



Pounding the SPORTS BEAT

HOW MANY YEARS AGO was it when Ollie Johnson ran the base paths for Oakville Oaks? It seems like only yesterday but recently the colorful Oakville resident confided to a newspaper reporter that he was 71 years of age, has been around since 1909 as a baseball player, manager, member of the team executive and league and O.B.A. official.

Ollie needs no introduction here. He was the Jackie Robinson of the Oaks. His play of the keystone upset many an Acton team. In spite of his relatively few years I can still remember Johnson when he was on the decline. He must have been really something in his prime.

Reminiscing, Ollie said: "Baseball has deteriorated in this part of the province. Until the end of the last war it was a community effort. Players stayed with the game year after year and built a club just like in Campbellville. Most players only stay with the game a couple of years now."

The Oakville teams he played on, says Ollie, could beat the parts off the best of teams fielded by Campbellville in the past decade. In those days Oakville supported their ball team hand somely.

"In 1924 there were just 3,000 people in Oakville but we never had under 500 people at a game. I can remember having as many as 1,500 people watch us."

ON THAT TEAM WERE: Buck Evans, George Snowball, Freddy Green and Ben Langway. They're still living. Gone are outfielders Art Hillmer and Pete Hande, first baseman Cliff Scott, second baseman Elton Green, pitcher Nally Williams, manager Dave Chapman and Art Hillmer.

Buck Evans, with a .302 average, was the team's top batter while Ollie himself, Stevens, Green and Langway were all solid .300 hitters.

The last great Oakville team? The 1947 Oaks, says Ollie. They won the O.B.A. Int. 'B' title. (They had their hands full with an Acton club that later won the Int. 'C' title in the league finals.) But, maintains Ollie, they couldn't hold a candle to the 1924 club. Included in the 1947 squad were Norm Carter, Sid Brown, Harry Ridley, Cliff Post, Blake Tuck, Paul Gillian, Ray Patterson, Norm Withnell, John Blakelock, Doug Wilson, Francis Langway, Bill Wilson and Jack Markey.

Pitching for that club were Jerry Acheson, John Turner and of course, Mark White. Chris Speyer coached the team with Joe Pickard's help. Ollie Johnson? He was on the executive. Every member of the team is still alive, some still active in Oakville sport.

Johnson isn't just another oldster moaning about the good old days, however. The decline of baseball is confined to the province, he says. Baseball is better in the United States now with the little leagues and legion baseball helping to produce more good ball players.

THE DAYS OF WHICH Ollie Johnson speaks are another era, when the local sports heroes were much idolized. His remarks will bring a lot of reminiscences. Just like the sudden death of John (Dang) Kentner last week must have brought back fond memories of the golden age of hockey in these parts.

Dang, as he was well known in sporting circles came from a hockey family. All the Kentner boys could play hockey well but John's size made him the professional prospect. He came from Milton to join brothers Joe, Clarence and Fred, who wore Acton livery for many seasons.

As in the case of Ollie Johnson, our memories of Dang are restricted to the years when he was on the verge of retirement. We recall briefly his part in the 1938-39 O.H.A. Int. 'B' championship team. He played a robust defense. But we will have some glowing memories of a man of 45 who won the Tanners during the playoffs after the last war and gave a performance that would have done credit to a man of 25.

The game I remember so well was played in the Waterloo arena. I've spoken of it in this column before but it bears repeating. It was the first round of the O.H.A. Int. 'B' playoffs. It was Acton's home game. The previous Int. 'B' champions, Preston, were the opponents of the Tanners who had quite a few veterans in the lineup. One of them was Jack Kentner, making his first appearance of the season for the Tanners.

Beside me in the press box was the sports editor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. When the Acton club skated on the ice for their pre-game warm-up, he remarked, "That looks like Dang Kentner out there — no, . . . it couldn't be. He'd be in his 40's." I assured him that was Jack Kentner and he was in his 40's. In fact, he was 45. He shook his head. He had plenty of memories of Jack Kentner who played pro hockey in Kitchener.

