

HERALD sports

Bob McGowan hits, pitches Glen to championship



MUCH TO THE DELIGHT of the hometown supporters, Glen Williams won their own tournament. The championship game went 11 innings before the Glen crew finally disposed of Lowville 2-1. Front row, the crew of batboys who appeared as if out of thin air after the final, left to right, Ken Macdonald, Jeff Caldwell, Wayne Ireland,

Terry Hills and Kevin Frank. Middle row, left to right, (coach) Bill Zillo, Mike Pierce, Howie Cornfoot, Dan Waterfield, Dean Hancock and Mike Reynolds. Back row, left to right, Mark Lindauer (batboy) Ken Fendley, Bob McGowan, Jim Raynor, Ron Ritchie, Nell Best, Max Stafford, Jeff Haines and Warner Mikoleit.

Final judgement on the calibre of play in fastball tournaments is often held back until the championship game has been completed. The standard of play in the final game is usually the yardstick by which the tournament is judged. By any standard the Glen Williams tournament, held over the weekend for Inter-County class teams, came through with flying colors.

The championship game between Lowville and Glen Williams went 11 nail biting innings, four over the regulation seven innings, before the hometown crew squeezed through with a 2-2 victory.

The tournament was a one-day affair which attracted seven teams. Five teams, Glen Williams, Georgetown, Lowville Hornby and Oakville, were familiar to the spectators as they play in the Inter-County league. The two remaining teams, Ingewood and Sanderson Binding of Toronto, were in the dark horse class of the tournament but proved by their play that they rightfully belonged.

With the exception of the Georgetown Merchants - Lowville game, which Lowville won 7-0, all the contests were tight, low scoring tussles and the Glen, by no way, had a cake walk to the title.

The opening game on Saturday morning set the mood for the tournament. The Glen eked out a 2-1 win and the right to advance into the semi-finals. In the 1:00 p.m. game, Hornby downed Ingewood 3-1 and were scheduled to play in the 5:30 p.m. semi-final. The 7-0 drubbing of the Georgetown Merchants was the only lopsided decision of the day and it was a combination of strong Lowville hitting and weak Merchant pitching which knocked the Georgetown nine out of the tournament.

Grant Usher started the game for the Merchants, proved ineffective and was removed in favor of John Thatcher after facing only five batters. By this time, Lowville had banged out five hits and scored three runs. The third inning was another disaster for the Merchants as Lowville stroked four hits, picked up

four runs and, in effect, ended the contest. The game was called in Lowville's favor after five innings and the Merchants found themselves relegated to the sidelines.

It should be noted, however, that the Merchants were without the services of their top hurler, Bill Tilt and also missing was Steve Miller, another pitcher. Whether the outcome would have been different had these two been available is something better left to speculation. As it was, it was the Merchants' lack of hitting punch which really spelled the difference as they managed only five hits off Lowville's pitcher, Lee Coulson.

The first semi-final pitted Glen Williams against Sanderson Binding, who had drawn the bye, and again the Glen team found themselves on the winning end of a 2-1 score. It took an extra inning of play to decide this game and there was a collective sigh of relief from the stands when Glen Williams pulled it out.

The other semi-final had Lowville slated to meet Hornby but either a mixed-up timetable or a combination of greed and overconfidence allowed Lowville to claim the game by default. Hornby was also entered in a tournament in Mississauga and it was felt by team management that they could easily commute between the two and thus double their chances of finishing in the money. This was not the case, however, and after delaying the start of the game for as long as possible, a decision was made to award the game to Lowville.

For the Glen team, this was a bitter pill to swallow as it meant that Lowville would be rested and that their pitching squad would have worked one less game than the locals. The luck of the draw had also gone against the Glen team earlier in the day in their semi-final. Sanderson Binding had drawn a bye and therefore had not been in a game until they faced the Glen. Rested or not, Sanderson's went down to defeat and the thought working its way through the stands was that if it could happen once, it could happen again.

There were several sidelights to the championship game that players on both teams were aware of. The Glen were just four points behind Lowville in Inter-County play and it was thought that a Glen victory would stand them in good stead the next time the two teams met in league play. On Friday night, Lowville had downed first place Streetsville 4-3 in 12 innings, the first defeat of the year for Streetsville, so it was obvious that they had been playing stand out ball of late. All these factors were at work as the teams took to the field for the final game, and as expected, it was a hard fought, close contest up to the final out.

Bob McGowan started on the mound for the Glen, with Stu King toting the rubber for Lowville. The Glen drew first blood in the opening inning as Howie Cornfoot singled, advanced to third on a sacrifice by Mike Pierce and a long fly ball by Max Stafford and then scored on another fly ball off the bat of Ron Ritchie.

There was no more scoring until the bottom of the fourth when Lowville pushed across a run to knot the game. In the bottom of the fifth, Lowville picked up another run and, because of the fine defensive work by both teams, it was felt by many that it just might possibly be the final tally of the game. To the Glen's credit, the team did not die, even when they were put out in order in the top of the sixth.

