

Pounding the Sports Beat . . .



FANS WHO weren't at last Saturday's intermediate game here missed the best game of the year, Campbellville came to town, batters this season, but their pitching staff was reduced to one—and he's usually a catcher.

In an Acton uniform for the first time was Bob Brattain, a young lefthander, from Guelph, and his task was to fetter Campbellville bats—most feared in the league.

Campbellville fans wanted to know what happened to the Acton team in their last few games. They figured the Acton club was going to furnish the toughest opposition after meeting them in the opener in the village and being extended.

AND THEY weren't wrong! Except for one ball that the young Acton lefthander grooved for Campbellville's king of swat, Earl Cairns, the villagers would have taken the worst beating they've had in many seasons.

But that one pitch with three strikes on the pond, put the Campbellville club on a losing streak. Cairns parked it over the right field fence. A run in the tenth enabled them to shade the Actons 8-7.

They got a big scare, however, and it took a lot of the cockiness out of the villagers. They were lucky and they knew it.

IT WAS EASILY the best performance from any Acton pitcher this season. Brattain proved to have a good assortment of "stuff" that had the villagers baffled. He struck out 11 and allowed only nine hits over the 10 inning distance.

Wingrove, Campbellville's starter, also hurled a fine game in his first start of the season. A catcher of the school that hurled back almost as fast as it is pitched, he started to weaken in the eighth. Arrival of Gary Fields, who hastily donned a uniform and was injected into the game saved the lead the villagers chalked up in the tenth.

Although greeted by a double from old team mate John Cunningham he settled down to strike out the Acton side in the bottom of the tenth.

CAMPBELLVILLE has been having trouble with its pitching staff this season. Harry Hamilton, still recovering from the broken leg he suffered in last year's CBA playdowns, is in uniform but far from being able to pitch.

Jack Roberts, long the mainstay of the villagers, recovered from an injury he sustained in the hockey season. However, last Friday he put a piece of metal in his left arm while working on a machine. That sidelined him for a while at least.

Gary Fields, now resident of Campbellville, has kept the Merchants in there. He's why they've won nine straight wins in the record books.

SOFTBALL CIRCLES are talking about the game the Dominion Hotel's new acquisition pitched, recently. Fanning the first 10 batters he racked up 18 strikeouts in a 21-inning game.

The local clubs and the towns Le Phillips and the Hoteliers' 12 pitching circles for the most feature in the sport.

The way the game has been shaping up in the early stages it looks like the Hoteliers will stay on top followed closely by the Tanners. It will be a close race to the top. The Hoteliers and the Tanners are the only clubs that can take your pick.

Games are still being played on the M 7 Bennett school grounds until the softball diamond is ready.

GEORGETOWN Golf and Country Club will likely never recover from this Saturday's Acton Open. Hordes of golfers would be golfers and what you might call "clubs" are slated to be denied this year's new course for the annual renewal of the golf stakes.

Supposedly out of these borders will emerge the top town duffers and they will be recognized by the multitude with suitable trophies. Reports from practice tournaments indicate, however, that the outcome is often doubtful.

Two of the contestants we know shrank onto the course for a trial run Sunday. They returned with tales of huge lakes, wide rivers and stone quarries in the midst of the 18-hole course. These obstacles will no doubt lengthen, get deeper and more dangerous after the open.

BEAT BITS . . . Dean Prentice, New York Ranger hockey star and a resident of Guelph will be in attendance at the Community Night event Saturday in the park. The perennial stringer of the Rangers will sign autographs and generally be available to give information to budding hockey stars. . . A Ranger scout will also be in attendance. . . Larry Nolan, of the soccer Maple Leafs, has formed a junior soccer team to encourage the sport in Acton. When Oakville Oaks played here recently we had a strange combination around first base. Bob by Anderson, coaching first for the Merchants, was joined by his son Dan who had just hit a single that dropped in the hole, other son Ron of the Oaks, left in right field. It was a family affair for a few minutes. . . Yes, Del Walters, who plays right field and wields a potent bat for the Tanners in the Acton Softball League, is a son of Minutes Walters. The resemblance is startling. . .

Comedy of Errors Tuesday Tanners Tounce F.F. 18-7

Five fingers, plagued by sticky fingers, and stumbly toes, turned Tuesday's softball contest between them and Tanners into a comedy of errors. As a result Timmy Masales' Beardmore crew had no trouble downing the hose 18-7, for their second win of the current schedule, and it left them tied with Dominion Hotel for first place in the four team circuit.

