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McGaw, Pickering mates Canadian softball champs

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

For the second time in three years Kara McGaw has been a member of the Pickering junior ladies softball team that has gone on to win a Canadian championship.

Back in 1984 the Georgetown native was picked up by Pickering for the national tournament, and the Ontario representative emerged victorious. This year the 20-year-old joined Pickering at the beginning of the season, and helped the squad record three wins Sunday to lay claim to yet another Canadian title.

This year's Canadian championships were held at L'Ameroux Sports Centre in Scarborough. After qualifying for the semi-final Saturday, Pickering edged British Columbia 3-2 early Sunday, then defeated previously unbeaten Alberta 5-0 and 1-0 for the national title. All three games were played back-to-back (starting at noon and going through to 8:30 p.m.), and the final contest went a total of 18 innings before Pickering scored the winning run.

There were a couple of tense moments for the Pickering team in the final game. Alberta loaded the bases on two occasions, but failed to produce any runs. Pickering pitcher Sherri Vail recorded a strikeout to end one threat while on the other an Alberta batter fled out.

Worth mentioning was that both teams started the same pitchers for the second game who pitched in the game prior. In fact Vail, a pickup from Richmond Hill, pitched all 25 innings for Pickering in the championship final, and didn't allow a run.

McGaw said she felt this win was more meaningful to her because she had spent the entire year with the Pickering team.

"I think so because I had been there the whole year and we were playing in our own province," she said. "I did feel tired, but your adrenaline keeps you going because you want to win so much."

After the two teams were well past the regulation seven innings, McGaw said there came a time where she wondered if the game was ever going to end.

"I didn't think it ever was going to end," she said. "The pitching was just incredible. It didn't seem like either pitcher was ever going to let up."

Pickering got the win when Donna Roberts singled home Jocelyn Kwan

from third base. But McGaw and her Pickering teammates had an idea before that eventful occasion that they would score the winning tally in the 18th frame.

"A man came to our bench, set down a piece of luggage and told us to sit down beside it. We thought he was crazy, but being suspicious we all went and it was that inning when we won. We don't know who it was or what was in it (piece of luggage) because the man left right after the game."

The Pickering team went through the first round of tournament play with a record of three wins against one loss. That defeat came at the hands of the Alberta squad 4-2 Friday. In the second round Pickering defeated Cedar Hill 1-0, but once again lost to Alberta in its second meeting 5-0.

McGaw said she and her mates began to wonder if a second title was meant to be this year after the second loss to Alberta. However, deep down she said the Pickering team felt it was as good a team as the Alberta squad.

McGaw too had a good tournament. In the first game against Saskatchewan, she scored the winning tally in a 3-2 win in the second extra inning while going two for three at the plate. Against Cedar Hill, McGaw also went two-for-three in the 1-0 win. She said having played a year at Western Illinois University, where the outfielder has a full athletic scholarship with the varsity ladies softball club, benefitted.

"With me playing in the States it helped me because when we go on the road we sometimes play up to seven games in three days. But we knew we had a good team, and it was just a matter of performing to our potential," McGaw said.

After having played three games, inside eight-and-a-half hours, McGaw and her teammates celebrated the championship win. McGaw said it was at that point she began to wonder if she really wanted to go back to school. Saying good-bye to her teammates was difficult.

"After the big weekend I wasn't sure if I wanted to leave, but now I'm looking forward to going back. This (championship) hasn't really sunk in yet. It probably won't until I start packing," she said.

McGaw too won't have much time to relish the championship. She leaves for school Friday, and will take part in the varsity squad's two-a-day practices until classes begin Wednesday. McGaw is majoring in recreation at the American school. McGaw added playing summer ball will help her at



QUITE A COLLECTION-Georgetown's Kara McGaw poses here with the awards she's received for having been a member of the Pickering junior ladies softball team that has gone on to win the Canadian championships two of the past three years. McGaw and Pickering won the national title this year by defeating Alberta twice Sunday, including an 18-inning 1-0 win, at L'Ameroux Sports Centre in Scarborough.

"This has probably been my best season," she said. "My hitting has come along, my arm is a lot stronger and more accurate and I've gained a lot more confidence in myself in having gained all this experience."



Guarding the net
 Bob Houston here comes across to cut off a rally at the and Country Club's annual mixed tennis tournament Sunday. The Houstons won the three-set affair 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. (Herald photo by Dan Ralph)

Locals decide on whether to pursue career in Junior ranks

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

The two Georgetown players drafted this year by North Bay Centennials have shed some light on rumors whether they'll attend the Major Junior team's training camp later this month.

Third round pick Craig Chantler has decided against going to North Bay. The six-foot, 190-pound defenceman said he would rather use his hockey in order to obtain a university education instead. Fellow local Mark Dunning, a 13th round selection, has said he will attend the start of camp Aug. 28 amidst rumors that he too was looking at getting a scholarship and playing hockey at the university level.

Chantler said his decision wasn't a knock against the Centennials. It was just that after a visit to the campus of Michigan State University he felt the varsity route was more appealing to him.

"I liked it up there (in North Bay) but I went to visit Michigan State and it was just incredible," Chantler said. "I didn't know about the other side of the coin (playing hockey at a university)."

