

Hisaki bantam girls team aiming for championship

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

The Acton Hisaki bantam girls softball team is but one hurdle away from completing a banner 1989 season.

The first step over this hurdle will be taken Monday night, 6:30 p.m. at Acton's Prospect Park when the Halton Hills squad takes on either Kilbride or Cheltenham in the opening game of the best-of-three Halton Rural Softball League's championship series.

Acton made it to the championship series by virtue of a two-game sweep over Rockwood in best-of-three semi-final play.

The Hisaki bantams thumped Rockwood 19-4 in the series' opener, then wrapped up the affair with a 10-5 triumph, earlier this week.

Rockwood was considered a stepping-stone to the championship series for Acton as during season play, the Hisaki crew had beaten their semi-final opponent five straight times and outscored Rockwood 94-35.

Hisaki coaches John

Kwiatkowski and Elmer Lucas, provided some background on the team's season and its players.

The Acton girls finished in first place in league regular season play, compiling a 13 win, one loss and one tie record, while outscoring the opposition, 191-94.

Starting pitchers, Leanne Preuter and Kelly Ambrose anchored the pitching staff. Kelly posted a .53 Earned Run Average and struck-out 21 per cent of the opposition batters. She had a team-high nine strikeouts in one game.

Leanne had a 1.10 ERA, had excellent control and effectively used her best pitch, a curveball to baffle batters.

Relief pitchers included Tracy Hagan with a 1.59 ERA and a nasty fastball; consistent Heather Willmott, 1.10 ERA and Shannon Morris, .23 ERA, who intimidated batters with her fastball.

Tracy Hagan was the team's leading hitter, sporting an .804 batting average with three homeruns, 33 Runs Batted In, 11 doubles and 31 runs scored. She was 33-34 in base stealing attempts.

Leanne Preuter hit .641, scored

36 runs, had 19 singles, six doubles, three triples and 20 RBIs.

Heather Willmott hit .538, led the team with 20 walks, had 17 singles, two doubles and 13 RBIs.

Deanna Louth sported a .490 batting average, was eight-for-eight on bunt attempts and stole 19 consecutive bases. The centre-fielder made only one error all year and led the outfielders with nine unassisted outs.

Christine White played a solid second base, never dropped a tag and batted .348.

Ann Lucas proved solid in the field and at third base, scored 16 runs and led the team with 29 consecutive steals.

Dianne Walker batted .324, scored nine runs, was 16-17 in steal attempts and played an outstanding third base.

Jennifer Lee, although injured most of the year, batted .280 and performed well at second and first.

Leanne Munday batted .240, played an excellent second base and was very accurate with her throws.

Kelly Ambrose played an outstanding first base, batted .597, led the team with 20 singles, had one homerun, four triples and scored 26 runs.

Several Pee Wee-age players also helped the Hisaki crew throughout the season.

Lisa Harlow batted .722, was 9-10 in steal attempts, scored 10 runs, had eight RBIs, four doubles and one triple. She played an excellent outfield.

Allison Coe hit .529, had four RBIs and stole 15 consecutive bases.

Shannon Morris had a .666 batting average, hit 12 singles and scored seven runs.

Wendy Graham hit .250, stole six consecutive bases and went errorless when playing either the outfield, shortstop or catching positions.

With just one giant step to go to claim championship laurels, no doubt all the Acton players will be on their toes when they face either Kilbride or Cheltenham, Monday night in Acton.

win, lose & DREW



Buying new car means dollars, sense

By Peter Bohr
Contributing Editor, Road & Track

It's a good time to buy a new car. Of course it's always a good time if you have plenty of dollars in your pockets. After all, an alluring new car is one of life's nicer perks.

But right now, you'll probably need fewer dollars than usual. New-car sales had been in high gear since 1983. Now it seems most motorists who wanted a new car have already bought one.

During the first half of this year, car sales decelerated by nearly 8 percent, compared to the first half of 1988. There was a big drop in sales at General Motors, and smaller declines at Ford and Chrysler, as well.

The major Japanese automakers were up slightly, or about even with last year's sales. But several European automakers, including Mercedes-Benz and Porsche, saw huge declines.

And next year, sales aren't expected to improve. New-car prices will be sharply higher. Detroit automakers expect to raise the price of a typical 1990 model by more than \$400. Luxury models such as Cadillacs may be priced thousands of dollars higher.

Yet despite the slump, the automakers — both the homeboys and the foreign guys — have been loath to cut

production for fear of losing hard-won market share. Instead, they're forcing their dealers to swallow more and more inventory.

This confluence of events — lots of unsold '89 models and higher prices for '90 models — presents a window of opportunity if you're a new-car shopper ready to whip out your checkbook.

It's usually best to arrange for financing before you visit the dealer and to plan on selling your old car yourself. Otherwise, settle on the price of the new car before you talk to the dealer about monthly payments or trade-in allowances.

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Home Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep.

I can't believe that two months have flown by so rapidly - where does the time go? It seems that the summer months are the months that have wings on them and of course the winter months have lead in shoes. This summer has seen a lot of changes in the real estate market. Since mid-March, the market has been in a sleepy state, to say the least, and a lot of us could have gone on a long holiday and no one would have known the difference.

However, I'm pleased to report that about mid-August, things started to happen. Suddenly phones were ringing again, pagers that we thought needed new batteries, were beeping again, and our secretaries stopped knitting. There are actually people out there looking at houses, and some of them are even buying. It had been a very curious time span, frustrating for vendors who were anxious to get their homes sold, and even more frustrating for us, who represent you. As much as we tried to pry buyers out of the woodwork over those slow months, we were mostly spinning our wheels.

However, it now seems that all our work has not been in vain. You have probably noticed "sold" signs popping up on houses, and some of them are appearing quite quickly too. Certainly it is a sign of change in the industry, and a welcome one. It is still a buyer's market, and that means that you can probably pick up some lovely homes at a very realistic price, if you are on your toes. However, I don't suspect that this market will last very long, so if you are even considering a change of address, it would be a very good idea to get out there and start looking before prices take a hike again. Fall traditionally sees an increase in price tags and if you want to cash in on this market, you can, if you stop watching TV!

It's really difficult to keep a handle on the market unless you are working in it, but I am trying to help you out a little with my knowledge of the situation. It's time to pick up the phone and call your favorite sales rep, and get moving! Nothing lasts forever, and I have a feeling that if you wait, you will miss the boat!

Hope your summer has been full of wonderful things - I know mine has - it's great to have the family together again (at least, I think so.)

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