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PLAYING THE FIELD

DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

Canada not far behind in baseball

Jim Ridley's experiences in baseball go back over 32 years. He managed for three years Toronto Blue Jays' Medicine Hat "A" baseball affiliate where teams played 70 league games in 71 days. The only day off came the day of the Major League all-star game. Doubleheaders weren't played unless earlier games were rained out. A "A" team travelled over 10,000 miles in a season, always courtesy of a bus.

For the past two years Ridley has managed the Canadian junior baseball team, and will again return to the fold this year. Last year Canada finished eighth in the 10-team world championship tournament. Canada's finish at the Kindersley, Saskatchewan event was a disappointment after coming home with the bronze medal the year before. Canada was tied for the gold medal with the United States and Taiwan, however received the bronze after dropping both games in the round-robin event between the top three.

"You know what it was?" Ridley says about the 1983 bronze medal finish, "we weren't used to being out on the ball field the entire day. We played both games on the same day, and our bodies began to sag."

As for why Canada didn't do well last year Ridley says the club was in most of the games it played. However, at crucial times errors would be made that really hurt.

Ridley has spent over 200 hours at baseball camps this year trying to recruit young hopefuls for this year. In years gone by about 50 or so players would be invited to camp. However, this year that number will be cut to around 35 with camp opening later this month in Toronto.

The Stewarttown Public School teacher and Blue Jays scout is confident Canada can come away with a medal this year.

"I feel and have always felt that the Americans are the best in the world (at playing baseball). They are better than we are, but not so much so that we have to say in another 20 years we'll be there. I believe Canada is good enough to

"You can't show up to a tournament and then tell a kid to go out and pitch. The camps have to be longer and more diverse. Canadian kids have to go out and throw the ball and practise and play the game every day. Forty-five minutes a day would accomplish a lot."



JIM RIDLEY

win a medal this year and I'm looking for some pleasant surprises."

Last year Ridley had a problem that might return this year. In 1984 Canada had a surplus of left-handed hitters. In fact in the tournament opener against the United States, all nine Canadian batters were left-handed. Ideally a manager would like to have a mix of both right and left-handed hitters so as to not give the opposition an advantage with either a right or left-handed pitcher.

The national team training camp will run for about two weeks. That does not give Ridley the time required to fully implement team strategies, let alone teach some of the youngsters he has trying out.

"You can't show up to a tournament and then tell a kid to go out and pitch. The camps have to be longer and more diverse. Canadian kids have to go out and throw the ball and practise and play the game every day. Forty-five minutes a day would accomplish a lot. If the kid isn't going to be a self-motivator then he shouldn't be playing."

"Baseball is a lot of mental preparation. If I can get our kids to endure physically and mentally, then we'll do well," Ridley said.

Aside from being given the opportunity to be involved in baseball, Ridley says the biggest kick he gets from managing the team comes from within.

"The fact that I'm responsible for 18 kids and their ultimate performance on the ball field is a challenge. I like a challenge and would like to see us do well. I'm also involved because I believe baseball belongs in the Olympics and it is one place where Canada could do well. Baseball is going to the Olympics; it's got to."

"I can remember all the baseball coaches I had as a kid, and they all had something to give to me. Maybe I can give something back."

Rebel selected for national junior team

Bingham makes volleyball grade

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor
 Georgetown's Joanne Bingham has made the roster of the Canadian national junior ladies volleyball team.

Bingham was one of 12 players who made the club after a selection

camp last week. The camp was held at the University of Regina, and about 18 players were invited from across Canada.

Bingham telephoned home this weekend to give her family the good news.

"She was very excited," said mother Marg. "She didn't think she would make the team because a lot of the girls there have played club volleyball for many years. Joanne played with a club team in Scarborough this year for the

first time." Bingham, a Grade 12 student at Georgetown District High School, had played the past three years with the school's senior team. Her coach Grant Clatworthy said he wasn't too surprised Bingham made the

team. "No, not if they (national team coaches) were wanting to train people over three to four years. I think the experience will help her, especially the experience of training with the level of athlete."

Clatworthy said he talked with Joanne briefly before she left for the selection camp. He said the conversation wasn't fully concentrated on volleyball, but he did offer some advice.

"I told her not to go out there to impress anyone because that had already been done. I told her to go out and do what comes natural. I guess it worked."

Bingham will be eligible to play with the team for the next three years. After which, she could be asked to play for Canada's national senior ladies team, and quite possibly play in the Olympics.

"That's the way the program is set up," Clatworthy said. "They train you, give you internatio-

nal experience and eventually maybe move you to the Senior team."

The newly selected team began working out as a unit Tuesday at the University. The club will practise six to eight hours a day for the next couple of weeks.