"I've notified North Bay and they weren't pleased," Chantler added. "I feel pretty bad because I feel I've let them down."

Instead of a Junior career, Chantler said he plans to leave his hockey options open right now. The 17-year-old will attend both Bramalea Blues and Georgetown Gemini camps (both Jr. B teams), and has been invited to both Richmond Hill and Markham Tier II camps.

However, the former Mississauga Reps player said he will likely play Junior "B" hockey this season.

"I can't say right now as to where I'll play, but I'd like to stay close to here because I've been through so much travelling the past few years. If I can make a good Junior "B" team I'll be happy with that," he said.

As for Dunning, he's been about the upcoming Centennials' camp. Dunning said his reason for going North was based on not being contacted by a school about the prospect of playing varsity hockey.

"I talked it over with my father and figures that since I haven't been offered anything to go with what I've got. It should be a good experience," Dunning added.

Dunning has been working hard during the summer to get in shape for camp. Along with the weight training and running, the six-foot three-inch defenceman has been on the ice four times a week. His weight has dropped somewhat, but Dunning is pleased with his condition.

"I'm down to 200 (from 205)," Dunning said. "But it's a good weight for me. I feel that I'm faster than I was at 205."

Dunning attended the Centennials' rookie camp in July and said judging from the talent present he'll have to work hard in order to make the Centennials. However, making the squad isn't impossible.

"Judging by the other players I will have to work hard, but if I do I

feel I can make it," Dunning said.

Should the 17-year-old not make the North Bay team he plans to play hockey somewhere. One possibility is with the Georgetown Gemini, and with Markham of the Tier II loop.

"But why should I go away if I can play hockey at home," Dunning said. "Junior "B" is still good hockey and it looks like the Gemini have gotten their act together."

With his decision to pursue a career in the Major Junior ranks, Dunning is seriously impairing his chances at an athletic scholarship. However, Dunning is well aware of that fact. If Dunning spends more than 48 hours at a Junior camp, he becomes ineligible for a scholarship.

"I'm just going to go to camp and give it a shot. I'll be going to a camp in Annapolis where I'll get a lot of skating time so I should be flying by the time camp begins. Besides, I could go back to school after Junior," he said.

Firestone midgets eliminated

After suffering two tough defeats and being eliminated from further play in the Ontario Junior Fastball League playoffs, the Halton Hills Firestone midgets are making ready for another run at the Ontario midget "B" championship being held this weekend in Nanticoke.

The midgets, behind the superb pitching of David Haynes with sound play from his mates defensively, allowed the second place New Hamburg squad to score just six runs in 22 innings of playoff fastball. The only problem was his teammates only managed to score two runs and dropped both games by scores of 2-1 and 4-1, both of which went 11 innings.

Haynes had to be selected as the MVP for both games and was unbelievable on the mound. For 21 and one third innings he pitched Haynes allowed but four runs, walked two while fanning 15. The other two runs came off of Jon Hammer, who was playing in his first fastball game in close to four weeks in Game Two. Hammer was with the Canadian junior volleyball team in Western Canada.

Both coaches Robin Insoe and Dave Willett feel with any type of (Continued on page C4)

Kemp off to European competitions

By DAN RALPH
 Herald Sports Editor

Darren Kemp is just days away from realizing a 10-year-old dream.

The Georgetown figure skater left Saturday for West Germany, where he will wear Canada's colors at an international meet there this week. After West Germany Kemp leaves for St. Gervais, France where he will once again compete for Canada in another competition. At both events the 19-year-old will skate in the Senior Men's class, a first for him. In all Kemp will be in Europe until the end of this month.

The Canadian Figure Skating Association (CFSA) named Kemp to the national team in May after Kemp had finished his most suc-

cessful year of skating. Last year as a junior men's competitor, Kemp won the Sectional and Divisional meets and placed second in the national event.

Kemp said he's excited about the upcoming competitions, and added he's worked very hard during the summer in preparation for them.

"I really did work hard," he said. "I've never had to get ready so early before."

"I had to add an extra half-minute to my long program and worked on a new short one that I really like," Kemp continued. "I've worked a lot on my free skating program to polish it as well as my figures. Everyone can do figures but the Europeans look for the little things

in your free skating."

With this being a first on two counts for Kemp (skating internationally and at a Senior level), he just wants to do the best he can. But if Kemp can do well, there's a chance the CFSA could have him travel to other competitions throughout the winter to represent Canada.

"If I do well with these then they (CFSA) know I can well so it's very important in that situation," Kemp said. "But I want to skate how I can skate and whatever happens happens. I'm a rookie going in."

Although he hasn't travelled abroad in his skating ventures, Kemp won't be going into the competitions without some idea of what

to expect. His coach at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Country Club Wally Distelmeyer will be accompanying him. Distelmeyer has had experience in Europe both as a competitor and coach.

"He knows all the areas," Kemp said. "No one knows the ropes better than he does."

When Kemp returns, he'll have little time to rest. He will attend a stage camp in Orangeville in the middle of September.

"It's (dream to compete for Canada) finally coming through. All I've ever wanted to do is compete for Canada. It's going to be very exciting. I'm not nervous yet. I might be once I get on the plane, but it's another two programs I have to go



Darren Kemp

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