As the Glen came up for their last bat in the scheduled seven-inning contest, coach Bill Zillo inserted himself into the batting order amidst some grumbling from the stands and promptly drew a walk. He advanced to third on a wild throw to second by the Lowville catcher and the tying run was on base as Bob McGowan strode to the plate. Unlike the "Mighty Casey" epic, McGowan stood up to the challenge and laced a single to tie the game. Lowville had one more chance to put the Glen team on ice in the bottom of the seventh but failed to produce and the game went into extra innings.

According to the Lowville supporters, the game should have ended in the bottom of the eighth in their favor. However, a close play at the plate went to the Glen and gave them new life. Dale Smith opened the Lowville eighth as he reached first on an error. He advanced to second on a sacrifice and represented the winning run. The next Lowville batter popped and, with two out, the Glen, appeared to be out of danger. The situation changed quickly however and the controversy began. Lowville batter, Doug Coverdale, laced a hard grounder through the infield and it appeared that the game was over as the Lowville runner had been off with the crack of the bat. As he was rounding third, Howie Cornfoot, in centre field, picked up the ball and in one motion threw to the plate. The throw was a bit off, but Glen catcher, Max Stafford pulled in the ball, lunged at the base runner and according to home plate Umpire Gerry Perkins, made the tag for the third out. The Lowville bench erupted, but to no avail, as it was a judgement call, and the decision was final.

As the innings rolled by, it must have seemed to the fans and the players that the game could go on all night. Both pitchers were in fine form and both clubs displayed fine defensive skills.

Glen pitcher, Bob McGowan, who had knocked in the tying run, must have felt the pressure more than anyone else as he took his turn at bat in the top of the eleventh with a man on base and two out. He had carried his team this far on the strength of his pitching arm, tied the game with his hitting and now was being called on again to rise to the occasion. Bob proved his mettle by knocking in what proved to be the winning run and then setting down Lowville in order in their last of the eleventh (he got the second out on a strikeout) to give Glen Williams the game and the championship.

It was an exciting well run, extremely well played tournament and best of all, according to the Glen Williams supporters, the best team won. Hats off to the Glen Williams team and especially Bob McGowan for a true championship effort.

No support, Rams leaving

The lacrosse experiment as far as Georgetown is concerned is over. Howard Dwyer, manager of the Halton Hills Rams, announced on Sunday that the team would be operating out of the Acton arena for the remainder of the season.

The Rams have used Acton as their home base for several seasons prior to this year and the move to Georgetown for the current campaign came about for several reasons. The Acton arena had repairs scheduled for this summer but the prime reason for moving the team to Georgetown was to attempt to build up a larger base for support of the lacrosse game in the area.

The area merchants responded well to the team but fan support, particularly from Georgetown, was essentially non-existent. Although the

team is currently in last place in the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Central division, this can not really be used as the excuse for the lack of fan support. The team, for the most part, has played well but even when they put together back to back wins there was little or no response from town sportsmen.

It's a shame that the Rams feel compelled to pull out of Georgetown but the move is justified as 90 percent of the fans who do show up for Rams' games are from Acton. Perhaps the club made a mistake in not recruiting Georgetown boys more actively but their training sessions were well publicized and the door was open to Georgetown hopefuls. Only a handful of local lads turned out so the club cannot be condemned for not attempting to

get local players.

Lacrosse is an exciting, fast-paced game and when played well, can rival any sport in terms of spectator attractions. A sports-minded town like Georgetown should have been an ideal home for lacrosse. Obviously it wasn't. There is one point however that must burn the Rams' management and that is that the team wasn't given a chance. It's one thing to reject a game or a sport after viewing it, quite another to ignore it out of hand. This is what happened to the Halton Hills Rams in the Georgetown and chances are it will be quite some time before another club brings Canada's oldest game into the confines of a Georgetown arena.

Georgetown Industrial Fastball League Statistics

GEORGETOWN INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, July 13th)

TEAM	P	W	L	T	PTS	GTP
Glen Williams	14	10	3	1	21	4
Casselmans	13	9	4	0	18	5
Curwood	13	8	4	1	17	5
Kinsmen	13	8	5	0	16	5
Club Billiards	13	7	5	1	15	5
Perks	14	6	7	1	13	4
Norval	14	5	7	2	12	4
Ingewood	16	6	10	0	12	2
Random	16	5	10	1	11	2
Flyers	14	2	11	1	5	4

GTP: Games To Play

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Random 10 - Glen 0
Casselmans 6 - Club Billiards 2
Random 8 - Perks 7
Curwood 9 - Casselmans 2
Kinsmen 7 - Glen 3

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Wednesday, July 16
6:15 - "B" Diamond - Flyers vs Perks
8:15 - "B" Diamond - Ingewood vs Club Billiards
6:15 - "C" Diamond - Casselmans vs Norval

