

Inconsistency key to low finish

Ridley unhappy with Canada's tourney play

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

There is a saying that statistics don't lie, but you would have a hard time convincing Jim Ridley of that.

The Stewarttown resident was the manager of the Canadian baseball team that recently competed in the World Youth Baseball Championships held in Kindsley, Saskatchewan. Ridley thought his team would finish fourth, or maybe third,

but the Canadians finished eighth in the ten team tournament with a record of three wins and six losses.

"We are disappointed the way Canada played," Ridley said. "Our big problem was consistency."

The Canadian team's wings were against Belgium (3-2), Panama (7-3) and the Dominican Republic (11-3). However, Ridley said there were some losses in which the Canadian

team's mistakes cost them dearly.

"We lost our first game to the United States 8-1, but through six innings, the score was only 1-0 for them. But we made some errors, and ended up losing the game."

"Our loss to Nicaragua on Day five was a critical loss. We were a better team than they were."

"Two of their runs were the result of walk-

ing their pitcher. Also, they scored all their runs with two out.

"Against Australia, we outthrew them and outplayed them for every inning but one. We were leading 4-1 in the seventh inning when our pitcher Steve Hodges fielded a bunt from their number nine hitter."

"There were runners on second and third and while fielding the bunt, Hodges looked at one of the runners and got his feet caught up. He threw

the ball into the left-field bullpen.

"We ended up losing the game 6-4. It seemed every time we made errors, we opened the door for our opponents," Ridley said.

Cuba won the tournament with the Americans coming second and Taiwan capturing the bronze medal. Panama finished fourth.

Ridley said the Cubans were the deserving champions.

"The weakest part of

the Cubans' game was their pitching, which was not too shabby. They had a shortstop who could go the Major Leagues next week.

"In one game he hit a ball over the right-field fence that was still going up when it passed the Coke sign that was past the wall. He only hit over .500 for the tournament. They were the best team of under-18 players I have ever seen in the world."

Ridley has some

reasons why his team did not do as well as the club that went to last year's tournament in Johnstone, Pennsylvania and finished in a three-way tie for the gold medal, but had to settle for the bronze after the playoff with Taiwan and the United States.

"Our defensive record was poor. We had holes at shortstop and third base."

"As for our pitching, no one had a good

second pitch. Everyone could throw a fastball, but having a second pitch was where we were weak."

"We also didn't have the on-field leader who would lead by example. No one seemed to take charge."

"Before the tournament I was told we would be able to have a designated hitter, so I picked my team and picked a DH. Twenty-four hours before the

tournament started, I was told I could not have a DH.

"That hurt my team because I had to play my most consistent player at a position he was not accustomed to."

"We had a good chance of finishing fourth, and maybe a shot at finishing third, but giving up all those runs in the seventh and eighth innings didn't do us any justice. We did not play to our full potential," he said.

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SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, August 8, 1984 - Page 9

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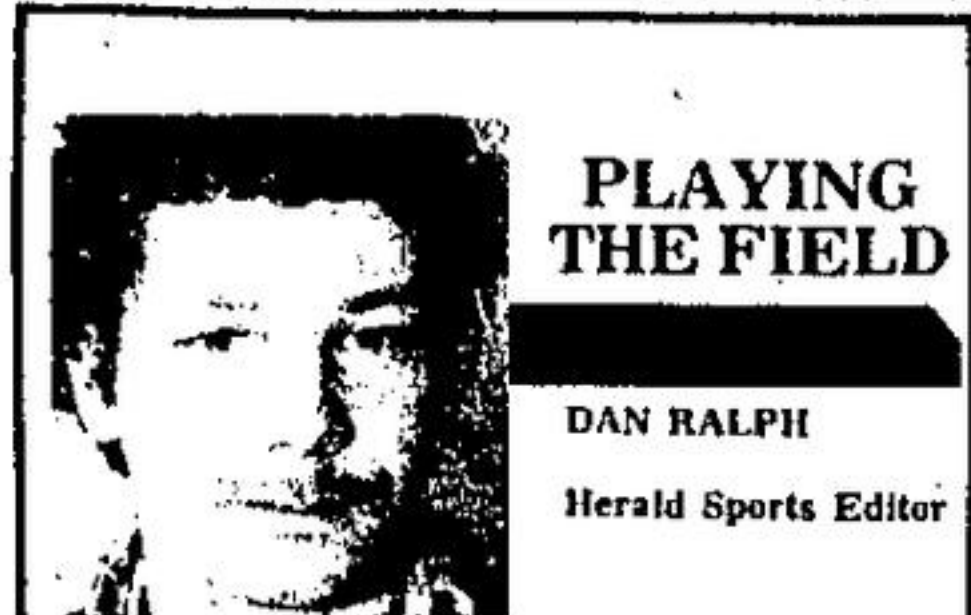
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PLAYING THE FIELD

DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

Now is time to let coach look for talent

If Jim Ridley had his way, he would be preparing for the 1985 World Youth Baseball Championships today.

Ridley, a scout for the Toronto Blue Jays of the American League East, was the manager of Canada's entry at the world championship held recently in Kindsley, Saskatchewan. Canada compiled a record of three wins against six losses in the ten team tourney.

Cuba took top honors with the United States and Taiwan finishing second and third respectively. Canada's record was good enough for eighth place, a far cry from last year's showing in Johnstone, Pennsylvania when the Canadians finished in a three-way tie for the gold medal with Taiwan and the U.S.

After a round-robin tournament with both teams, Canada finished with a bronze medal.

"If you want me to have a good team for next year, Baseball Canada should send me across Canada now and let me meet and talk with prospective players and get them on a conditioning program for the winter," he said.

But money is tight, and Baseball Canada cannot afford to allow Ridley to go across Canada searching for baseball talent.

However, Ridley understands Baseball Canada's funding plights. In fact, if the Soviet Union's boycott of the Olympics had not happened, there is a good chance more money would be available to amateur teams across the nation.

With the boycott, a number of nations that would have been in the baseball competition at the '84 Games in Los Angeles, did not show. Subsequently, the Olympic committee invited other teams to compensate for the absentees that normally would not have competed.

Canada was among those invited, and so Baseball Canada had to divert funds for the Olympic team.

But Ridley is more critical of the process by which prospective baseball players are selected in Canada to attend training camp.

"Right now the provincial associations are responsible for the selection of players. The problem with that is Manitoba does not know what players Quebec plans to send."

"So, you might end with 15 players at the same position," he said.

In fact, the same sort of problem happened to Ridley for this year's championship. Of the 18 players Ridley selected for the team, 13 were left-handed hitters.

"I have always believed right-handed hitters grow up to hit right-handed pitching better than left-handed hitters trying to hit left-handed pitching," Ridley said. "It's hard to win a championship with a team that is mostly made up of left-handed hitters."

Bad luck crept up on Ridley and his crew. His best and most consistent hitter was right-handed, but the player spent most of the tournament in the hospital suffering from dehydration, stress and pressure of the event.

"In the two games he played in," Ridley said, "he had eight hits."

A more logical approach would be if Ridley and some of the other national team coaches be allowed to select their own choices for the team's training camp and have those prospective players go on conditioning programs during the winter. That way, when he shows up for camp, the player is in the best shape, and the coaches know who will be in camp, beforehand and have who they want.

More importantly, situations like that of all the left-handed hitting are not likely to creep up.

Alcott ladies win again

The Gordon Alcott Ladies Intercounty "C" tennis team are doing everything possible these days to grab first place in their circuit.

The team took three of four points from Cobblestone 4 to bring their season total to 27 points, which is just a half point out of top spot.

Margo Prior and Midge Hampshire took their match in two sets by scores of 6-3, 6-2.

The team of Lois Fraser and Trudy Roy won in two sets also 7-6, 6-1.

Karin Wilson and Anne Munro deeded three sets to win their match 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

The team of Mary McEwen and Ouida Granville lost a tough match 7-6, 6-4.

Their next match will be against Cobblestone 3.

GMHA bylaw allows for new tryout system

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

For the first time ever, exceptional hockey players in Georgetown will be allowed the chance of trying out for teams made up of older players.

