



Geminis impress in loss



CHRIS MILNE of the Georgetown Junior "B" Geminis picks himself up from a pile of ice after being dumped into the Windsor Spitfire net. The Gems lost 7-3 but gained many fans in their initial contest this past Sunday and in the opinion of experienced hockey people should do well in their own Junior "B" league.

Merchants dominating Glen Williams

After numerous delays, the first round of play in the Halton County Men's Football League playoffs, featuring the Georgetown Merchants and Glen Williams was completed last week, with the Merchants continuing their regular season dominance into the playoffs, eliminating the valley boys in two straight games.

The Merchants finished in third place in regular league standings ahead of the Glen, but, with the exception of one game in which the Merchants won in a walk-off, the contests between the two clubs have been close, hard-fought games with little to choose on either side.

The addition of the crosstown rivalry into the first round play, if anything, made the series even more of a loss-up. The Merchants won the first game handily, by a 4-0 count but last Sunday's contest lived up to the series' expectations and, although the Merchants won 3-2 they were outplayed and out-hit by the Glen for 11 but the last two innings. In fact, the old cliché about the game not being over until the final out is made as true as ever as on Sunday evening.

In the opening game of the series Merchant pitcher, Bill Tilt, completely dominated as he allowed but three hits, one triple and two singles, while fanning ten Glen batsmen and issuing but a single walk. His mates jumped on Glen pitcher Dave Farrelly early in the game, scoring four runs in the first three innings, and, for all intents and purposes, the game was decided before the half-past point had been reached.

Gord Tomalty was the top Merchants' batter as he went two-for-four, while the big

stroke of the night was a triple by Barry Cuthbert. For the Glen, Dave Farrelly lashed out a triple, while singles went to Mike Pierce and Howie Cornfoot.

Sunday night's thriller was a great game to win, but a heart wrencher to lose and the Glen team and their fans have nothing to be ashamed of. Again pitching dominated, but it looked at the outset that the coin had been flipped and Glen pitcher, Bob McGowan would be the star attraction. McGowan had his drop working to near perfection and struck out five Merchants in the first three innings.

The thunder appeared to have switched sides as the Glen bats were singing and they laced four hits in the first two frames to take a 2-0 lead. By the fifth inning, the Glen appeared to have things well in hand, for although they hadn't added to their score, they were playing excellent defence and McGowan was still working well on the mound.

Merchant pitcher, Bill Tilt, did not look to be in top form in the early going as many of his pitches missed their mark, but if a turning point could be singled out and an individual credited it would have to be the sixth inning and the improved hurling of Tilt. In the last four innings, Bill held the Glen to three singles, while striking out seven batters. Meanwhile the Merchant bats were slowly coming to life.

The "Red and White" crew picked up a single run in the sixth inning to narrow the Glen's lead to a single run and this set the stage for, in the Merchants view, a storybook ending, but in the Glen's view, a nightmare ending.

Ray Ingles singled to open the Merchants half of the ninth

and advanced to second on Gord Tomalty's single. Barry Cuthbert's sacrifice bunt advanced the runners to second and third, but the best of the Merchants better, Bill Tilt, could do was a pop-up to third baseman Ron Ritchie. There were now two out.

Merchant runners were on second and third and the Glen were a mere out away from tying the series as Merchant leftfielder John Boyd strode to the plate. Before the Merchant bench had time to react, Boyd had two strikes on him and appeared to be at McGowan's mercy. Big Bob turned out to be the victim however as Boyd lofted a long ball to left field which scored the two runners and gave the Merchants a 3-2 lead.

The Glen went down fighting and deserve a tremendous amount of credit in the way they handled such a shocking turnabout. They placed runners on first and second as both Max Stafford and Bill Zillo came through in pinch-hitting roles but there were two out and the magic just as Tilt fanned Howie Cornfoot to end the game and the series.

For the Glen it was a bitter loss, but a fine season ending performance. Bob McGowan registered 12 strikeouts in taking the loss, while Bill Tilt picked up 13 strikeouts in recording the win.

The Merchants now advance to semi-final play against Lowville, who defeated Hornby in first round play, and then Streetsville, who knocked off Mississauga and has gained a bye into the finals. The Merchants played in Lowville on Tuesday night and will be at home for the second game of the series this Friday night with game time, 8:15.

High hopes from new coaches

New look for Rebels

The waning days of summer and the return of students to school, heralds but one thing for many an area sports fan, and that is football season.

Both the Senior and Junior Rebels will be operating under new head coaches this year. Mike McMahon takes over Senior duties, while Neil Cotton heads the Juniors, and both coaches are looking forward to successful seasons.

