

Summer Games track squad will have local flavor

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
The Ontario team taking part in next month's Canada Summer Games will have a Georgetown-Acton flavor.

Georgetown resident Bruce Andrews, who teaches at Acton High School, will be the middle and long distance coach for the Ontario track team. He will be responsible for the 800, 1,500, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 metre athletes. As well Andrews will assist the race-walking athletes.

Andrews learned of the coaching vacancy on the team through an Ontario Truck and Field Association newsletter. The paper asked interested applicants to send in their resume, which Andrews did.

Andrews has coached track as well as cross-country runners Doreen Uranick, George Gidman and Maria Brillinger. Andrews said the news of being selected as a team coach caught him by surprise initially.

"I guess I was a little surprised because I had forgot all about it," he said with a laugh. This year the Canada Games will be held in St. John's, New Brunswick. The event itself will begin in Aug. 10, and run for two weeks. The track competition will take place the first week of the Games.

"I applied because if you are going to coach the elite athletes, it's good to have the desire to go to a higher level. I don't think you can get the athletes there if you yourself aren't going to go along the same line," Andrews said.

This marks the first time Andrews has worked as a coach on a provincial team level. He's looking at going to the Games with a business-type attitude.

"If you're going to do a good job, you should spend the time with the athletes and take care of them," Andrews said. "That's what you're going for."

"I hope to gain experience working with high level athletes at a large competition. One of the things that has hit me is that because these athletes are good, we think of them as being mature. However, most of them are just young kids."

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SECTION C, THE HERALD, Wednesday, July 31, 1985 - Page 1



PLAYING THE FIELD

DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

Sign of the times hanging for ball team

TORONTO—A sign hangs at York University that has special significance to a select number of teenage baseball players.

The sign reads: August 10, 8 p.m. Canada versus ANYONE. It is in reference to next week's world youth baseball championships which will be held in Albany, New York. The above date and time are for the gold medal game.

The sign was written and posted by the Canadian team manager Jim Ridley. He adds there is no reason why it cannot happen.

"I don't fear any team," he said from Exhibition Stadium last week where the team is training. "I expect Taipei, Cuba and the United States to be the teams to beat, but our goal is to be in the gold medal game, and I don't think it's too far for us to reach."

Two years ago Canada finished a three-way tie for the gold. But two round-robin tournament losses to the U.S. and Taiwan gave Canada a bronze. Last year inconsistent fielding left the



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JIM RIDLEY
Canadian squad with a 3-6 mark in the 10-team tournament, which was played in Saskatchewan.

Ridley has been manager of the national team the past two seasons, and feels this year's squad is a lot better defensive ball club.

"I've got as good a defensive infield as I've ever had since I've been involved in the program," the Stewarttown Public School teacher said. "I'll tell you, working in this facility (Exhibition Stadium) is super because the kids become highly motivated playing in this park."

Ridley began training camp about two weeks ago with 50 hopefuls. He has cut that number down to 25, and will reduce it further until he has 18 players plus pitchers.

As well as being responsible for the operation of the squad, Ridley and his coaches have had to take a lot of extra time looking after airport and train runs for incoming and departing players spend up two hours a night going through practice routines, paperwork for passports and discussing what players have stood out.

"It's like we're business managers, general managers and coaches all wrapped into one," he said.

The players invited to the camp come from across Canada. Few know who they're competing against, but Ridley said he has been mildly surprised with how the players have gotten along together.

"These guys have a strong team personality. They're starting to mold together and help one another. I'm very happy to see that."

One problem Ridley faced before camp opened was finding adequate right-handed batters. He said that problem will be solved.

"We might have to sacrifice some defence, but you give in one spot to get stronger in another."

"I'm ready. I've received no evidence that suggests we can't finish first, second or third: When you get down to one game, anyone can beat anyone. I think our goals are real and attainable."

NOTES—The team opens play Aug. 3 against Australia in Cooperstown, the site of the Baseball Hall of Fame. All other games will be played at Heritage Park in Albany, New York.

Tennis squad brings home title



The Alcott junior boys tennis team is all smiles after winning the Intercounty title this weekend. Members of the winning team include: (front row) Rory Kennedy, Mark Shepherd, and Jay Anderson. Back row: Stephen Eastwood, Mike Harris, Don Hurley (coach) and captain Mike Hurley. (Photo submitted)

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor
Rather than spend their weekend time at the beach, two Georgetown teenagers have been busy doing something more commonly done during the winter months.

