



Pounding the SPORTS BEAT

DISAPPOINTMENT was keen but the manager, coaches and players of Acton's first girls' softball team in years are looking forward to next season now, following elimination by West Gara.

Probably the one who felt the defeat most was veteran Charlie Thompson, Wildcat manager. Charlie has seen much water go under the bridge, felt many disappointments, backed losers before but this girls' team was the result of his insistence that there be one. You might call it his brainchild along with recreation director Howard Pearce.

Charlie would have liked to have seen the girls go a lot further in their first year of league competition. They showed through the season they could beat any team in the league, bar none. It was reasonable to assume they would do well in the playoffs.

And they did. The Cats dropped the first game of the playoffs but bounced back to tie the series up in extra innings. The Gara's sensing defeat, protested Acton's use of players who hadn't played the required number of games through the schedule and coaches Frank Spielvogel and John Leatherland were unable to use them.

Earlier the team lost ace pitcher Bonnie McDougall to coverage, Mary Golem to vacation and when Teresa Marz and Kelta Stephenson were benched Monday it weakened the team further because all four girls were assets at the plate and defensively.

There are no complaints. There has to be a loser and this time it was Acton's. Next season? Could be a different story. "We did what we set out to do," said coach Frank Spielvogel posthumously. "We made the playoffs in our first year." Then he headed for a tall cool one. He might have added that the girls attracted a large following in their initial year, too. Crowds at the girls' games have been large, exceeding the following for the town league games, a more skillful brand of ball.

A few fans thought the Acton girls played for the stands, patted those curls instead of heading straight for a base drive, plucked eyebrows when they should have been stealing second. Aw, what the heck! These are girls and who'd have them any other way.

Hope you'll be back next year, Cats. Keep those new gold and black jackets shiny!

A COOL BREEZE BLEW, a few drops of rain sprinkled, and 250 people stood at attention for a minute. A few children continued to holler and shout and run beyond the fences of Wallace Park, but those standing were silent. They were at a baseball game — the annual Halton County All-Star game — and they didn't stir because they were paying their respects to the memory of Pete McMullen.

Saturday night Pete died at Milton District Hospital and his death marked the end of an era in the annals of the Halton County Baseball Association. One reporter remarked on Sunday, "if it hadn't been for him, baseball in the county would have died a long time ago." That may or may not be true, but certainly, without Pete McMullen, baseball in the county would have been far worse off.

Pete was always a sportsman and when he accepted a position, he worked! Many collect titles, hang them on a hat rack and then sit back and accept praise while others do the work. But not Pete. He'd tell you it was difficult looking after the Halton league, and it was — he knew, because he did it.

His life in sports was centered around his love for baseball. He once told us, "I've worked hard for baseball, but I'm sure I received more enjoyment out of the game than most people could ever dream of." He was an inveterate ball buff. Whether it was an Intermediate or Senior game or just a bunch of kids bartering a ball around, he loved to watch. Armed with a lawn chair, he'd watch baseball every night of the week, if possible, and if you talked with him he'd probably tell you "I think I've seen more baseball than practically anyone in the county."

He was being modest; he never should have used the word practically.



PETE McMULLEN

BEAT BITS . . . Actonian Pete Lawson, shortstop for Georgetown Giants, belted a 400 foot home run out of the Giant park in a recent game. . . Giants edged Oakville Oaks 2-0 last Wednesday behind strong-armed Bernie Dore and Monday night beat Campbellville for the second time behind Don Westbrook's sparkling one-hitter. The Acton flavored Giants are out of the running but are making things miserable for the rest of the teams in the Halton County senior baseball circuit. . . Acton Merchants, with two wins under their belts, could be the dark horse in the Inter-County softball circuit. A string of losses put them in the cellar but they're showing signs of a rapid recovery. . . Score card was unavailable to the Free Press so no report of last Thursday's town league extra series which the Legion won 6-5 to take second place and relegate Station Hotel to third.

Hotel, Herb's grab playoff leads

Innkeepers rally late edge grocers 15-13

Station Hotel, playing their third game in five days under different auspices, came from behind an 11-4 deficit to edge defending champion I.G.A. 15-13 in a wild and woolly town league playoff opener Sunday afternoon.

The innkeepers drew first blood in the best-of-three league semi-final with a six run recovery in the seventh, a pair in the eighth and a scene sizzling three run explosion in the ninth that generated so much tension portly manager Mel Sheppard ran out of seagars.

Bombarded by the grocers for 18 hits, pitcher Ed Phillips settled down in the last two innings to restrict I.G.A. to two paltry blows and what was more important — no runs. Meanwhile his teammates hammered the ball at just the right moment to overcome a 13-12 grocer margin in the ninth.

Bob Sheppard started the ninth inning rally which wrapped it up for the innkeepers when he hit safely through third. George Williamson drew a walk and with a two on, two out situation, centre fielder Lorne Peavoy slammed a double to left to score the tying and winning runs.