The Seniors have 25 returnees from last year's team, which had a 4-4 record, and, if for no other reason than mere experience, should go above the 500 mark.

Five veteran backfielders return, including quarterback Don Cousins, Kirk Smith, Bill Bradley, Gary Taylor and John Clark, with competition for the glory spots expected to come from Gavin Strachan and Kyle Harkins.

The Senior Rebs' game last year were, for the most part, low scoring contests, but a few innovations in the running attack, instituted by McMahon, should provide for a more explosive offence. Without letting the cat out of the bag, "Options" seem to be the name of the game for the Rebs' scoring machine.

A backfield is only as good as their line and in this area, the Rebels might just be at a slight disadvantage. Both the offensive and defensive lines average only about 170 lbs., but in many instances, a small, quick lineman can more than make up for lack of size.

This will be the key to the Rebs' success this year. If the line can provide the holes and give the backfield enough time to set up their plays then the Rebs will be winners.

Defensively, the local gridders appear fairly comfortable, but again, a qualification must be made. The defensive secondary play, with Bill Bradley, John Clark



MIKE McMAHON

He is not striving for perfection, rather, he is asking his players to dedicate themselves to giving their best and in so doing feels that they will help both themselves and the team.

Both his coaching and philosophical tactics will be tested this Friday as the Senior Rebels travel to Oakville-Trafalgar High School for their opening game of the season.

Neil Cotton, the new head coach of the Juniors has a slight advantage over his Senior counterpart as he has worked with the Junior Rebs for four years as assistant coach. The Juniors finished with a 2-4 record last year but Cotton feels that the potential is there for a winning season and, in fact, would be disappointed should it turn out otherwise.

The Juniors have nine players returning, but Cotton regards this as a positive sign as in most years only two or three Juniors return to the ranks. The strong point of the Junior Rebs will be their defence and Cotton feels that it will take a very potent running club to rack up any sizeable yardage on the ground against his crew.

Naturally for a defence to achieve its capabilities, it must have an offence that is capable of scoring points and controlling play, in order to give the defence an opportunity to regain its strength and Cotton is confident that his offence fits the bill.

Last year, the Juniors were

more run-oriented, thus giving defenses less to contend with, but this year, the emphasis is



NEIL COTTON

on a more balanced attack. Cotton has two strong arms in Paul Sargeant and Gord Miller at quarterback and this should allow the running backs more freedom to operate.

The team suffered what could be a costly blow early in training as Gary Lloyd, a potential running back and a defensive starter broke his collarbone and will be lost to the team. But with 45 players attempting to make the team, it is expected that a replacement will be found. The Juniors open their season at home this Thursday when they tangle with Oakville-Trafalgar High School.



HALTON LADIES SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS for the second year in a row, Hillsburgh, proudly display their championship silverware. Team members are: (front row, left to right) Kathy Keeler, Beryle McGill, Marie Nodwell, Pat Bayne, Jerna Morrison, Marilyn Eagles and Mary Bullock. (Back row left to right), John Cunningham, coach, Cathie Keeler, Carolyn Relch, Laurie Wheeler, Debbie McGill, Judy Rash, Rhonda Carney, Nancy Rhynold, Janice Gagne and Barb White, manager. Absent, Connie Ferguson and Jeannie Wetering.

Errors turn tables on Gage

The homerun ball, which has been a favorite weapon of the Gage Stationery Juveniles all year, was the instrument of their downfall as they lost 7-4 to Fort Erie last Saturday and existed from the OBA playoffs.

Two homeruns in the seventh inning with base runners on, accounted for five of Fort Erie's runs and three straight errors in the eighth inning added two more.

Gage started off fast when pitcher Doug Barnes homered to bring in three runs. Then the game settled down until Fort Erie's big rally which gave them the win. The last Georgetown run was scored in the ninth when the Gage gang

staged their final rally of the year but fell short.

The error bug struck again as Gage committed seven errors to none for Fort Erie and three of the errors allowed base runners who eventually scored.

But the hitting power of the Juveniles, which has made up for the errors all year, was missing in this game as Gage came up with only six hits. Barnes had the homerun shot, Larry Peterson singled twice, Mike McCandless, Gerald Williams and Sam Caruso had one hit each.

Gage Juveniles for 1975 consisted of: manager, Bill

Richmond: coach, Andrew Wolder, Doug Barnes, Terry Richmond, Mike McCandless, Larry Peterson, Alan Demore, Gerald Williams, Sam Caruso, Steve Hulme, Hal Hulme, Bill Allison, Bryan Laird, Bob Freestone, Grant Bodnar and Greg Bodnar.

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