

Hisaki bantams stalled in championship drive

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

The Acton Hisaki bantam girls softball team finds itself backed against the wall following two heart-breaking extra inning losses to Cheltenham this week, in the Halton Rural bantam girls softball league best-of-five playoff championship series.

The Hisaki bantams won the championship series opener, 10-5, Sept. 11, in Acton and seemed well on course for the playoff championship crown.

However, the Acton team lost 11-10, Monday night in Cheltenham then bowed 12-10 to Cheltenham in

Acton Wednesday night, to put a damper on the club's championship aspirations.

The fourth - and possibly deciding - game in the playoff championship series was scheduled for Friday night, in Cheltenham. Unfortunately, at press time, results were not available.

Should the Hisaki bantams yield the league playoff title to Cheltenham, it would be a disappointing end to an otherwise outstanding 1989 season.

The Acton squad romped to the league regular season top spot by posting a 13 win, one tie and one loss record while outscoring the op-

position, 94-35.

In playoff semi-final action, the Hisaki bantams easily handled Rockwood in two games straight in that best-of-three series to advance against Cheltenham.

Over-confidence might be plaguing the Acton girls, however, as during regular season play they posted a 5-1, won-lost record against Cheltenham.

Player-availability has also been a problem for the Acton team.

According to team coach Elmer Lucas, only eight girls were able to make the Monday night trip to Cheltenham.

In the losses, Monday and Wednesday evenings, Acton opened up early leads only to see their bats go cold while Cheltenham surged to claim the twin wins.

Monday night, Acton led 10-7 after six full innings but Cheltenham tied the contest with three runs in their last at bat.

Acton was held off the scoreboard in the top of the eighth and Cheltenham grabbed the win in the bottom of the eighth.

Despite the loss, Kelly Ambrose pitched well for Acton and had timely hits as did teammates, Tracy Hagan and Christine White.

Shannon Morris hurled four excellent innings for Acton in the Wednesday game and the Hisaki girls were in front 4-1 after four.

Cheltenham battled back with five runs in the top of the fifth and after seven full innings, the game was tied 10-10.

It took 10 innings, but Cheltenham pushed across two runs in their half of the 10th, while



SHANNON MORRIS pitched four strong innings for the Acton Hisaki bantam girls softball team, Wednesday evening in the game against Cheltenham. Unfortunately, Cheltenham won the game, 12-10 in extra innings. (Herald photo)

NFL teams face changes

NEW YORK (NEA) — Pete Rozelle's decision to resign after 29 years as commissioner of the National Football League threw the league into a stormy transition at the top. Now it will take a while for the owners to assess their interests and for new leadership to become established.

But the impact of other off-the-field changes in pro football will be felt on Sunday, Sept. 10, when the 28 teams begin the 70th NFL season.

Since the San Francisco 49ers won Super Bowl XXIII last January:

- The NFL, trying to head off a legal challenge by the players, has instituted its first real free-agency (the so-called Plan B system).
- A new training-camp roster limit of 80 players has been established.
- The injured-reserve rule has been changed.
- Five teams, including San Francisco, have changed head coaches.

Most NFL rosters will have an unfamiliar look on Opening Day.

Plan B free agency was the league's response to the NFL Players Association's anti-trust suit. You want freedom of movement for players? Here's plenty of freedom of movement: of 619 eligible, 229 players

changed uniforms. This year, you really won't be able to tell the players without a program.

For some squads, free agency was an unqualified disaster. The Houston Oilers, whose greatest strength was their depth, lost 15 players, the most in the league. Among the Oilers defecting were starting tight end Jamie Williams (signed by the Niners) and All-Pro safety Keith Bostic (now a Colt).

The Giants, already beleaguered on the offensive line, lost guard Billy Ard to Green Bay, which also signed Seattle's excellent center, Blair Bush. The Packers, in fact, signed 20 free agents, the most in the NFL.

And the rich got richer. The Niners lost only two players, TE Ron Heller and DB Greg Cox, while adding, among others, Williams, ex-Houston RB Spencer Tillman, ex-Dallas WR Mike Sherrard and ex-Dallas QB Kevin Sweeney.

How many of these new faces a team can keep is another story.

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blanking Acton in the last of the 10th to escape with the victory. Should a fifth - and deciding - game be needed in the championship playoff series, Hisaki coach Lucas expects it would be played Monday evening, 8:30 p.m., at Acton's Prospect Park.

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Home Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. — 873-0300

It was an amazing weekend! Everything I have been telling you about the market, was repeated to me many, many times on Saturday and Sunday last week. You may have noticed that our office held an Open House blitz on Sunday, with 14 or our listings on view. Until Monday, I could not check with too many of the other sales people, as to how busy they were during those hours on Sunday, but I could of course compare notes with my hubby and our two wonderful "clones". All of us were run off our feet!

A steady stream of people kept coming through the doors, even long after the appointed hours for viewing were over. On Monday, I checked with the other reps and found the story was exactly the same. There are lots and lots of people out there on the streets looking at houses again. This is truly a condition that has not existed since March - for even though we have continued to hold open houses since then - we have had very little activity. To be frantic again is good to report to you. It might also put some gears into place as well, for activity means lots of things, depending on your circumstance. For those of you who have your homes presently on the market, it means that, if you are priced right, you will probably be getting a steady stream of showings, and probably an offer within a reasonable time frame. For those of you who are looking, you might think rather strongly about making some decisions soon, for high activity in the market usually means: 1) houses sell faster; 2) the good ones go first; 3) there is an increased chance that you might hesitate just that fraction too long, and you will get yourself into a multiple offer situation; and 4) prices could start to rise again soon.

Certainly, things have turned around, just as I have told you in my previous columns, and many of us have experienced multiple offer presentations on properties in the past several weeks. The market is a really fluky thing - it's hard to beat it - so at least try to work with the best buyers market we've had for many years - before it's too late. (I would hate to have to print a column entitled "I TOLD YOU SO...")

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