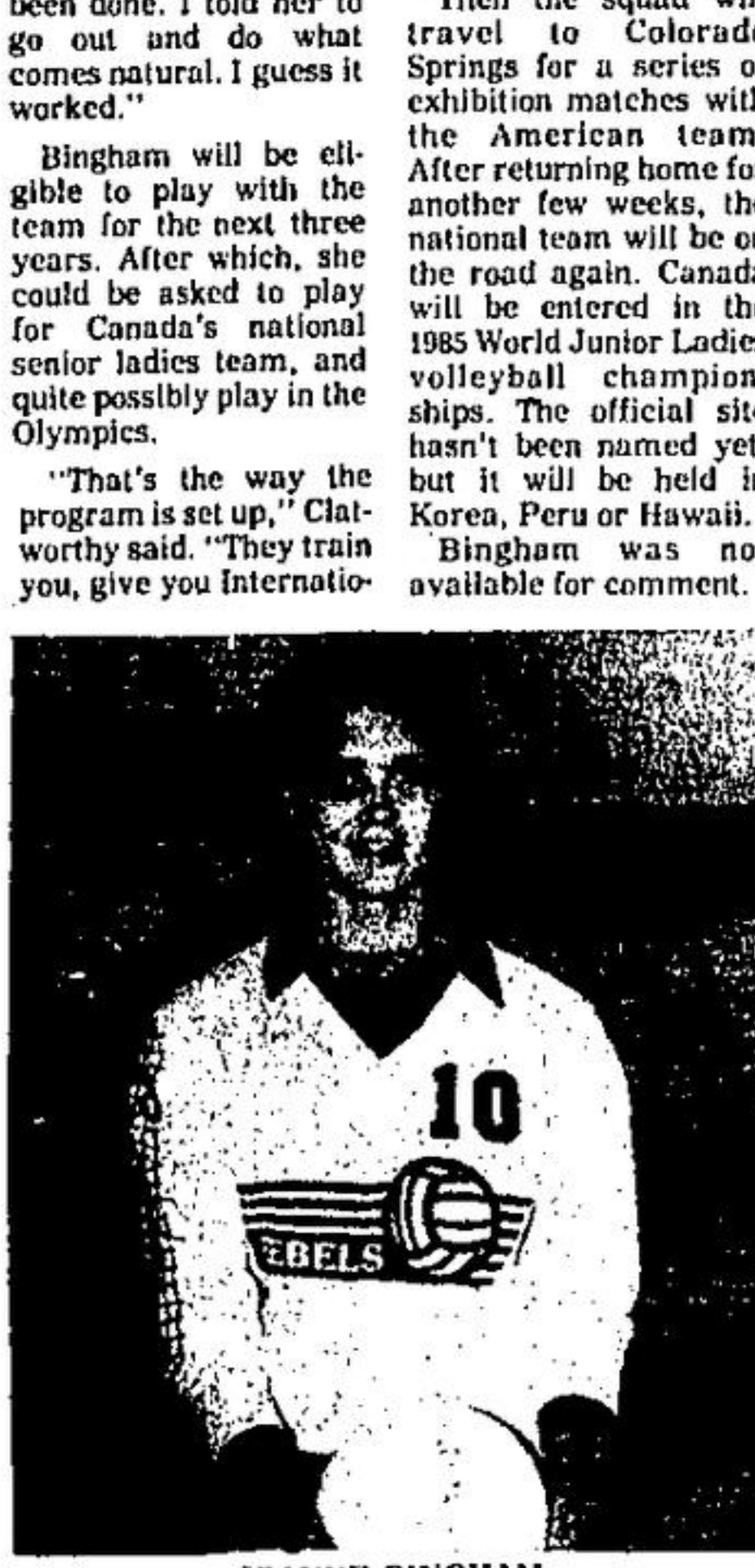
Then the squad will travel to Colorado Springs for a series of exhibition matches with the American team. After returning home for another few weeks, the national team will be on the road again. Canada will be entered in the 1985 World Junior Ladies volleyball championships. The official site hasn't been named yet, but it will be held in Korea, Peru or Hawaii. Bingham was not available for comment.



GOTCHA!!!

Glen Williams first baseman Silvana Larose makes a nice stretch here to nab an Erin Basurunner. Larose played a big part in the Glen's 7-6 win Thursday night by slugging an inside-the-park homer which put her team on the scoreboard in

the second inning. This week the Glen team scored a pair of wins as Tuesday they beat Eden Mills 5-1 there. For further details on Thursday's game see story and photo on C4. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)



JOANNE BINGHAM

Eagles get on winning track

After going six games without a win, the Georgetown Jr. Eagles have rebounded with a pair of wins.

The Eagles defeated Glanbrook Saturday night at the Fairgrounds 5-4. Riding the crest of that win, the Eagles travelled to Oakville to take on the Central Ontario Baseball Association's top club, and left with an 8-7 win.

