

SPORTS spot

by John Mcnabb

Acton softball association has posted a May 23 starting date for the '67 season. The complete schedule for the season will be drawn up at a meeting held this evening and edited in next week's Free Press edition.

A tally of four teams sponsored by Acton I.G.A., Station Hotel, Dominion Hotel and a new entry backed by Herb's Delivery are listed for keen softball action this season.

Anyone interested in signing up this year should see Herb Dodds for Herb's Delivery, Bruce Cargill for I.G.A., Doug Vickers for the Station and Turk Sheppard for the Dominion.

Fifty or sixty years ago, baseball players who wanted to continue action during the winter months, devised what was called indoor baseball, which was to provide play in enclosures. Since even the largest was small, in comparison with a regular baseball field, it was necessary to create a large, and a soft ball, which could not be hit the vast distances that were possible with a regular baseball.

Other rule changes were made so that the game could be played indoors. However, indoor baseball never gained much favor. The baseball regulars were content to devote winter to talking about the regular season that was just past, and to make plans for a renewal of outdoor play in the spring.

Canadians are regarded as pioneers in softball. In the late 1920's, small groups put indoor baseball to outdoor play, in limited city areas, and the game gained immediate favor. It had a mushroom growth in Canada thereafter.

In a way, the name "softball" is misleading. The ball is not soft. It is about as hard as a regular baseball, but is about two inches greater in diameter, and the very largeness of the ball made it possible to handle hard drives without great danger to the hands or fingers.

The depression years of 1932 and 1933 are responsible for the development of the softball game. Hundreds and thousands of people were out of employment, and some of them dropped into recreation centres, saw boys and girls at play, took particular notice of "playground ball" and liked it. Not wishing to play with the children nor to encroach on their fields, they returned to home neighborhoods, chose vacant lots, acquired equipment and proceeded to play.

The various teams had a variety of names for the game. It was called "playground ball", "recreation baseball", "kitten ball" (because girls played it), "soft baseball" and so on. Nobody in 1932 thought of standardizing the name or the game. It was just something to bridge the idle hours between depression and prosperity, and the assumption was that when men were back to work, they would abandon play.

Softball caught on more so, as a competitive sport, in the United States in 1933. The first softball tournament was held at the "Century of Progress" (World's Fair) when the J. L. Gillis Chicago team came out tops over 20 other teams from all over the country.

During the early years of the game the sport was played on any available field, and there was no admission fee. The crowds, if they found small stands, filled them, and then overflowed onto the playing field. The immensity of some of the assemblages made it difficult for the players to perform their duties satisfactorily.

The result was a fenced-in playing field here and there, with games continuing until darkness came. Later some of the more daring installed flood lights, built stands of real size, and charged admission fees to meet expenses.

The experiment was a great success, and it was quickly proven that the game had enough appeal to make folks eager to pay to see the players in action under the lights.



AN ACTON BASEBALL TEAM of 1905 or thereabouts vintage which won the Halton and Peel League championship is shown in this sports flashback. Recognize anyone? In the back row are Bob Taylor, Joe Sinowski, Frank Holmes, Nelson Ryder, Ed Ryder and Fred Wiles. Seated Jack Arhurs, Heber Williams, Ruben McNabb mgr., Cameron Clark, "Snow" Hynds. In front

bat boy Harry (Bunk) Holmes. Insets: Frank McIntosh and Murray McDonald. Helping with identifications on this picture lent by the Ryder family Bunk Holmes said he remembers Nelson Ryder hitting the longest home run he ever saw in Brampton. The ball sailed out of the park over one green-house and smashed through another before it stopped.



HURLING THE DISCUS, Linda Perry is watched by fellow entrants at high school field day. (Staff Photo)

Rule changes are proposed at annual meeting of O.H.A.

At the Ontario Hockey Association's recent annual meeting, it was decided that there would be no overtime in O.H.A. playoffs except for the Senior A and Intermediate A categories. Up until this time they played a 10-minute overtime period and then went into sudden death.