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association

(GMHA) proposed at its last meeting the addition of a bylaw to its constitution that would allow players to try out for a "AA" rep team one year higher than their age. But to prevent an overflow of players from trying out, the GMHA has set up certain channels for inter-

ested players to go through.

Under the bylaw, the vice-president of the GMHA will consider all factors with advice from his directors and convenors to approve an application made by a player for the tryout. If the player is allowed to try out for the next

highest "AA" team, the vice-president must approve the carding of the player at the next highest level.

At the end of a season, the coach grades each player and lists his strengths and weaknesses. The evaluations are graded and each coach recommends if

each player should be allowed to go up or stay in his age level.

Such information is presented to the vice-president when evaluating the application of a player to try out at the next highest "AA" level.

There are 10 "AA" rep teams in the GMHA,

with minor novices, minor atoms, atoms, minor peewees, peewees, minor bantams, bantams, minor midgets, midgets and juvenile teams.

GMHA president Wayne Pries sees this new bylaw helping the exceptional hockey players, but is very

sincere about his non-support of it.

"The new bylaw went through the democratic process, but I am not in favor of it because you take a player out of his peer group, and put him into one made up of older players."

"This will help the exceptional hockey players, but it won't do much for the player who takes the place of the 14th or 15th best hockey player at the higher level because the younger player will not be on things like the power play and sit on the bench a lot."

Puck association to talk about FIA

A decision could be made as early as Monday as to whether or not the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association will implement a practice method set up by a former professional hockey player.

GMHA president Wayne Pries met with former hockey great Billy Harris to discuss the merits of the FIA program (Fundamentals in Action), which was set up by former Chicago Black Hawk

Pat Stapleton. Stapleton first tried the method in his hometown of Alvington, Ontario (located southwest of London), and was then invited to New Brunswick to show coaches there how it worked.

Pepsi Cola got behind Stapleton and now is trying to get as many hockey associations as possible interested.

Pries said the training method implements all

back to check the progress of players taking the drill about two months after first initiating it.

Pries said he likes the FIA idea.

"I like it," he said. "It has an incentive program that allows the players something to shoot for."

Pries said his meeting with Harris went well.

"We had lunch and discussed the program's formation, objectives and how it is run, things like that. I understand there is a wishbook from where prizes can be chosen by some players, depending on their accomplishment in the program," he said.

The adoption of such a program could be done



MIGHTY GOLF SWING

Silver Creek Golf Centre's teaching pro Terry Miskolcz is silhouetted against the horizon as he lets go with a mighty swing here on the club's driving range.

(Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Tornadoes down Stars

Turquoise Tornadoes 21
Gold Stars 6

Brenda whits-her-name had a super night catching. Jennie David had another good night battling with two singles, a double and an over-the-fence homer. Also for the Tornadoes pitcher Janet Ransom had four strikeouts to her credit and a good night at the plate. Brenda Hamilton also hit a homer, but asked us not to mention it - so we won't. Even with Susan Alken having a good game at centre and Alice Edgar having a good game at first and at bat, the Stars team couldn't catch the Tornadoes.

Payton's Choice 18
Blue Nuns 17

The Choice edged out

the Nuns with a great effort by Linda Allen and Herminia Henderson and a good batting session by all. Even with a good team effort and led by a home run by Shaaron Cater, the Nuns lost this close high scoring game.

Green Giants 18
Pink Panthers 10

In between a slow start and a tough finish the Giants' Yvonne Corbett and Brenda Cole led the team at the plate and showed some solid stealing on the bases. Defensively the combination of Judy Anderson and Bonnie Henderson tagged many outs with some superb catches by Virginia Walker.

Burgundy Brats 9
Red Runners 7

With a good team

effort the Brats, backed by great catches by Bev Barrett, edged out the Runners in this good game. The Runners' super team work and exceptional effort on their coaches for the evening could not grab the win. Thanks Debbi and Jim for your hard effort.

