

Frisbee champ visits Northwestern Elementary

By Kathleen Neupauer
Press writer

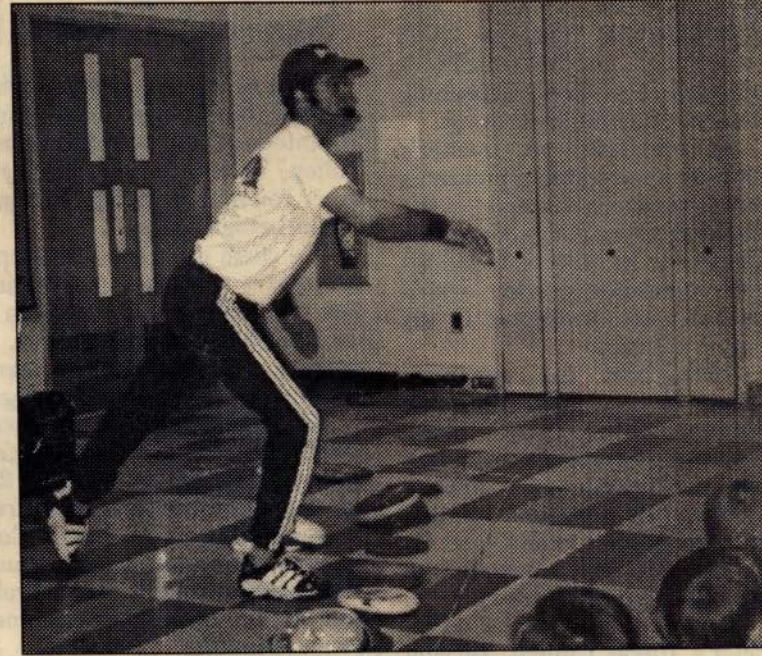
Gary Auerbach, 1995 World Frisbee Champion in freestyle, liked to play baseball just like any other 9 year old boy. But one day the sports director of his baseball team introduced the young players to a new game, frisbee baseball and Auerbach discovered he had found a new passion.

Third-grade teacher Sue Hanlon, who is in charge of school assemblies at Northwestern Elementary invited the energetic and entertaining Auerbach to visit the school. During a school tour that covers Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Auerbach is staying with a friend, Shannon Winn of Emmaus, while he is in the area.

Born in New York City, Auerbach's family moved to Toronto when he was 4 years old. After his introduction to the frisbee, Auerbach competed in 1981, at the age of 14, in his first competition. In 1995 with his partner, Brian McElwain of Toronto, Auerbach won the 1995 World Championship in free style at an event held in Jacksonville, Fla.

Auerbach has also given frisbee demonstrations for the Canadian Camping Association, day cares, township recreation departments, YMCA's, Boy Scouts, The Children's Hospital in Toronto, the 15th Annual Metropolitan Toronto Police Children's Games and the 1997 Special Olympics World Winter games.

"Free-style frisbee includes doing backthrows and catches, rolling the frisbee and juggling the frisbee," explained Auerbach. "The frisbee will go straight when you aim with dif-



GARY AUERBACH, 1995 World Frisbee Champion in freestyle, demonstrates his talents at the Northwestern Elementary School.

Press photo KATHLEEN NEUPAUER

ferent parts of the body—eyes, toes and hands pointing the same direction."

Auerbach collection of frisbees started when he told his parents he wanted a frisbee for his birthday. "I have nice memories with my frisbees," said the champion.

His collection includes a 1996 Team USA frisbee, a frisbee used in a pool, a frisbee made of recycled plastic, a glow-in-the-dark frisbee, a lazer-disc frisbee with lights on the edges and a frisbee from Hershey Park.

His largest frisbee is "good for Paul Bunyon or Shaquille O'Neal and his smallest is "for a 2 year old."

"Kids often write to me and I send back answers. I try to get kids involved in something very

inexpensive," said Auerbach.

Auerbach wants to "teach frisbee to the younger generation and to have them discover that there are many things you can do with a frisbee."

He runs a Toronto-based recreation service, Spinning Bees, that revolves around frisbees. Auerbach, who started the business after he won the world championship, calls the endeavor a "frisbee in-service."

"The company teaches frisbee and teaches life-time skills, things you can carry with you a life time, as part of the program," explained Auerbach.

Spinning Bees, which offers professional frisbee clinics, can be located on the web at www.SpiningBees.com or by using the e-mail address—spinbees@visional.net.