This change could bring an extra gate receipt to the teams involved and in some cases it could mean the difference of a club making or losing money.

It was proposed that junior teams be allowed to use players from minor teams with which they are affiliated more regularly. In past seasons a

player was limited to three games with the junior team before going up full time with that team. This ruling will go before the O.M.H.A.

IT PAYS TO WAIT
"I'm sorry, sir," said the boy, learning to dive, "but I couldn't dive from the highest board. It's all of 15 feet." "I know, but you need to conquer your fear," answered the instructor firmly. "Supposing you were that high above the water on a sinking ship. What would you do then?" "Wait for the ship to sink another 10 feet, sir," he answered.

Free Press Sports Page

121 register to play hardball coaches, umpires still needed

One hundred and twenty-one boys have registered for minor baseball in Acton. Final registration Saturday morning at the Community Centre brought out enough to make 62 players in the novice age bracket, 28 pee wees, seven bantams, 16 midges, eight juveniles.

These figures were disclosed at a meeting of the Acton Minor Baseball Association Monday night which had 21 in attendance. First practices for the teams will be held this Saturday

morning although 50 boys turned out with balls and gloves last Saturday to shag flies and get into trim. Pee Wees will start their practice Saturday morning at 9 a.m., novices will start at 10 a.m. and the bantams, midges and juveniles will also get away at 10.

Coaches and umpires are still wanted to help with teams and games. Interested men are asked to report to the ball diamonds this Saturday morning. The league expects games will be played in the evenings

as well as on Saturdays in the park and on the newly constructed diamond in Glenlea park. Present indications point to a four team novice league, two teams for pee wees and two teams made up of bantams, midges and juveniles. This could change, however, if more players are accepted. The new association points out all boys will receive equal playing time and they are automatically insured when they pay the two dollar registration fee.

Acton tops five high schools at CWOSSA meet in Guelph

Acton high school defeated its nearest rival by 109 points Tuesday at the CWOSSA "B" district track and field meet in Guelph. Next Saturday, the winners proceed to CWOSSA "A" finals, also in Guelph.

Tuesday the Acton athletes took three out of six individual championships and tied for a fourth.

Bob Andrews was declared midjet boys' champion, Jim Slaven junior boys' champion and Dan Arhic senior boys' champion.

Laurie Chisholm tied for junior girls' champion. Total marks showed Acton far ahead with 223 points, followed by Erin with 114, Millerton 94, Elora 81, and Millerton School for the Deaf 70.

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with ART HAWES

There was no trap shooting at Maple Rock this week since the members competed at Appleby Gun Club for the G. G. Breckon trophy. The shoot was held Sunday in perhaps the worst weather trap shooting ever took place in. The rain and wet snow combined with a strong wind to numb the hands and faces of the shooters, and some who didn't have rain suit or waterproof coats were soaked through. Since there had been no plans set to call off the shoot if bad weather prevailed, the competition had to be held on the date set.

Needless to say, the scores were far below what would normally be expected. The shoot is a 10 man, 500 bird event with each shooter firing at 50 clay birds.

Although Maple Rock ended up trailing the other two clubs — Appleby Gun Club and Halton Gun Club — it was felt they gave a good account of themselves since it was the first time they competed in a shoot of this nature.

Each club had to have 10 men shooting in order to enter. If more than 10 shot for a club the highest 10 scores were counted.

Members shooting for Maple Rock were Wayne Leadston who got 29, Gord Clow 37, John Shadbolt 38, Jim Coulson 35, Brian Hammond 36, John Zuhlsdorf 26, Dave Johnson 36, Art Hawes 29, Keith Mainprize 42, Bill Hohenadel 30 and Ed Hohenadel 24.

Special mention should be made of Keith Mainprize's score of 42 which put him in second place among all contestants right up to the end when he was beaten out of the money for the top three shooters. He ended up in 5th place. Total team scores were as follows: Appleby 412, Halton 349 and Maple Rock 338. Appleby had about 25 shooters taking part, which gave them an advantage since the top ten were counted.