IN THE FIRST PERIOD of that game the Preston team took a 1-0 lead on the Tanners who couldn't seem to get untracked. Looks like Preston's got a better team, said the Kitchener writer in between the first and second period. They'll beat you by two or three goals.

He reckoned without the big defenseman wearing a scarf around his neck and a red baseball cap, almost his trademark, on his head. For the first few minutes of the second period it looked like an accurate forecast, however. The Tanners were downright inept.

Then, it just seemed as if Dang was tired of all this fooling around. He came out on the ice for his shift, started directing the attack. He took the puck up centre and started a series of short passes with Ivo Marzo and Duie Lindsay that resulted in the first goal for Acton. He did it again . . . and again. The partisan crowd was going wild. He gave sports of all kinds and never missed an opportunity to attend a contest, be it hockey, baseball, softball or lacrosse.

The Tanners, needless to say, went on to win the game 4-1 and the series in two straight. The Kitchener editor almost collapsed in his excitement. "I haven't seen hockey like that in years," he muttered.

That's how we'll always remember Jack Kentner, his head cocked to one side, chewing gum vigorously and moving the puck up the ice as if it was glued to his stick. We'll also think of him and Mike King on the streets of Acton where he was a familiar figure. He loved sports of all kinds and never missed an opportunity to attend a contest, be it hockey, baseball, softball or lacrosse.

BEAT BITS . . . Harris Roe, Acton's new recreation director, is moving to town September 1st to take over his duties. Mr. Roe has purchased one of the new homes in Lakeview subdivision through Alef Johnson Real Estate . . . An All-Star team from the Acton Softball Association minor boys loop played Rockwood Tuesday in our neighboring village and came away with a 7-6 win. They were treated afterwards with soft drinks and doughnuts . . . The nation's most spectacular sports car race, featuring top, internationally-famous drivers in the world's fastest cars is the aim of the British Empire Motor Club, organizers of the Canadian Grand Prix to be held at Mosport on September 26 next for \$11,000 in cash awards and the coveted Pepsi-Cola Trophy. Last year's winner was Mexican driver Pedro Rodriguez, age 23, who led the field in a re-engine Ferrari. He covered the 100 laps in two hours, 41 minutes and 12.8 seconds . . .

Cairns Paces League Hitters

Cairns widened his lead in the home run derby with nine circuit clouts. Merchant third baseman Stan Henderson is second in that department with six. Cairns also leads the loop with 38 base hits. Wingrove is tops in runs (36), doubles (eight), and walks (31) and is tied with Campbellville second sacker Elmer Dredge in triples (three).

PRESENT STANDINGS (a.m., Tuesday, August 25)

Campbellville	21	6	.778	—
Oakville	18	11	.621	4
Hamilton	18	11	.621	4
Dundas	11	15	.423	9 1/2
Milton	10	16	.385	10 1/2
Georgetown	4	23	.148	17

Firefighters Hose Legion Last Night

Legionnaires were sitting proudly up on top. Looking down sedately when up steps a headless. A little thin on top. Raps a rousing double through a hole — kerpop! Three runs go scampering right across the pan. Down goes the Legion. To the building fireman.

That little bit of doggerel describes just about what happened to the front running Legion club last night (Wednesday) when second place Firefighters downed them 5-2 in one of the best town league softball contests of the season.

John Salmon and Frank Daley hooked up in a pitcher's duel which went scoreless for six innings. Then Harold Townsley, calling the shots for Firefighters, told Scotty McCristall to try a bunt on the revamped Legion infield.

Scotty laid down a perfect bunt. Bill Spielvogel, the next man up, followed suit. Townsley loaded the bases when he laid another one down the third base line.

Up stepped third baseman Will Duval with orders to set up the old squeeze play, but with two strikes on him he hit away with a blast through the hole between second and short and ended up safely on third with the bases emptied. Johnny Krapek bunted to let Duval slide in with run number four.

