



THE KINCARDINE BARBARIANS will be gunning for the Ontario championship this summer in their second season with

The Southwestern Ontario Rugby Union. The Barbs enjoyed a Cinderella season in 1981, winning the SWORU title and

reaching the McCormick Cup semi-finals. The KDSS pitch will be a busy spot in

August as the Barbs are scheduled to play at home every Saturday afternoon.

Barbarians

1984

Most talked about team in Ontario after three years

Little did Doug Dyer know that Kincardine would be the home of a dynamic rugby team when a club was formed here three years ago. Or maybe he knew that this little town would soon cause waves in the Ontario rugby community.

Three years later and the Kincardine Barbarians are the powerhouse of the Southwestern Ontario Rugby Union (SWORU) and one of the most talked-about teams in the Ontario Rugby Union. A lot has happened since 1979 when Kincardine had enough players to challenge the Owen Sound club to a three-game series.

Rugby formally came to this town in January of 1982 when Steve Jones, Peter Blackwood, Terry Douglas, Jason Grubb and Bob Holgado moved here from Douglas Point. Jones, the Barbarians' player-coach is now recognized as one of the best skippers in the OIU and he coached the new team to 17 wins in 18 games in 1982, a season of exhibition fixtures.

Kincardine officials wrote to the ORU after the 1982 season indicating they interest in league play and after some herring and having joined SWORU, 1983 proved to be a Cinderella season as the Barbs reached the finals in tournaments at Deep

River and Chatham and captured the SWORU championship. Their most remarkable efforts came in the McCormick Cup series, a journey to the Ontario rugby championship. Wins over London Forest City, Stoney Creek (a 34-9 overtime win on home field), Hamilton Hornets and Ottawa Beavers propelled the surprising locals into the semi-finals. The Cup run ended in Toronto, however, as York Yeomen dumped the Barbs 14-3.

With an undefeated record at the Kincardine District Secondary School pitch and a respected reputation, the Barbs realize that SWORU teams will be out to unseat the defending champs in 1984. Kincardine also has a rematch with Stoney Creek in their first McCormick Cup fixture and a win in that town would allow Kincardine to host such great teams as Hamilton, Ottawa and York, providing they win each sudden-death match.

The Barbarians will be on the road for much of June and July (they host Chatham here on June 21) but officials are expecting games every Saturday through August. With any luck, Kincardine may have a provincial champion by the end of the rugby season.

Connaught Park

1984

Best ball complex there is

Close your eyes for a second and dream about Wrigley Field, watching Mel Hall making a great catch off the ivory in left field. Turn your thoughts to Tiger Stadium and imagine Darrell Evans slamming a fastball into the second tier among a wave fans. Or turn your attention to Royals Stadium in Kansas City, focusing on the waterfall in centre field while Dan Quisenberry is throwing from under.

Connaught Park hasn't any ivory, waterfalls or upper deckers but for almost a year now, Kincardine's ball user groups have been working to develop one of the best ball complexes in Southwestern Ontario.

A committee was formed last year to set out \$80,000 project which would see the three diamonds at the old racetrack renovated in time for the 1984 ball season. At the time the article was written, Bob Tull, Dan Wilken and a cast of volunteers were making final preparations to the park for use this summer.

Tom Finko, of the baseball diamond has realized a complete facelift as a sprinkling system in the outfield and new sod for the infield have been installed. The slo-pitch and softball diamond has also had a full facelift as the infield and outfield have been levelled to provide better and safer bases for the players. The third dia-

mond has been completely reconstructed, including moving the backdrop further back to increase its size and installing lights, which will provide a lot of relief for tournament organizers.

Once the project is completed, ball enthusiasts can stroll down Broadway Street to the lakefront and watch ball games seven nights a week. The Kincardine Men's Recreational Slo-Pitch League expands annually and the two-tier loop will host a couple of tournaments this summer.

The ladies' softball league has lost some teams to the new ladies' slo-pitch league but the softballers provide some good ball and one of the league's teams, the Birch Inn combine with the slo-pitch All Stars of the men's league to provide an exciting tournament in June, featuring some of the best slo-pitch and softball teams in the area.

The Kincardine Gilley's Royals men's baseball team compete in the Great Lakes Baseball League. Royals host the annual Pete MacDonald-Doug Green Memorial tournament on July 13, 14 and 15 and play Great Lakes teams from Walkerton to London.

Anyone wanting information on times and dates for games can phone the Community Centre at 396-3421.