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July completion

Batting cage OK'd

By PAUL SVOBODA
 Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown baseball players will soon be able to hone their hitting skills in a spanking new professional batting cage thanks to a recent agreement between the Town and the Georgetown Baseball Association.

GBA president Hal Ridley told The Herald last week that an agreement has been struck that should see a batting cage operational in the Fairgrounds by the first or second week of July. Under the terms of the bargain the parks and recreation department will build and maintain the cage while minor baseball will finance the undertaking, said Ridley.

"We're very pleased with the agreement made with the town and their work in coming up with a common plan for a batting cage for Georgetown," said Ridley.

The cage will cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000 with the parks and recreation department forwarding the monies needed to have the facility in place by July. According to Ridley the GBA will repay the department over three years.

Ridley said the fencing has been ordered and the GBA already has a pitching machine in its possession which will be set up for use in the new cage.

Ridley says the cage is needed to meet the demands of a growing baseball program in Georgetown and to fulfill the GBA's desire to provide the best coaching and skill improvement training possible to its young athletes. "A cage will help to improve the hitting skills at all

levels in town," said Ridley. "We have over 400 kids in the association now - up 80 from last year - and we are growing. We see the need to help our kids develop baseball skills and have fun doing it."

The cage will be used primarily by the GBA for its representative and house league players but the association is already working on plans to open up the facility for future use by other town-affiliated groups and sports organizations. Ridley stressed the fact the cage will be used as heavily by the GBA house league as by its top players. "It's for all the kids," he stated. "House league and rep."

The Town and the GBA have agreed that the GBA will operate the facility as well as providing scheduling for its use. "It will be used primarily by the GBA but as we develop it we'll open it up to the community," said Ridley.

He said groups such as the Kinsmen girls, men's slo-pitch league, men's fastball league, girls' powderpuff league and the Legion girls' softball team will likely be accommodated once the cage is in operation.

Once the cage is in place, occupying an area on the third base side of diamond A, the GBA will assume full responsibility for operation of the cage including utility costs, scheduling, instruction, safety, supervision, materials and storage. The Town will help to maintain the facility and provide insurance coverage.

Ridley said the construction of the cage will mean the culmination of several hours of planning and meetings between the GBA and the parks and recreation department.

"We spent a lot of time with Bryan Shymal (parks superintendent) and there was a lot of hard work between him and our batting cage committee chairman, Rich Lorito," explained Ridley. The GBA president also cited rec director Tom Shepard and the Fair Board, who are allowing the cage to be permanently placed at its Fairgrounds site.

Meanwhile, the GBA has undertaken some ambitious fundraising programs to help collect finances for the payment of the cage and its construction. Ridley said the association has received approval to erect a large advertising sign at the cage site which the GBA hopes to fill with the names of local business sponsors. "We're asking sponsors to step forward and become involved in a five-year plan for site advertising," said Ridley.

To help kick off the fundraising campaign the GBA is also currently selling chocolate bars through a minor baseball program sponsored by the Toronto Blue Jays and known as "High Five." Ridley explained that some of the monies collected through the chocolate sales will also be directed toward regular GBA programs such as ongoing upkeep and maintenance of equipment. "The chocolate bar sales will help start off the kitty," said Ridley.

Once the cage is functional, Ridley said user groups may be charged a fee for its use. He said a service charge will be required to help maintain the facility. "Even though the GBA already charges for registration it's still difficult to make ends meet," stated Ridley.



On the run

This trio of runners gave all-out efforts during the team relay phase of Harrison Public School's annual team events culminating in the team relay dashes. The field day featured a day-long slate of individual and field day of track events, held last week at the school. (Herald photo)

Clarkson wins tourney as locals gain experience

Baseball fans had the best of both worlds as the GBA Peewee tournament wrapped up on Sunday at the Fairgrounds. The finals featured a shutout by Clarkson in the championship round and an extra-inning nailbiter that saw Brampton come out on top in the consolation category.

Clarkson blanked Martingrove 6-0 in the championship final while on the consolation side Brampton needed the extra frames to subdue a stub-

born Unionville team by an 11-10 count. Twelve teams opened tournament action on Saturday at the Fairgrounds.

Georgetown Peewees found the going rough in the two-day tourney as they dropped their three preliminary round games. The locals opened against a tough Tillsonburg squad and dropped a 9-4 decision before suffering a 19-1 beating at the hands of eventual consolation finalists Unionville.

Georgetown ended their tournament on a strong note, losing a 7-4 game to Cawthra.

Despite the losses tournament coordinator Keith Mills said the local Peewees played well, especially since most of the players are experiencing their first taste of rep baseball.

"There was no tyke rep team last year," explained Mills. "A lot of the kids wouldn't have played in the rep system before this year. They fared pretty well, considering."

Catch Morty Ogden agreed. "The kids are playing pretty well. They're new to system and they're working hard," he said.

Ogden cited pitcher-centre fielder Joey Robichaud and Graham Kennedy at first base for their outstanding efforts during the tournament. Jamie Ogden also turned in a solid weekend at third base.

Eagles crush Cawthra

Georgetown Midget Eagles crushed Cawthra 10-4 to end an eight-game losing streak much to the delight of manager Brian Hannah.