Eleven times the firemen booted the ball while the Tanners committed four errors behind the pitching of Bruce Cargill and Butch Richmond. Bill Williams, allowing eight hits over the first five inning span, for Fire Fighters gave way for "750" Lindsay in the fifth and "Dugie's" tantalizing offerings were smashed for nine more hits, for a total of 17.

The two Beardmore pitchers allowed 10 safeties over the nine inning distance.

Tanners take First Blood in the first game when Harry Lawson, Del Walters and Butch Richmond singled but the smoke eaters came back with four in their half on two singles by Townsend and Duval to take over.

But again on two hits the Tanners plated four more runs in the third and went ahead to stay.

Championship Hopes Dip, Soccer Captain Injured

Acton Maple Leafs won two soccer games over the weekend. The team went into a 3-0 lead in Stoney Creek, Acton turned back the home club 5-2 to take over third spot in league standings. It was a close game for the first 20 minutes with play moving from end to end, then in a ten minute spurt, Leafs scored three goals, two by centre Bob Martingell, one by Larry Nolan.

In the second half Stoney Creek got two last goals and were going all out for the third but Acton were not to be denied this win and booted home two more goals through Larry Nolan and Bob Martingell before the final whistle.

Shut out Orangeville in an exhibition game on Acton Sunday, the Leafs shutout Orangeville 4-0, scores by B. Shepherd, H. Haefner, H. Van Witzberg and L. Nolan.

In this game Acton's championship hopes took a decided dip when they lost Captain Peter Schipper with a torn cartilage. He will take over coaching duties until he returns to play in two months.

This week Acton plays League leading Brantford at the Acton High School Saturday at 3 p.m.

Campbellville String Intact

Acton Edged 8-7 in 10th Frame

One big wallop and the myth that Campbellville Intermediate can't be beaten was still intact after Saturday's clash between Acton Merchants and the Villagers, here.

The wallop — a grand slam home run by Earl Cairns in the ninth inning — turned what looked like a sure win for Acton into a 7-7 ball game. A run scored by Campbellville in the 10th enabled them to shade the locals 8-7. It was their eighth straight win.

Easily the best game of the year, Acton had an edge on the visitors all the way through the contest thanks largely to the fine nine-hit pitching of southpaw Bob Brattain and timely hitting from pitcher — turned — outfielder John Cunningham.

Decision Reversed — And the locals might have won if a questionable decision at second base in the ninth hadn't been reversed in favor of Campbellville. The runner first called out was later ruled safe when Townsley dropped the ball after what looked like a safe interval.

That left three men on the bases and set the stage for Cairns' bases loaded home run that went over the fence in right field, Campbellville, a losing club to that point, regained their spark and sent a runner home in the 10th on a long fly to right. An error at the plate allowed him to score from third.

Two in First — Earlier, Acton hopped onto Al Wingrove, starting moundman for the visitors, for two runs right in the first frame. Brian McCristall walked and so did Bob Bruce. Ethier's single through the infield scoring both of them.

Campbellville was thwarted in

the top half of the second when, with two out and two on the bags, John Cunningham made a spectacular catch of Dredge's fly to right. Acton added two more in the bottom half when Fennell walked and Scotty McCristall's bust left both runners safe. The next two batters went down in order but John Cunningham smashed a ball to deep left centre, scoring the two runners ahead of him and netting a double.

Neither club scored in the third or fourth but in the top half of the fourth, Nicholson led off with a single and W. Cairns doubled to score one. Moore singled, advancing Cairns to second and when Laking's long fly to centre was caught, Cairns tagged up and went in to score.

Acton made it 5-2, when Scotty McCristall hit safely in the sixth, stole second, advanced to third on a balk and scored when brother Brian hit safely through short.

Cunningham Doubles — In the eighth, the Acton club, playing one of their best games of the year, took a 7-2 margin when Fennell took a pass, pitcher Bob Brattain singled and both scored when John Cunningham came through with another long double out to the softball diamond to greet Campbellville's new pitcher, lefthander Gary Fields.

That way it stayed until the top of the ninth when Hamilton started the visitors off with a single to centre that Bob Bruce made a great effort to nab. Reversed — The ball went through, his legs and Hamilton went to second; W. Cairns got a base on balls but Moore whiffed. Laking's blooper over second scored Hamilton.