Wielding a potent five for five batting average at this point, which included a home run, next batter John Dunn was fanned by pitcher Al Calver but he scampers safely to third when the third strike got away from catcher George Maltby and the delayed throw went over the head of first sacker Don Black. Peavoy scored the final run of the game on the play.

All told 35 hits were hammered out by both teams, 19 by the

Westbrooke blanks league leaders 1-0

Campbellville dropped its fifth game of the season Wednesday night in Georgetown. It was the second time this year they have lost to Georgetown and the second time to pitcher Don Westbrook.

In fact, Westbrooke hurled a one hitter as he shut-out league leaders 1-0. He walked four and struck-out two in the abbreviated five and a half inning contest. Jack Roberts lost a heartbreaker as he allowed one unearned run off two hits. He walked four, struck-out two and hit one batter.

Slick fielding Herb's downs Legion 9-4

Shunted to last place in a sudden death extra series scramble, Herb's Delivery regrouped and came out with all guns blazing to beat second place finishing Legion 9-4 in the first game of the town league semi-finals Tuesday night.

In as good a game as you'd care to watch the slick fielding delivery crew, urged on by sponsor Herb Dodds, fattened a slight 4-3 lead with a five run deluge in the top of the ninth, gave them a one game lead in the best-of-three series which resumes Sunday afternoon.

The winners backed up Finger Freddy Archibald with an almost flawless fielding performance. Fred scattered 11 hits over the distance for Herb's. Loser Chick Milne was tagged for nine hits by the winners.

Outfielders Gary Taillefer and Don Archibald were outstanding for Herb's as was the infield combination of Will Duval at third, Butch Richmond at short, Harold Townsley at second and Scotty McCristall on first. They kept the heavy hitting Legionnaires from capitalizing on the hits they did punch through the defensive umbrella.

Herb's got the first run of the game in the second when catcher Howard Pearce drew a pass, followed by Harold Townsley's safety. Pearce was thrown out but Townsley made it to third and scored after Gary Taillefer's blast to right was caught.

Legionnaires came back in the fifth when Don Price and Freddy Thompson, Barrie Elliott and Ken Maltby all hit safely to plate two runs for a 2-1 lead.

Phil McCristall started a rally going for Herb's in the sixth with a rap to right and Butch Richmond followed with a walk. Bob Doyle singled and Howard Pearce put another one in the hole to give Herb's three runs and a 4-2 edge.

Catcher Freddy Thompson, the heavy artillery for the Legion in the opener blasted a home run in the seventh to narrow the gap to 4-3.

Both teams went scoreless in the eighth but Herb's wrapped it up in the ninth with a five run explosion.

Harold Townsley greeted Chick Milne with a single in the top of the ninth and Fred Archibald drew a walk. Will Duval's grounder was gobbled up and the alert Legion infield cut Townsley off on third. Don Archibald was hit by a pitched ball and finished loading up the bases.

Into the situation stepped Phil (Scotty) McCristall and the veteran socked a line drive into right centre scoring two runs ahead of him. He pulled up at second.

Shortstop Butch Richmond followed Scotty with a towering two run triple into deep left centre which he might have stretched into a home run but he was held up at third and when Bob Doyle cracked a single over first, Butch went in to score number nine.

The losers got one back in the bottom half when Ken Duncan singled and Fred Thompson cracked another long hit to centre, scoring Ken ahead of him.

Scotty McCristall, Butch Richmond, Bob Doyle and Harold Townsley led Herb's attack with two hits apiece while Freddy Thompson's three hits were tops of the Legion hit parade. Ken Maltby and Don Arbie collected two apiece.

Herb's Delivery 010 003 005-9 9 0

Legion — 000 020 101-4 11 0
Herb's — P. McCristall 1b, B. Richmond ss, B. Doyle cf, H. Pearce c, H. Townsley 2b, G. Taillefer lf, F. Archibald p, W. Duval 3b, D. Archibald cf.

Legion — B. Elliott ss, K. Maltby lf, D. Arbie 3b, G. Masales 2b, T. Masales 2b in 8th, A. Hayward cf, K. Duncan cf, D. Price 1b, F. Thompson c, C. Milne p.

Umpires — Bruce Cargill, plate; Jeff Fryer, bases.

Villagers lose exhibition game

Campbellville played an exhibition game with Orillia in Campbellville Saturday and dropped a 10-7 decision in a loosely played contest. Campbellville out-hit Orillia 11-8 but didn't get them when they counted and made four errors to their opponents' two.

Gary Field hurled a creditable four innings for Campbellville as he only allowed one unearned run off two hits. Ralph Rintoul, the loser, had an off day as he gave up eight runs off seven hits.

Ken Moore led the Campbellville attack with a home run and three singles. Al Wingrove homered and doubled, Elmer Dredge doubled and singled, Rick Repta hit two singles, Stu King and Ray Grisold doubled and Gary Field singled.

Ed Phillips fans 16 Hotel blanks Herb's

Herb's Delivery was despatched to a fourth place town league softball finish when they dropped a 9-0 decision to Station Hotel last Wednesday in the two game elimination series designed to wipe out a three team finish in second place.

