



ROCKWOOD FANS CHEERED when Chick Milne crossed home minutes later Merlin tied the score, then won the game in extra plate in the sixth inning of last Wednesday night's game, but innings. Crowd at the game was estimated at over 500.—(Staff)



Rockwood so near yet so far away from OASA crown

A few inches made a big difference for Rockwood Seniors, as they lost out in their bid for the OASA Intermediate "C" softball championship and a trip to Northern Ontario for a crack at the all-Ontario title.

Rockwood won the opening game of the best of three series 2-0 and had a 1-0 lead, after six innings of last Wednesday night's second game in Rockwood, before Merlin tied the game up in the eighth, when left fielder Jim Thatcher just missed hauling in Drummond's long drive and won it in the eleventh, when shortstop Dan Arbie accidentally stumbled on his way to the bag to make the final force out of the inning.

Down 2-0 heading into the ninth inning of Sunday's deciding game in Merlin, Rockwood had a potential game winning rally snuffed out early, when leadoff batter Vic Wilms was called out at first on an extremely close play. Rockwood players Bob Shaw and Jim Thatcher were ejected for disputing the umpire's call.

Arion Popkey followed with a single, which would have moved Wilms to third and Ted Buczek hit a long fly ball to center which probably would have plated Wilms and still left Rockwood with runners at first and second with one out.

As it turned out, Merlin hurler Gary Mifflin retired the side and the Legionnaires had their second consecutive OASA championship. They'll defend their all-Ontario crown in Capreol Thanksgiving weekend.

Deciding game was to have been played Saturday night, but dense fog forced a postponement until Sunday. Two busloads of fans accompanied the team to Sunday's game.

Merlin grabbed a 1-0 lead in the fifth inning on a home run by first baseman Carnahan. His line drive over shortstop Dan Arbie's head landed between left fielder Jim Thatcher and centre fielder

the Merlin eleventh and moved to second on Drummond's sacrifice. Drew was safe on an error to load the bases. With two out, Arbie fielded Brown's hard grounder behind second base, but stumbled just before he was ready to flip the ball to Harry Barber for the force out. McDonald scored from third with the winning run.

Mike Kelley and just kept rolling. There is no fence in the Merlin ballpark.

Second Merlin run came in the eighth on Robertson's walk, Slade's sacrifice and a double to right by Ford.

Rockwood had two men on with only one out in the fourth, but Merlin centre fielder Slade made a spectacular grab on Ted Buczek's liner.

Pitchers shone. Both pitchers, John Salmon and Gary Mifflin turned in fine performances, although in fact they tired in the heat of the day. Salmon gave up only four hits and struck out six. Mifflin tossed a five hitter and fanned four.

Dan Arbie was outstanding defensively at shortstop for Rockwood.

More than 500 fans watched Rockwood come within nine outs of the championship last Wednesday night.

Rockwood broke a scoreless tie in the sixth, when Chick Milne led off with a single, moved to second on a fielder's choice and scored on Vic Wilms' single.

With two out in the top of the eighth, Ford singled for Merlin and scored, as Drummond's drive to left glanced off Thatcher's glove.

McDonald singled to lead off

Bob Shaw struck out 14 in a losing cause for Rockwood. Winner Gary Mifflin chalked up nine strikeouts. Merlin held a 7-6 advantage in base hits.

Postponement of Saturday night's game cost Rockwood the services of Walt Jeffries for Sunday's contest. The former Senior Intercountry all-star first

baseman had to return home, because of a previous commitment.

Rockwood had previously sidelined Elmira, Binbrook, Bay Ridges, and Napanee in OASA playoff action.

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member of the team's board of directors. He still holds the two positions, but says he will resign from both to concentrate on his duties as coach of the Sabres.

Bill is now general sales manager of radio station CJOY Guelph. He lives in Acton with his wife Pat and 18 month old son Douglas.

Local fans will remember Bill as a valuable defenceman, who combined heady play with the ability to hand out stiff but clean body checks. He was assistant captain of Acton midgets, Acton's first Tri-County championship team in 1960 and spent two seasons with Acton Lions juveniles.

Later he played two years with the Tanners, then spent a season with two intermediate calibre teams in British Columbia, while he was working as an advertising salesman with the Abbotsford Sunas and Matsqui News.

Last winter Bill was actively involved with the Guelph CMC's of the Southern Ontario Junior "A" league. He was president of the CMC Booster Club and also

with the University of Guelph Gryphons of the OCAA college league.

Bob Marshall, former Tanager manager and O.H.A. convenor, will serve as interim manager through the training camp period.

Acton Sabres' executive members announced this week Casselman Fuels, R.R. 1, Georgetown, have taken over sponsorship of their new O.H.A. Junior "D" entry for the 1971-72 season.

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Name Bill Dawkins to coach jr. Sabres

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Notes and Quotes

from the world of sport

By Denis Gibbons



It was 90 minutes before the start of the Argonaut-Calgary Stampeders game, when I first met Joe Theismann. Trainer Mert Prophet was just beginning to wrap "Little Joe's" ankles with tape and conversation among the players was about everything but tonight's most important game of the CFL season. Questions of a sporty nature were being tossed up at random for those who either could answer them or cared to express an opinion. Who was the — who drew up this year's Intercollegiate football schedule, sending both Toronto schools out of town on the same day? Did anyone really think George Armstrong would hang up his Maple Leaf sweater for good?

Except for the usual good luck wishes, talk about the Calgary game seemed to be taboo, a situation which pleased me greatly for the opportunity it presented of chit-chatting about one of my all-time favorite topics, the Notre-Dame-Michigan State football rivalry.

