

# Remax holds off hard fast-charging Fat Freddy's 18-16

Last week's action began with a match between Fat Freddy's and Remax. After winning three in a row Freddy's was looking for victory over the league leading Realtors.

Remax scored first, however, and led 8-4 after four complete. The Fat ones scored five to take a slim lead into the sixth inning, but once again Re/max scored a couple to take the lead for good, winning a close game 18-16.

Remax's Tom Dodd had a perfect four-for-four night, all singles and scored once. Team-

## SLO PITCH

with CARL (HOLLYWOOD) TAYLOR

mates Merv Ball, Gary Thomas (double) and Loris Faggion (double) each supplied four-for-five nights and accounted for eight runs scored. Fellow Realtor Wayne Nikoleich

smashed the game's only homerun.

Peter Young led the assault for Freddy's with a four for four night. Paul Cameron, Bob Down, Ken Phillips, Yvan Poulin and Willard Rath (double) each went four-for-five at the plate.

Over at Omagh, St. Clair Paint and Canadian Pacific were doing battle with the Painters finally taking a 20-17 win. St. Clair scored early and led 4-0 after three innings, and 9-7 after five.

The sixth frame saw Can Pac come alive to score five times and take a lead only to see the Painters tie the game in their half of the inning. In the eighth St. Clair scored seven times to finally ice the Foresters.

Painter Larry Bates had a perfect four-for-four, all singles, while Ted Chilszczyk and Dave Hunt each counted four hit games. This trio also scored a total of seven runs. Most notable performances for the Foresters were - see FLETCHER on page 19

17-The Canadian Champion, Friday, June 26, 1992



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1992

## Dubien takes big step toward baseball career

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

If you invite him, he will come.

Damien Dubien's spikes have begun to clack a little louder, as he approaches the green-tinged light, at the end of the dressing room tunnel.

After a year at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Dubien, 19, has been invited to play for Canada's National Baseball Team. A two week camp in Windsor begins today (Friday) after which the top 20 players will continue on to play an exhibition series against the U.S. Olympic team.

This team would have represented Canada at the Barcelona Olympics this summer had Canada qualified. Members of the team will be involved in a number of overseas and American tournaments leading up to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Dubien, a lefthanded pitcher, figures that at least two of the four lefthanders invited to the camp will be selected to go on to the exhibition series. He admits to being "pretty excited."

At Duquesne, Dubien started in the bullpen and worked his way into the closer role before getting his last five appearances in the starting rotation for the NCAA Division One school. By the end of the year, the modest, unassuming lefty was one of the school's top two starters.

"They didn't expect much from me because I was a freshman," Dubien says. "I figured I was just there to learn for next year."

Late last year Dubien wrote to 120 U.S. schools looking for a scholarship and a place he could develop his 85 mph fastball. Twenty schools showed interest and after further contact that list was whittled down to two with Duquesne winning out primarily because of proximity to Milton. Pittsburgh is about five hours drive.

"Everybody down there thought that we didn't play much baseball up in Canada," Dubien says. "They thought we were much farther north. They don't know how good we are."

Partly because of Dubien's success, scouts from Duquesne began to take more notice of players north of the border. Burlington's Dan Lisac, after speaking with Dubien, will join him next season on the Duquesne team. Other local players are being looked at, as well.

With help from the coaches at school, Dubien has moved his average fastball into the high 80s and he can occasionally reach more than 90 mph. Like his speedy fastball, his star is rising.

In May, a scout from the San Diego Padres caught up to Dubien at a game in Cambridge and asked if he could pitch a few innings while a member of the team's brass was in the area. Dubien, despite pitching a few days before, obliged. With his fastball blazing he struck out seven in three innings work.

In addition, a Baltimore Oriole scout inquired after his college eligibility, which leaves Dubien ineligible for the draft until June 1994. The scout mused on a way around the eligibility rules so that the Orioles could draft him this year.

Dubien says that he figures another couple of seasons at school will help him hone his skills. The Duquesne coaches have harnessed his fastball and worked with him on his control, which prior to going south, was suspect.

"I've improved my control. Instead of striking out 12 and walking eight, which I used to do, I still get the 12 strikeouts but now I only walk two," he says. "I learn every game I pitch."

Dubien says he first considered baseball a possible career option, when he landed the scholarship. In the meantime he's taking liberal arts with an eye to business and marketing, in preparation for the time baseball no longer takes priority.

Duquesne coaches have also worked with him on a deadly three-finger straight change-up that compliments his fastball. On top of that Dubien has reasonable command of his curve and slider.



Southpaw Damien Dubien



Photos by BRAD REAUME

Damien Dubien, a member of Milton's juvenile reps, has been invited to camp for Canada's National Baseball Team. The camp begins today (Friday) with two weeks of workouts prior to a streamlined team going on a short U.S. tour.

"I like to establish the fastball the first time through the order and then begin to work in the other pitches," he says, crediting his longtime friend and catcher Dave McDuffe with the strategy. The two are re-united on this year's Canada Brick juvenile rep baseball team.

In 1993 Duquesne will lead the Atlantic 10 Conference and help form the Mid-West Collegiate Conference which will include the University of Notre Dame, Loyola (Chicago) and the University of Cincinnati among others.

In Central Ontario Baseball Association (COBA) league and tournament play this summer Dubien has pitched 55 innings, compiling a staggering 1.4 strikeouts per inning and giving up only 2.7 walks per nine innings. The latter is his most dramatic statistical improvement after his year at school.

Dubien has a long list of accomplishments both in local rep baseball and at Pittsburgh. They include: being an under-aged member of the Ontario youth team in 1990 which won the Canadian National Tournament; he picked up two wins while playing with a

team representing Canada at the American Legion World Youth Tournament in New York; helped Canada to a third place finish at the 1991 Continental Amateur Baseball Association high school World Series in Cleveland, Ohio with a complete game no-hitter and two saves to earn the most valuable pitcher award; won Niagara University tournament final with three scoreless innings of relief; and was one of only two freshmen starters in the Atlantic 10 last season.

Damien, with the help of his coach and father Gerry, have done their homework, checking out various opportunities and talking with other players from the area who have gone before them, to pick their brains and hopefully make the most of what opportunities are provided.

The soft spoken Dubien credits his father and long time Milton coaches Dave Dermo and Pat Levac with his progress to this point. He smiles when thinking of the possibility of playing baseball for his favorite Toronto Blue Jays, but says it doesn't matter who he plays for, as long as he plays baseball.