Don Cruise and Dave Harris have spent most of their summer weekend time playing hockey. Not at a hockey camp, rather the two were invited to try out for the Central Ontario select minor bantam team, and made the final cut. About 80 players from as far away as Peterborough, Owen Sound and Huntsville were invited, to the team's camp, which was held in Woodville (which is near Lindsay) in early summer.

Since then the team has played some 32 against other minor bantam select teams from Western Canada, the United States as well as other groups in Ontario. The idea of summer select hockey is not a new idea, as the Central Ontario league (comprising of nine teams ranging from novice to minor bantam) has been in operation for the past 10 years.

However, Harris and Cruise are the first players from Georgetown to be invited and make such a team involved in this type of program.

Both players admitted to first being surprised about having made the team's roster because of the calibre of talent present. However they both say they're glad to have been selected.

"The competition is really fierce," Cruise said. "You don't get a chance like this very often to play with players this good."

"I was surprised to be invited," Harris added.

Team coach Bill Dunlop, who is also in charge of operations for the Central Ontario group, had good things to say on both players' progress.

"David is a good, steady hockey player who gives you a 100 per cent honest effort. He has the drive and desire and is an inspirational type."

"Donnie has put more points on the board with us now than he had probably all last winter. He has a lot of potential."

This is Dunlop's first year as director of the Central loop, having spent the past four years involved with the Northern-Lakeshore league which included centres like Oshawa to Trenton and as far north to Huntsville and Haliburton.

Unlike the Ontario Minor Hockey Association setup during the winter, the summer leagues are not zoned, thus allowing boys from all adjoining centres a chance to try out and improve. Dunlop feels the zoning

situation hurts the good players.

"They are not pushed to develop," he said. "You put a good player with players his own level, he has to do his job."

"The OMHA has been approached (about dropping zoning), but won't move. It bothers me to see teams from the United States come up here and beat us hands down. They have open zones."

"When the boys go back to their teams in the winter they are so far ahead they've got to come down to the level of their team. During the winter they are not playing at the level they should be."

Interest in the summer program has doubled in the Central league since last year Dunlop said. This year alone over 800 players tried out for the league's nine teams. He



DON CRUISE and DAVE HARRIS

Alcott juniors go all the way

The Gordon Alcott junior boys tennis team ended the year in impressive fashion by claiming the Intercounty championship on the weekend.

The Georgetown team won the 24-team, four-division championship tournament by defeating Milliken 6-2 in the final.

Steve Eastwood split his under-15 singles match 3-6, 6-4. Eastwood played a strong game in the second set as he came from behind to notch the win for the split. The under-15 doubles team of Mark Harris and Dave Harris won their first set 7-6 before dropping a 6-1 decision to

also gain a split. Fortunately, the under-18 veteran players came through as the team of Rory Kennedy and Jay Anderson won both their sets. The tandem whipped their opponents 6-1 in their first set, then won a 7-5 decision in the second.

Team captain Mike Hurley put the finishing touches on an undefeated season as he notched his 12th win of the year. Hurley won his first set 6-1, but trailed 4-1 in his second when he reeled off five consecutive games with powerful serves for the 6-4 win in the second set.

Coach Don Hurley was proud of the club's unbeaten string throughout the year. Hurley also extended his thanks to Bobby Sun, Mike Lorito, Mark Talbot and the other players who played for the club throughout the season.

Next year the Alcott team will move up to the major division, which is the highest level of tennis play in junior tennis team competition throughout Ontario. Hurley said while the upward move will result in a higher calibre of play, the team is looking forward to the challenge. The only player leaving the squad will be doubles player Jay Anderson, who will be too old for the under-18 age class. However, the team will be requiring some more under-15 players as those with the team this year will be making the transition to the higher age category.

Many of this year's team will continue to play in the Ontario junior tennis circuit, thus gaining valuable experience for next year's tennis season.

As much as the win meant to his players, Hurley said the Alcott team's magnificent season was a great accomplishment for the development of junior tennis in Georgetown.

Competition fierce in summer hockey

PUTTING ON A SHOW

CITY-TV's Jim McKenny shows good form on this putt. Unfortunately the former Toronto Maple Leaf is thinking about pool, rather than golf. McKenny was in town Monday to take part in

the Le Studio golf tournament for the Mentally retarded. The event was held at Georgetown Golf and Country Club. See story and photo on C2. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

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