The win went to Eddie Doyle who was spectacular in striking out 17 Cawthra batters while allowing only three hits with one being a lucky bunt single that appeared to be rolling foul when the unpredictable Georgetown infield turned it into a fair ball.

Cawthra hitters were no match for Doyle on this night as he went the distance. The game featured timely hits with Dave Ridley, Stephen Lee, Jeff Hannah and Scott Van de Valk leading the way. Van de Valk drove in four runs, three with a bases loaded triple. Hannah had two hits, scored once and had an RBI. Lee was on base three times with an RBI.

In the third Ridley's two-out, two-run single put the Eagles up 6-1. Gord Burke and Curtis Green had the other hits for Georgetown.

Sunday night saw Georgetown travel to Forest Glen where they were victorious again as they won 20-6.

Van de Valk started but was not sharp giving up four runs on 10 walks and three hits. Travis Gardiner collected three hits and three RBIs while Andy Domingos broke out of his slump getting on base five out of six times.

Robert Ross got his first opportunity to play first base and was spectacular. He finished off three double plays, two of which had to be scooped out of the dirt and getting two outs by way of pick-offs.

Canada Lawn Bowls this weekend to help raise charity funds

Representatives of local organizations will get a chance to try their hands at lawn bowling on Saturday and help raise money for a good cause in the process.

The Georgetown Log Cabin Lawn Bowlers are hosting their annual Canada Bowls event to raise money for Child Amputees. Ten local organizations have been invited to participate in the bowling which gets

under way at 10 a.m. on Saturday and concludes at 4 p.m.

Organizer Ken Baker said each group will be charged a \$4 entry fee and spectators will be asked to make

Groups invited to bowl on Saturday include the Kinsmen, Kinettes, Lions Club, Sons of Scotland, British Club, Optimists, Halton Cable Four, Legion, Halton Hills Council and The Herald.

donations toward the Child Amputees fund. "We're hoping first-time bowlers will come out and give it a try," said Baker.

The Georgetown event is part of a nationwide lawn bowling promotion to help raise funds for the Child Amputee fund.

"Canada Cup" International golf links

Scotland defeated Canada last week to win the coveted Canada Cup.

But this Canada Cup was not played on ice and it didn't draw crowds of 20,000 fans. The event was a Canada Cup of golf and it involved local employees of Air Canada and their counterparts in Scotland working for British Air.

The two groups of Toronto-based airline workers and British Air employees out of Edinburgh, Scotland have been battling it out in friendly competition on the links for the past 13 years.

"It started in 1976 after one of the Scottish guys met one of the Canadians at a wedding reception in Scotland and they decided a golf tournament would be a great idea," explained Canadian team member and local resident John Banton. "Other guys in Toronto and Edinburgh got involved and decided to alternative travelling to Canada and Scotland for yearly competitions and from there it just grew."

This year's event wrapped up at the Georgetown Golf and Country Club last Thursday with the Scottish contingent taking top honors. The overall score in the Canada Cup competition now stands at seven for the Canadians and six for the Scotsmen.

"It's a fantastic idea," said Scottish team captain Richard Welsh. "The hospitality here is fantastic and the weather is just great. When the guys come over to Scotland they usually have to bring their rainwear."

Coincidentally, Welsh lived in Georgetown for four years before returning to his native Scotland and taking up employment with British Air. Though working for

Air Canada during his Ontario sojourn he never heard about the local fairway exchange until he was back in Scotland.

"I didn't know any of the Canadian guys but when I got back to Scotland and someone mentioned the golf tournament I remembered some of the names," recounted Welsh. "It's a small world."

The Scottish golfers arrived in Ontario on June 13 and played off against their Canadian hosts three times before the tourney final in Georgetown. Prior to last Thursday's showdown they met in Scarborough at the Westview course, at Glen Eagles just north of Bolton

and in Niagara Falls.

"We always play the final in Georgetown," explained Banton. "The Scottish players enjoy the course and they're treated well here."

In Scotland last year the Canadians met their hosts at the Royal Musselburgh course, one of Scotland's oldest golf clubs. They held the 1987 final at Carnwath.

"When the Canadians come over the response is brilliant," said Welsh.

The annual tournament usually involves about 12 to 15 players from each group, said Banton. "It's a lot of fun," he said.



Friendly foes

Local employees of Air Canada and their Scottish counterparts from British Air in Edinburgh gathered at Georgetown Golf and Country Club last Thursday at the conclusion of their annual "Canada Cup" golf tournament. The friendly foes have

been battling on the fairways in a neighborly exchange for the past 13 years. Scottish team captain Richard Welsh (front centre) is seen holding the coveted trophy which his contingent claimed this year. (Herald photo)



Headed to nationals

Carla Jackson (right) and Susan Thibodeau will carry impressive competitive records into the Canadian Baton championships at Humber College during the first two weeks of July. At the June 9 Ontario championships Susan copped a first in solo dance, second in medley and

fifth in solo twirl in the girls' 12-14 division. Carla, competing in the girls' 15-17 age category, picked up a silver in solo twirl and a fifth in medley. Winners at the nationals will earn a trip to Tokyo, Japan to compete in the annual world baton championships.

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