Knight Riders 15
Rob's Mob 14

Even with a super catch by Linda Armstrong, the Mob was edged out in this high scoring affair. With home runs, Debbie Tyrell, Tammy Lockwood and Pat Morely had good games at the plate. Cindy King also played well, and there were some good defensive plays by Linda Perkins as the Riders grabbed the win.

of the fundamentals of hockey into one drill. If the GMHA executive chooses to indeed go ahead and accept the

Some of the players who would be involved in the project include

Harris, Marv Edwards and Bill White. The former pros would set

up programs with Georgetown minor coaches, and then come

back to check the progress of players taking the drill about two months after first initiating it.

Pries said he likes the FIA idea.

"I like it," he said. "It has an incentive program that allows the players something to shoot for."

Pries said his meeting with Harris went well.

"We had lunch and discussed the program's formation, objectives and how it is run, things like that. I understand there is a wishbook from where prizes can be chosen by some players, depending on their accomplishment in the program," he said.

The adoption of such a program could be done

Skater gets Free Skate

Georgetown Figure Skating Club's Leah Smeaton recently passed her Gold Free Skate. The 17-year-old skater is coached by Janet Feil.

Georgetown grid stars carrying team's hopes

Georgetown might have a strong say as to the fortunes of the Burlington Stampede.

The Stampede are a junior rep football team that has four Georgetown players in its starting lineup. Paul Wilson, a Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School (GDHS), will be the defensive end while Evan Siddall, a Georgetown native attending Bishop Macdonell High School in Guelph is a starting linebacker.

On offence, Sean Guistini, another city native attending Bishop Macdonell, will be the full-back and GDHS's Cameron MacIvor will play on the offensive line.

This will be Wilson's second year with the team, while the other three enter their first campaign.

"Training camp was a lot harder than it is in high school," Guistini said, "and I though high school was tough."

The Stampede will play one exhibition game (held last weekend) and then open a 12-game regular season schedule. After that, the playoffs will be held.

Burlington plays in a league that features four teams from Ottawa, three teams from Toronto and a team from Pickering. The players are all high school all-stars who weigh under 200 pounds.

Both Guistini and Siddall have finished high school, but only Guistini has made a decision as to where he plans to go to university this year. For Siddall, he will sit out this year before likely attending St.

Francis Xavier University next fall.

"I haven't got the money to go to university this year," he said. "I don't think it will hurt me because I'll still be playing football in Burlington."

Guistini, who will be attending University of Guelph this fall, still plans to play in Burlington while holding down a position with the varsity team.

"Very rarely do first-year players start, so I don't think that will be a problem," he said.

For Wilson, he plans to attend Grade 13 at GDHS. But he has had his share of offers to play college ball.

"I've gotten letters from Cornell, William and Mary, Northern Michigan, and Moorehead State in the United States and from Mount Allison and Concordia in Canada. I've still got another year to go so I'll take my time with my decision."

All three players attended a football camp this spring held in Hamilton for the best high school players in the area between Halton and Niagara Falls. On the first day, 150 of the total 500 players invited were cut.

Fortunately, the three and Georgetown's Pete Rembish made the cut. After the players retired to their respective positional groups.

Hamilton Ti-Cat head coach Al Bruno and some of his coaches and players ran the camp.

"We all learned a lot," Wilson said. "After the camp, we all had a scrimmage. Guistini had a good game. He broke his nose."

It was after the camp that Wilson went back to Burlington, and told his friends of the team there. After being told, Guistini, Siddall and MacIvor tried out and made the team.

As for their future aspirations in football,

Wilson, Guistini and Siddall all want to play college ball. They have not set their sights on a professional career yet.

In fact, Guistini still has the option of maybe playing baseball in the United States.

"I've had an offer from North Texas State to play baseball, but it was not a full scholarship. Right now, football is more important because baseball is coming to an end," said the Georgetown junior Eagles player.

"All I want right now is to play university ball," he added.

"I would love to play professional," Siddall said. "But my aim is to play university ball and take it from there. That will be five years down the road."

"My dream is to play pro, but I can't see that because of my size. I want to play university ball, which I can see," said the six-foot two-inch, 195-pound Wilson.



These three Georgetown football players could play instrumental parts in the success of the Burlington Stampede this year. Paul Wilson (left), Paul Guistini (middle) and Evan Siddall will start for the minor junior football team with Wilson being the defensive end, Guistini the fullback and Siddall a linebacker.