Two from Maple Rock were in on the cash prizes — John Shadbolt and Gord Clow.

One Archery Club, Humber Valley Archers, will be at the

Sportsmen's Show sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at Acton fair. Other clubs may also attend.

Humber Valley Archers will bring two teams — each consisting of four men and four women and will compete for a trophy. Targets will be at 40, 50 and 60 yards.

The Humber Valley Archers have a range north of Cheltenham. They are presently erecting a new club house and building a swimming pool. Membership fee are \$30 a year for a family, \$20 for seniors and \$12.50 for juniors and students.

Anyone interested in forming an archery club in Acton can contact me c/o the Free Press. We have had a request from an interested party to see if there is enough interest to form a club here.

Trophy shoot at gun club

Members of several Halton sportsmen's and trap shooting clubs attended a trophy shoot at the Apple Gun Club range on Walker's Line, Burlington, on Sunday. The host club won the match and received the G. G. Breckon trophy, plus several cash prizes.

Members from Maple Rock Shooting Range took part in the 50-bird event and two members came home with cash prizes. Of the three clubs who took part the Maple Rock squad ran third but were not far behind second place Halton Gun Club.

This being their first shoot in a competition of this size, the Maple Rock participants felt they had given a good account of themselves. Each club had to have at least 10 contestants in order to join the match. If more than 10 shot for a club the highest 10 scores were used to determine the winner of the trophy.

The winners of the cash prizes from Maple Rock were John Shadbolt and Gord Clow.

New mentor worried

Wet season slowing conditioning program

Like all the managers in the Halton County Senior League, Earl Cairns, new mentor of the defending champions from Campbellville, is becoming very concerned about the effect of the unusually late and damp spring on his conditioning program.

Campbellville's strong three-man pitching staff from 1966 are all returning, but with the opening game only one week away, they have as yet had very little work. Jack Roberts, dean of the league's hurlers as far as total victories go, usually rounds into shape very quickly, but is a little heavier this year and will need more work than the weather has permitted so far, says the coach.

Harry Hamilton, starting his 16th season with Campbellville, is running a large farm and this is his busy season, so the conditioning must suffer a little, and Ralph Rintoul, a promising rookie with a 5-1 win-loss record in 1966, is a fourth year dental student who at present is in the midst of exams and so not worrying too much about his pitching.

Also causing Cairns some concern is the fact that two of last year's regulars who will be playing have not been out yet, and he has been counting heavily on them. They are veteran catcher Don Joyce and all star infielder Stu King. When they get down to work, and time is short, the Campbellville leader will feel better.

Veteran regulars rounding into shape rapidly include Ken Moore, Bill Elliot, George Chester, Rick Repto, Elmer Dredge and Cairns himself. Larry McPhail, who was out with a broken wrist last year, is back, as is a star of several years ago, Lloyd Early. Cairns is counting heavily on both of them.

Two of last year's utility players, Ray Grisold and Art Brooks, have both shown well, although they have missed some practices and Cairns is high on three of the village's juvenile players whom he expects to play more this year. They are Bill Dennis, Garney Mitchell and Pete Andrews. Tom Ramshaw and Murray Inglis, former Campbellville minor players, have also been out.

An inter-squad game is planned for this Sunday afternoon, which will be the team's only test before opening in Waterdown next Wednesday evening. Campbellville is expecting stern opposition from Waterdown — a young, eager, new entry.



ACTON ARENA SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
8 p.m. — Roller Patrol Tryouts
THURSDAY, MAY 11
8-10 p.m. — Roller Skating
FRIDAY, MAY 12
8:30 — Movie — It happened at the World's Fair starring Elvis Presley
SATURDAY, MAY 13
7:30-10 p.m. — Roller Skating
TUESDAY, MAY 16
8-10 p.m. — Roller Skating

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