

Downhill dog



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What snow is for: Conditions were perfect Monday for sledding down the hill near the headquarters of the Farmington Public Schools, although you'd never know it from the expression on Joyce Guthrie's face. The Southfield woman went downhill with her new dog, Sadie, who didn't much care for the ride, she said.

Coach from page 11A

Helpful hints

He dispenses invaluable information such as how to take the ball on the left foot on a pass from the right side and how to mark properly.

He gets a kick out of coaching youth soccer, a source of vicarious joy now that he's retired.

"If anyone likes a little advice about it, I'm happy to give it," he said. "I should know a wee bit about it."

Magee played the game in his youth and later became a semi-professional with the Southampton Police.

Some of his most vigorous soccer was played as gymnasium director on such luxury liners as the Queen Elizabeth. Teams were made up of waiters, engineers and other on-deck help.

Magee made 92 trips across the Atlantic in 44 years. One of his most memorable, though, was one going from Southampton to Durban on the Winchester Castle.

He asked about the ship's soccer team. The team was good and he was told he need not apply.

When the side's center forward went down with an injury, Magee was asked to show up. He scored six goals as the ship team won 8-1.

said we'll let the other guy (in the hospital) rest up good," Magee said.

He quit playing at 35; cartilage damage in his knee was the culprit.

Another injury — requiring hip replacement surgery two years ago — has hindered his ability to coach.

"That kind of slowed me down on the soccer a bit," said Magee, who has been retired for five years. "The doctor said I couldn't kick the ball any more."

There's a hint of resignation in his voice, but Magee doesn't let it slow him down.

Every few minutes, Magee springs up from his chair. He grabs a scrapbook and points to a yellowed newspaper clipping chronicling an athletic feat. One details how he won the 440 despite losing his shoe halfway into the race.

Later, he demonstrates how a foul can be concealed from an unsuspecting referee. "It's the little things that help," he said.

He also explains his variety of first names, which includes the nickname Paddy.

"When I arrived over here and I saw there was a John in every house," he said. "I thought I'd better be called Sean."

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