The innkeepers, with Ed Phillips back in the podium twirling a stingy five hitter, accumulated a scant 3-0 lead over the first eight frames, but chalked up another six runs in the ninth to win the first sudden death placement series.

Phillips, a stingy pitcher with hits anytime and as good as the best in this neck of the woods when he's on a rotation basis,

struck out 16 of Herb's batters and didn't issue one pass to first. Only one of the losers got past third and he was nabbed trying for home.

One of the few shutouts in a batters' league this season, it shunted the innkeepers into the hunt for second place with Legionnaires who had a bye. Phillips got strong support from his teammates. They collected 14 hits including a home run from Herb's Fred Archibald who went the distance for the losers, whiffing three.

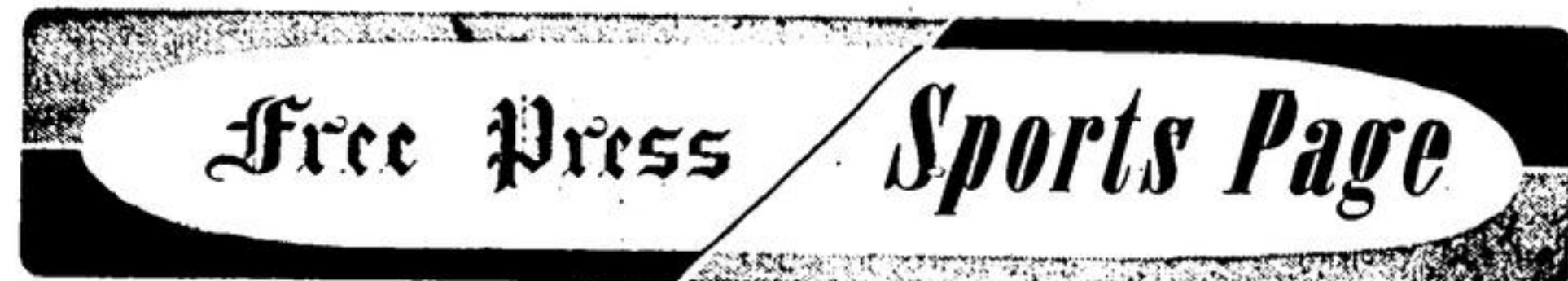
Jan Riddall paced the winners at bat with three safeties, while Allan McNabb, Andy Williams and John Dunn whacked two apiece. Dunn's homer was the loud shot of the match and he, along with Ed Smith slammed a double.

Station's six run explosion in the ninth was a prelude to Ed Phillips striking out the side to finish the game.

R H E
Station — 200 000 106 9 14 1
Herb's — 000 000 000 0 4 2

Station Hotel — L. Peavoy, A. McNabb J. Riddall, E. Phillips, A. Williams, E. Smith, B. Sheppard, J. Dunn, G. Williamson, H. Phillips 7th.

Herb's — P. McCristall, J. Gov H. Townsley, G. Taillefer, F. Archibald, J. Mason, H. Pearce, H. Leader, H. Dodds, D. Archibald.



West Gara sidelines Wildcats in deciding game of playoffs

Peaches and cream complexioned West Gara Garry's won the deciding game of the best of three playoffs 11-5 Monday night sidelining smartly suited Acton Wildcats from the Grand River girls' softball league for the season.

Garry's favored candlelit Acton park as their base. They took both victories in the series here in front of good-sized crowds while the Cats won their lone decision in the West Gara Park.

Gail Leybourne, a sister of big Tex who pitches for Acton Merchants of the Inter-County last-ball circuit, hurled Garry's to victory scattering nine hits. Joanne Landsborough was nicked for 13 as she twirled for the Cats.

The visitors fell behind in the first inning as the Cats rapped four hits and scored two runs but they tied the score in the

second and went ahead in the third to stay. Cats could muster only singles in the third, fifth and sixth while Garry's plated three in the third, another three in the fifth, a pair in the sixth and wound up with one in the seventh.

Pitcher Leybourne helped her own cause by slamming three hits, including a double for the winners. Earla McGowan and Mary Simpson also got three base knocks for Garry's, one of Mary's a homer. Marg McClellan collected two.

Third baseman Liz Kirby socked three hits for the Cats, Gail Fryer and Joanne Landsborough belted two safeties each, Sandra Slingerland and Bev Brunelle one apiece.

Wearing brand new jackets to match their uniforms the Acton gals lost no time congratulating the series winners after the game. They had crests from an

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PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18
8 p.m. — Roller Skating
8.15 p.m. — Men's Softball Playoffs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19
Inter-County Softball

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
8 p.m. — Roller Skating
10 p.m. — Teen Dance with "The Topix"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
1.30 p.m. — Men's Softball Playoffs

MONDAY, AUGUST 22
7.30 p.m. — Senior Citizens' Shuffle Boogie

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
8 p.m. — Roller Skating
8.15 p.m. — Men's Softball Playoffs

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
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