Good fortune and an hospitable East Lansing Michigan relative provided me with a seat in Spartan Stadium for the famous 1966 national championship battle, a 10-10 tie, which attracted a gathering of some 84,000 fans and a national TV audience of several million more. Happy memories of a college football weekend and a desire to see the Irish erase the shadowy image they received for sitting on the ball in the final minutes of the '66 game told me I should return in October of '68.

Only a sophomore at Notre Dame then, Joe was backup man for Steeler quarterback Terry Hanratty that day, but he remembered well the events that led to the 21-17 Irish setback.

"It was a great game Joe, but Brenner beat you that day," I suggested, recalling how Ti-Cat defensive back Al Brenner, then the MSU captain, hauled in passes on offence, then turned around and stole an Irish aerial on defence in an outstanding performance, that earned him player of the game honors.

While acknowledging Brenner's feats, Theismann had this simple, but difficult to contradict observation on the game's most controversial play.

"That call in the last minute was something else. Pretty obvious, eh."



JOE THEISMANN in Argonaut tuggery

What little Joe meant was how did split end Jim Seymour suddenly end up on the seat of his pants in the Michigan State end zone, just before he was about to receive Hanratty's pass for the touchdown that would have given Notre Dame a 23-21 lead?

The play, which prevented the Irish from snapping their eight game Spartan Stadium winless string, was debated for months in the daily columns of college football scribes of far greater achievement than I. The general conclusion reached was that since All-American pass receivers are not accustomed to tripping over their own shoelaces, especially in the opposition's end zone and since the game films showed that a Spartan defender had come into what "Dandy" Don Meredith would describe as "unnecessarily close contact" with Seymour, while the ball was in the air, the explanation was easy — he was pushed, which is a no-no, according to gridiron rules.

Joe wasn't trying to dream up excuses for the loss. Why pass interference was not called on the play, was a question going through more minds than his, including those of a goodly number of the 77,339 fans.

In defence of the official in question, it could be said that the game films also showed that he was temporarily bowled over, which may have been the reason he didn't throw a flag.

If Notre Dame fans felt upset by the '68 loss, they must have felt a trifle guilty about their team's 14-2 victory in the 1971 renewal of the traditional rivalry, played in South Bend Saturday. Two Spartan long gainers were called back for offensive pass interference in the first half and what looked very much like a roughing the kicker call against the Irish went unnoticed.

Two immediate results of the latter were earthshaking to say the least. Irish quarterback Bill Etter found his teammates couldn't hear the starting signals for boos, when he took them up to the line on the next play and ABC-TV commentator Bud Wilkinson, who is more accustomed to pouring forth on the character-building merits of college football went as far as to mention the word "blindness" as a possible reason no flag was dropped and that he didn't blame MSU coach Duffy Daugherty for going out of his way to voice his disapproval.

TV fans were treated to an unusual halftime interview with one of the officials, just about the time they're used to a close-up of one of the charming young cheerleaders, which didn't sit too well with most.

No matter who comes out on top, the Notre-Dame-Michigan State rivalry is bound to continue and its exciting moments and controversial plays will always be topics for interesting debate.

Free Press Sports Page

Register for minor hockey

Minor hockey registration will be a joint effort of the Acton Tri-County Minor Hockey Association and the Acton Legion House League Association this year.

Registration will be held at the Acton Legion, this Saturday, October 9 and Saturday, October 16 from 9 until 11.30 in the morning.

Registration fee for all players is \$7.50. Players who play Tri-County midget or juvenile will pay an additional fee of \$2.50 later in the season.

This year for the first time house league players will receive a sweater which they may keep. This accounts for the increase in registration fee from last year's figure of \$4.

Tryouts for Tri-County teams will be conducted the same as in the past. All players who register will be given the opportunity to play for a Tri-County team, if

they wish. Practice times will be advertised in the Free Press, when ice is available.

Maximum fee for families with more than two boys playing hockey is \$20.00.

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Saturday, October 9th AND Saturday, October 16th From 9 A.M. To 11.30 A.M.

(TEAMS WILL SOON BE PICKED)

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- TRI-COUNTY HOCKEY

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SHIN GUARDS

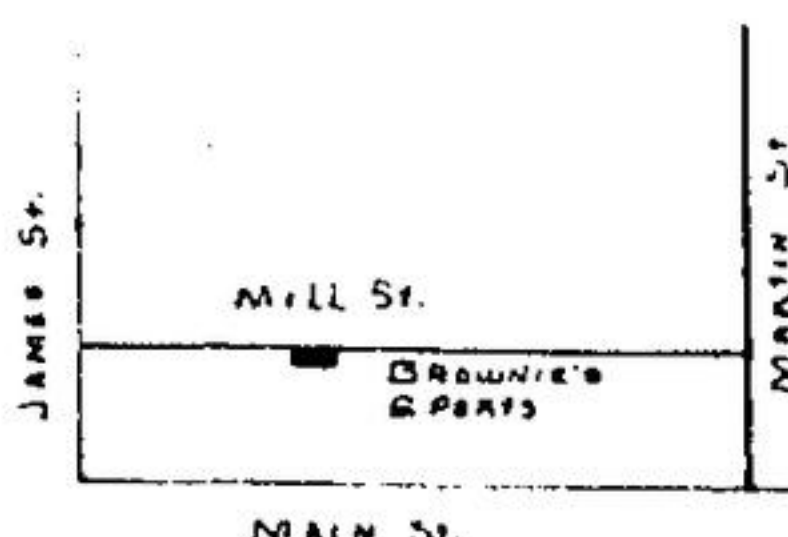
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