Thursday, July 17
Norval at Ingewood - Game time 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 20
5:30 - "B" Diamond - Curwood vs Kinsmen
7:30 - "B" Diamond - Glen vs Flyers
9:30 - "B" Diamond - Casselmans vs Club Billiards

Monday, July 21
6:15 - "B" Diamond - Perks vs Kinsmen
6:15 - "C" Diamond - Curwood vs Random

Royalettes best squad in Grimsby

It doesn't take the Georgetown Royalettes Juvenile girls softball team long to profit from experience. Two weeks ago the Royalettes travelled to Sarnia to compete in their first tournament in the Juvenile Division and, although they won their first contest, they were soundly beaten in their three other outings.

Perhaps the pressure of their first tournament caught up with the girls in Sarnia but whatever the problem was, it was obviously solved this past weekend as the Royalettes competed in the fourth annual Grimsby Girls Juvenile Tournament. Sixteen of the top girls juvenile teams from across Ontario took part in the event and the Royalettes were there to prove that they could compete in high level Juvenile competition.

They not only proved they could compete, they showed that they can be ranked with the top Ontario teams as they came home with the Championship Trophy.

En route to the championship game, the Royalettes thrashed Chinguacousy 14-3, downed Grimsby 8-4 and defeated Alderwood 8-6. Barb Curry, picked up the win against Chinguacousy, Laura Wilkes earned the victory over Grimsby, while both Barb and Laura combined for the win over Alderwood.

The Royalettes' championship run almost ended Alderwood, as they were down 6-4 at the end of six innings, but rallied to tie the game in regulation innings, then went on to win in two extra innings.

In the final game against Kitchener, the Royalettes were moving along smoothly with a 4-1 lead after six innings only to have Kitchener rally for three runs in the top of the seventh to tie the game. This set the stage for the Royalettes' last official at bat. For the

girls to avoid extra inning play, and the extra pressure, they would have to end it at this point.

With one out, Diane Marshal entered the game as a pinch hitter and drew a walk. The next Royalettes' hitter, Charlie Milton, laid down a perfect bunt and the Kitchener pitcher made a wild throw to first in an attempt to make a play. The scenario wasn't quite finished, however, as the first baseman for Kitchener compounded the error by attempting to pick off Diane Marshal as she was going into third base. This throw also was wild and the Royalettes claimed the win and the championship game. Betty Marchant threw to the remaining two batters and Laura struck out three Kitchener swingers in her winning effort.

Although the Royalettes picked up the final game because of Kitchener errors, they displayed true championship form throughout the tourney and deserved to win it. They came from behind to win against Alderwood. They didn't panic when the chips were down and the whole team played good, solid defensive ball to match the offensive efforts. In anyone's book this is how a championship is won.

In the final game, Leanne Gilson went three-for-three, Charlie Milton was three-for-four and Barb Curry hit two-for-three. Leanne who has always been known for her tremendous drive in all her sporting activities, sustained a badly sprained ankle in the game and had to almost be literally dragged from the field by her coach. It was this type of desire and effort by all the Royalettes' team members that resulted in the victory.

Tight race in Industrial ball league

The standings released this past week by the Georgetown Industrial League should be considered unofficial as several protests are in the process of being dealt with. However, they do give an accurate picture of how tight the league race for playoff positions is rapidly becoming.

The league schedule calls for an 18-game season, with only the top eight teams qualifying for a playoff berth. The playoffs are slated to get underway, August 11, and as the schedule winds down, nine of the league's ten teams are in the thick of the battle.

The coveted first place finish in regular league play had grudgingly been conceded to Glen Williams prior to the past week's play but now that situation has changed. The Glen suffered back-to-back losses to the Flyers and Kinsmen and now find their lofty position threatened. Second



GORD TOMALTY, of the Georgetown Merchants, reaches high in the air for an errant throw in last Saturday's Glen Williams Tournament. The Merchants were not in top

form as they were stung by Lowville, 7-0 and thereby eliminated from further tournament play.

Good response to clinic

Water polo teams for town

Forty-five Georgetowners participated in the water polo clinic given in Georgetown on Saturday morning. Sue Smalley, a member of the Ontario Aquatic Team and a well known water polo player, was the chief instructor of this clinic. She was assisted by

Jack Nieuwhof, who will coach the Georgetown teams that are being formed at the moment. The age of the participants varied from 8 to 24. The boys and girls were much more competent in handling the ball in the water and in applying the basic techniques of the

game than expected. According to Miss Smalley there is no reason why Georgetown could not have a few very strong water polo teams in the fall.

At the end of the morning the juniors and the seniors each formed two teams which

played against each other. The clinic was enjoyed by all. People interested in playing water polo are asked to contact the Georgetown Indoor Swimming Pool (877-7721) or Jack Nieuwhof (877-2536) for more information.