It broke up the game. Legionnaires, unaccustomed to the short end of the stick couldn't seem to settle down. In the ninth Townsley made it to first safely on an error at short. Duval came through again with a drive that broke through the infield scoring Townsley and putting Firefighters ahead 5-0.

Daley really bore down in the last of the ninth but John Leatherland beat out an infield hit and got to second when Daley balked. Up stepped Jim Bullough. He walloped a home run deep into right field scoring both Legion runs.

Firefighters' win evened the score between the league's two top teams this season. They each run a pair of games, one of the firemen's a committee room victory.

Firefighters	000 000 410 — 5
Legion	000 000 002 — 2
Batteries	Daley, Krapek; Salmon, McCristall.

TOWN LEAGUE SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Including August 26th game			
Legion	15	4	.789
Firefighters	14	4	.777
Station Hotel	9	9	.500
Dominion Hotel	8	10	.444
I.G.A.	4	13	.235
Dumlar	4	14	.222

All Stars Thump "Rejects" 11-5

Rumbles of discontent from some fans and players over the players picked for the O.A.S.A. All-Star team prompted the executive of the Softball Association to pick an alternate team who promptly dubbed themselves "The Rejects."

Monday night the battle of the Selects was played and it turned out the All-Stars emerged the winners but their reputations were slightly tarnished from the encounter. They staged a five run rally in the bottom of the eighth to rescue the game after leading by only 6-5 over the first seven and a half frames.

The All-Stars outthit the Rejects 11-4 with Scotty McCristall heading the drive with three. Jeff Fryer trailing with two. Frank Daley and Bruce Cargill heaved for the winners. Bob Newman and Fred Archibald for Rejects.

All-Stars — Wayne Marshall 1b, H. Townsley c, G. Masales ss, D. Arbie 3b, T. Waterhouse lf, J. Fryer cf, B. McCristall 2b, F. Archibald 2b, S. McCristall rf, F. Daley p, B. Cargill p.

Rejects — Terry Masales, Bucky Price, B. Cunningham, Denis Gibbons, W. Duval, A. Hayward, B. Somerville, Fred Archibald, D. Lindsay, G. Maltby, B. Newman, M. Ball, R. Morton.

All-Stars — 104 010 05x — 11 — 1 2
Rejects — 000 200 300 — 5 4 5

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ANYONE FOR MARS? The three girls above pose by a home-made rocket during the summer playground closing party Friday night at the community centre. Left to right are Bonnie Gillespie, Sandra Denny and Sharon Gillespie as they represent Pluto, Mercury and Mars respectively.

Sports Page

Around the Clock Relay Plan of Acton Sextette

This weekend while most people are asleep, a group of six Acton runners will begin a continuous 24-hour relay through the streets of Acton. Beginning at 12 midnight, Friday, August 28, Bruce Andrews, Keith Manney, Allan Hall, Paul Murr, Gary Murr and Bill Cook will attempt to run a 3.9 mile course continuously until 12 midnight, Saturday, August 29.

Their starting point and headquarters will be at the High School, and their course will be along Acton Blvd. to Mill St., Mill St. to Bower Ave., Bower Ave. to Willow St., Willow St. to River St., River St. to Main St. N., Main St. N. to

Knox Ave., Knox Ave. to Park Ave., Park Ave. to Mill St. W., Mill St. W. to Victoria Ave., Victoria Ave. to Cobblehill Rd., Cobblehill Rd. to Hwy. 25, Hwy. 25 to Church St., Church St. to Eastern Ave., Eastern Ave. to Queen St., Queen St. to Longfield Rd., Longfield Rd. to Churchill Rd., Churchill Rd. to Hwy. 7, across Hwy. 7 to Peel St., Peel St. to Acton Blvd. and the starting point.

To the unacquainted, the question most certainly must arise, why? To the boys, it's simple. How far can they push themselves? Can they complete it? How many miles will they run?

The Villagers' mentor is optimistic about his club's chances, but regrets that rain postponed several league contests during the past week. "I'm getting a little concerned with the lack of work my pitchers have been getting," he reported, "but they're all eager to go and I think we'll be okay."