Then the most controversial play of the game occurred. Wingrove's infield grounder was easily grabbed and Harold Townsley made the force at second. However, he overstepped the bag and Laking overran. Both started back for second and en route, Townsley tagged the runner was out. The ball dropped out of Townsley's glove. The umpire reversed his decision.

The bases were loaded. Big Earl Cairns stepped up to the plate and although he is a lefthanded batter, he poled one of Bob Brattain's fork side pitches over the right field fence for a grand slam home run.

In the 10th, Gary Fields was walked, the next two batters struck out, but Moore's long drive to centre enabled Fields to make home when the throw-in was muffed at the plate. Fields then struck out the next three Acton batters.

Sports Page

The Acton Free Press, Thursday, June 22nd, 1961

Dominions Top Tanners Daley Whiffs 18 Batters

Dominion Hotel, last year's softball champions, demonstrated that they will be a potent force again this season by walloping a strong Beardmore entry 11-5 last Thursday night in Acton softball association activity.

Two big innings, the fifth and sixth, in which the Hoteliers chalked up nine runs took most of the steam out of the Tanners' attack and they were reduced to a pair of runs in the fifth and seventh, with a singleton sandwiched into the sixth.

Prior to these outbreaks the game was close. The Hotel crew plated a run in the second to take the lead and chalked up another in the fourth for a 2-0 margin.

Struck Out 18 — Beardmore's, meanwhile, went scoreless as Dominions' new pitcher, Daley, whiffed the first 10 men in an 18 strike-out effort over the seven innings. He allowed only six hits over the distance and walked two.

Aiding his own cause, Daley also hit a three run homer in the sixth inning to finish off a five run outburst. He was easily the individual star of the game.

James tripled in the fifth to empty the bases as the Hoteliers made it 6-0. The Tanners got back in the game in the bottom half with a pair of runs but again the five run Dominion sixth inning put them behind 11-2.

Hall, on the bags with a single, scored Beardmore's only run of the sixth when Jimmie Zajac doubled. In the seventh, Del Walters clouted a two-run homer for the Tanners while Dominion Hotel went scoreless in the top half.

Butch Richmond hurled the route for Beardmore's, allowing 15 hits, several of which could have been gobbled up with a little more try by his mates.

Brattain Whiffs 11 — Bob Brattain, scattering nine hits for Acton, struck out 11 batters and walked six. Wingrove and Fields, sharing mound duties for Campbellville, sent 15 down by the strike-out route and issued five bases on balls. Fields whiffed five batters in the 10 batters he pitched to, walking none.

R H E
Camp's . . . 000 020 005 1 8 9 1
Acton . . . 220 001 020 0 7 10 3
Campbellville: W. Cairns, K. Moore, J. Laking, A. Wingrove, E. Cairns, Chester, King, Nicholson, Fields, Dredge, Hamilton.
Acton: B. McCristall, M. J. Cunningham, J. Bob Bruce, H. Morton, C. J. Fennell, H. P. McCristall II, Bob Brattain p.

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Lawn Bowlers Win Two

In Inter-County League action, Wednesday, June 4, at Rockwood, the home team turned Georgetown aside, 12 to 10.

At Acton, the home team were also victors, defeating Guelph 14 to 8. Acton won 6 of the 10 games played, and outscored the visitors 112 to 76.

This is the second set-back in a row for Guelph, who dropped an 18 to 4 decision in their home opener a week earlier at the hands of a strong Rockwood team.

League Standings, June 17—Rockwood 30, Acton 23, Georgetown 23, Guelph 12.

On the evening of June 17, several members of the Acton Lawn Bowlers were visitors at the Rockwood Club in a mixed Hiten. Mild weather helped to encourage a fairly large turn out, and a wonderful time was enjoyed by all.

Winners of the Jitney-Ladies —Marg Taylor, Georgina Kelso, and consolation Mrs. H. Rogers. Men—Frank Kelso, Pete Saunders and consolation Pete Sim.

Coffee and sandwiches were served at the home of Dave Gray during a social hour after bowling was through for the night.

Next league games are—June 21st Acton at Rockwood, June 23 Guelph at Georgetown.

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ARMSTRONG HARRISS, Acton O.P.P. constable, copied the Halton County Policeman's trophy in the first annual golf tournament at Georgetown last week. He is pictured above receiving the trophy from Paul Armstrong, son of the donor. With the Acton officials were Constables Ron Brown and Bruce Kresler, also of the local detachment. The happy winner came up with a low net score of 64 for 18 holes played at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

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