't think my father has ever missed any of my games.

ME: What is your opinion of a parent who pushes a son beyond his limit and even when he has done his best cuts him up for what they thought was a terrible performance?

ARCHIE: If he's not that good a hockey player, and he's trying and yet everybody cuts him down for it, to himself he feels like digging a hole and crawling into it. But as long as he knows in himself that he's trying his hardest, he should realize that his parents are only trying to help him, even though they aren't, because criticizing is the worst they can do; everybody needs praise at one time or another. And if they aren't so good, they lose interest and quit, instead of staying in hockey for the sport and enjoyment.

ME: I think you are an inspiration to all our young people in the community. What are your thoughts about all you have accomplished in your young life?

ARCHIE: I've enjoyed what I've done, I think that's the main thing. I've just had a great time doing it. So I don't look back on it as having done a job or something. As the years go by, I can think of all the fun I've actually had and how much I've enjoyed it.