



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Unique activity involves some 'sweeping' changes

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

VICTOR — The summer heat was taking its toll on these young athletes, but never fear. Marcia Foote had a solution that would permanently block the sun out for all future athletic events on the field behind St. Patrick's Church.

"How about a new domed stadium?" Foote, the parish's youth minister, cheerily queried to Father George Wiant.

"I'll check with Buildings and Grounds," the St. Patrick's pastor replied.

Well, maybe Carrier Dome West is still a few years down the road. But until artificial turf comes along to replace the real thing, the cleanest grass in town can be found at the church located at 115 Maple Ave. — thanks to a bunch of broomstick-wielding youths.

Approximately 20 boys and girls convened for a fun and vigorous afternoon of broom-hockey competition at St. Patrick's last Tuesday, July 12. Most of the participants are members of St. Patrick's junior-high youth group.

The competition appeared simple enough — advancing a big foam-rubber ball by swatting at it with brooms in the hopes of scoring goals.

Yet broom hockey involves a little more than meets the eye. For instance, broomsticks must be kept low due to safety reasons, thus preventing players from winding up for big blasts. In addition, goalies are the only participants who may use their arms and legs. Further complicating matters are the soft broom fibers, which don't make nearly as solid contact with the ball as, say, a hockey stick or a soccer player's foot.

"It's a lot of work," noted Foote, a former high-school field hockey goalie, who conceived the idea for these games.



Foote acknowledged that broom hockey is often played on ice. She originally had planned last Tuesday's event for the St. Patrick's parking lot, but moved it to the field rather than run the risk of serious injury on the unforgiving pavement.

Even with these safety precautions, a few indignant "ows" were uttered as errant broomsticks made contact with flesh rather than foam.

"My knuckles still hurt," 12-year-old Jason Adams later commented.

Sarah Shortleif, 12, who is entering seventh grade at Victor Junior High School, likened the activity to floor hockey.

"It's soccer with sticks," added John Murphy, 12, another seventh grader-to-be at Victor.

"But you can't really kick the ball," pointed out Adams, who will soon begin eighth grade at Victor High.

Foote noted that the games served more of a purpose than simply giving the youths an introduction to a new sport.

"The main goal is to help them get to know each other and work as a team," said Foote.

When the day was done, all participants gathered for a feast of hot dogs and hamburgers.

And presumably, Father Wiant was off somewhere else, busy making arrangements to construct Ontario County's first domed sports complex.

(Above) Junior high youth-group members from St. Patrick's in Victor thrash at the ball during broom hockey competition held July 12 on the parish grounds. (Below) Scorekeeper Colleen Scoda shields herself from the afternoon sun while she keeps an eye on the action.

Peak Performers

Reader input sought for new sports feature

Submissions are requested for a new feature, *Peak Performers*, scheduled to begin soon on the *Catholic Courier's* sports page.

The purpose of this feature, which will run periodically, is to highlight Catholics of all ages from all parts of the diocese who have achieved a notable athletic feat.

We're making a special request for information pertaining to Catholics who attend public high schools. We regularly chart the activity of athletes at Catholic schools, but our task is much more difficult when it comes to identifying Catholic athletes at public institutions. So help us if you can!

Readers are invited to submit such items to Mike Latona at the *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please specify your school, if applicable, and home parish. Photographs are welcome. Use of submissions and photos is subject to editors' discretion.

City program begins

ROCHESTER — The City of Rochester has begun its summer recreation program at approximately 30 sites.

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This September, the *Catholic Courier* will publish **The 1994-95 Official Directory of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester**. The 150-page Directory is a comprehensive guide to every parish, office, institution and organization in the 12-county Diocese. It also contains telephone listings for all priests and key parish staff members.

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