The key to the wins was the lack of errors. Eagles' manager Dan Guistini said his club made just three errors Saturday and only one against Oakville.

"We had some problems in the second inning Saturday where we made two errors, but after that we tightened up and played a good game. I think quite a number of things are starting to come together."

"I have to keep in perspective that many of the players on this year's team didn't play baseball last year. Georgetown doesn't have a juvenile team, and some of these guys have had some catching up to do," he said.

Newcomer Rod Wilson pitched the win Saturday night. The righthander went the distance in the game, allowing six hits and two walks while striking out nine.

With both teams tied 4-4 heading into the bottom half of the eighth, Eagles infielder Mario

Galvao hit a triple. Left-fielder Jay Anderson brought home the winning run when he hit a triple, but was stranded there as the next three batters went down in order.

Sunday in Oakville first baseman Dan Curtis proved to be the Eagles' player of the game. In the top half of the ninth inning with two on and two out, Curtis stroked a double that brought home two of three runs he batted in during the game. At the time Georgetown led 6-5 and the three-run cushion was needed as Oakville came back to score twice in the bottom of the ninth.

But Curtis had a hand in snuffing out the Oakville team's drive for the winning run. Curtis caught a hard-hit line drive down the first base



MARIO GALVAO

line, and touched the bag for the double play that ensured the Georgetown win.

"The boys went down with one objective, and that was to beat Oakville, and they did it," Guistini said. Mario Colocchia, Neil Sivertson and Mario Galvao all had two hits for the Eagles. Galvao also pitched the win in going the distance. He gave up a first-inning



JAY ANDERSON

two-run homer, but Guistini said Galvao settled down after that to pitch a good game.

Monday night the Eagles were to travel to Hamilton to play West Mountain in a Canada Day game. However, minutes before Guistini was set to leave, he received a call that the game had to be called. It seems the City of Hamilton did not open Bernie Arbour Stadium, and



NEIL SIVERTSON

subsequently the game had to be rescheduled.

The discovery was made when West Mountain players went to the stadium to get a little batting practice in before the game. The postponing of the game is the second for the Eagles, and has been rescheduled for Thursday evening.

While Guistini was able to get in touch with the majority of his players, some did make the trip not knowing of the cancellation.

"I guess some of the players will want to beat them real bad when we get up there," Guistini joked.

NOTES-Left-fielder Jay Anderson did not play in Saturday's game. He sprained his ankle the night before, and it is not known how long he will be out of the Eagles' lineup.

The Eagles are at home Saturday night for a 7:30 p.m. start with Mississauga. The game will be played at the Fairgrounds.

Halton native Jeff Inglis makes Argos' final cuts

Halton Hills native Jeff Inglis has made the starting lineup of the Toronto Argonauts.

Inglis, a five-year veteran of the Canadian Football League, will be the starting right tackle for the Argos.

The 28-year-old University of Guelph grad played five years with



JEFF INGLIS

Calgary Stampede before coming to Toronto in April. Inglis was the player to be named later in the deal that sent Argo quarterback to Calgary in exchange for defensive end Walter Ballard. The Argos will play their first game on the road. Friday night Toronto will travel to Edmonton for the 1985

Sabres could lodge appeal

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

The Acton Jr. C Sabres still have a chance of getting those local players who played hockey out of town last year on to their roster this season.

General manager Elmer Dunn said the team could send the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) a letter outlining the problems with a decision made at its annual meeting. The decision made local players who left to play hockey out of town the property of the team they last played for.

That meant about eight potential players were all of a sudden deemed ineligible for the Sabres. The only way Acton could obtain the players was if they were given a release.

However, six of the eight played in the Mid-Ontario Jr. C League, the same circuit Acton joined this year. In fact, the six played for the Fergus team that is in the same division as the Sabres. Therefore, it seems unlikely Fergus would release the Acton locals and weaken themselves so that Acton could strengthen itself in the process.

Dunn said the letter would outline what the problem is, and how it affects the Acton team. After that, the situation would be out of the Sabres' hands.

"We'd have to let them (OHA) rule on it," he said.

The OHA decision, coupled with the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association's (CAHA) decision to increase the age requirements of the minor systems across Canada, come at a bad time for the Sabres. The Jr. C club was formed so as to provide those local players too old for minor hockey a place to play. However, the CAHA's recommendation meant the 11 over-aged midgets could return to the minor system.

Now potentially the eight others the team was looking at could be lost to them.

"We initially were in it to provide something for those kids who had nowhere to go but industrial hockey," Dunn said. "I think with our drawing area, we'll still be able to put together a competitive team."

"But what we set this up for this year will now be for next year."

Continued on page C2

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