The second game of the series will probably be played in Campbellville on Saturday, September 5, with the third game (if necessary) to be decided at a latter date.

Campbellville is expected to be at full strength for the series opener.

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LEGION AUDITORIUM

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Bucket Brigade Blanks Dominions 5-0 Ledger's Win 9-5 in Sunday's Twin Bill

Firefighters solidified their hold on second place and IGA kept their playoff hopes alive with wins in Sunday's town league softball doubleheader.

Frank Daley tossed a neat four hitter in the opener for Firefighters as they blanked fourth place Dominion Hotel 5-0. In the nightcap, the Ledger crew tagged 17 hits from strong-armed Eddie Phillips, to take a 9-5 win from third place Station Hotel.

Daley's mates turned in 11 hits as they whitewashed Dominion while Frank Lunned four and walked one of the inkeepers. Fred Archibald was the loser. He was tagged for 11 hits, will be fed three, but didn't issue a pass to first.

The winners won it in the

first frame with a pair of runs, adding singles in the second, sixth and seventh. Dominions presented a threat in the fourth when Don Lindsay doubled, Ross Morton walked and Archibald beat out a scratch single, but the next two batters went down.

Harold Townsley topped the winner's hit parade with three, while Scotty McCristall and Don Archibald collected a pair apiece.

Blm Playoff Hoop

IGA kept their slim playoff hopes alive by scoring nine runs in the first four innings of the second game of a shaky Fd Phillips. The hotellers rallied in the last frame of the seven inning contest when Mel Sheppard unleashed a three-run homer to

deep right but the grocers had it all wrapped up.

Bruce Cargill, harling for the winners, restricted the Station crew to one run over the first five frames. He yielded nine hits over the route, fanning two. He never walked a man.

Ed Phillips, the loser, allowed 17 hits and got two on strikes without issuing a pass.

Dick Willie and Bruce Cargill were the pick of the IGA. humbermen with three hits apiece. Denis Gibbons, Dave Mance, Doug Black and Milt Ball had two apiece.

Mel Sheppard and Johnny Dunn led the Station swatters with two hits apiece, one of Mels a circuit breaker.

First Game

Firefighters	210 001	5 11 0
Dom. Hotel	000 000	0 0 4 4

IGA	114 100	9 17 1
Stat. Hotel	010 001	3 5 9 3

Firemen Rally to Win Squeaker in Ninth Tues.

Circuit smashes from the bats of Scotty McCristall, Will Duval and Bill Spielvogel led an 11 hit assault on pitcher Bruce Cargill Tuesday night as second place Firefighters virtually eliminated IGA from the town league playoffs with a shaky 12-11 victory under the lights.

IGA had a mathematical chance of making the charmed playoff circle by winning all their remaining games but the loss stopped the grocers in their tracks. A pregame discussion instigated by the Firefighters to play only seven innings was never agreed upon and the teams went the full nine.

If the game had stopped after seven, IGA would have been home free. They led 11-8 as the teams went into the eighth but the bucket brigade got two homers from McCristall and Spielvogel with a man on base tying the knot. They won it in the ninth when Bob Bruce singled and scooted home as Scotty McCristall's grounder was bobbed and the throw aimed to catch Bruce at third went wild.

Pitcher Bruce Cargill kicked the bench in disgust.

Four of the firemen smashed out two hits apiece in the win. Bill Spielvogel, Butch Richmond, Herb Dodds and Bob Bruce. Will Duval poked a two-run homer in the second inning.

Dick Willie's double and pair of singles in five trips led the IGA attack. Bruce Cargill, George Maltby and Milt Ball rapped a pair apiece. One of Cargill's was a two-bagger, as was one of Ball's. One of Maltby's was a triple.

Don Archibald started on the mound for the smoke eaters but he was relieved by Butch Richmond in the third. Between them they yielded 12 hits, struck out five and walked six. Bruce Cargill allowed 11 hits, whiffed four and issued three tickets for the grocers.

Fire's	030 022 131 12 11 4
IGA	532 010 000 11 12 4

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