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Baseball registration may be capped

By ROBERT RISK
Herald Sports Editor

The Georgetown Baseball Association, faced with increasing registration numbers, is maintaining they must either cut back playing time for its house league teams or limit registration to 600 children next year.

Jean Aubin, president of the association, said the group's teams have reached their capacity of 15 players each and there is

no more room left on the baseball diamond schedule.

"With 15 guys per team, that means six will have to sit out every inning, which isn't much fun for them. I know there are other fields in town, but you just can't use the smaller diamonds for the older kids and we only have one regulation sized one."

Aubin said the GBA had been counting on a new community park in Georgetown South to help

handle the increased numbers, but were dismayed to see that nothing has happened in that area recently.

"Usually when you have development, when the streets are paved and the sidewalks are in like they are in there now, the parks are usually done as well, which is not the case here."

Bryan Shynall, superintendent of parks and cemeteries for the Town of Halton Hills Recreation

and Parks Department, said development of the fields is tied to the rate that Georgetown South is built, since the money required comes from lot levies, which has slowed down due to the present economy.

"Part of the problem is that nobody foresaw the slowdown. The parks could have been well on their way to being finished right now if things hadn't fallen off."

Shynall pointed out the GBA house leagues don't play any games on the weekends or Friday evenings, requiring the schedule to be squeezed into a four day week. He also said the GBA had been floundering a few years ago with poor numbers and there was no guarantee registration wouldn't drop off again in a few years.

Aubin acknowledged there are no games on weekends, but said that was to accommodate the parents so they would be able to go to the cottage or get away elsewhere. He also predicted baseball registration would fall off if the children were required to play on weekends, because many parents would prefer not to give that up.

"With our present schedule, registration has grown by 50 every year for at least the last three years that I've been with the GBA. If we have to cut back on the number of games, the long term scenario isn't pretty. House league is relative to how competitive your rep teams are and if we reduce their playing time, the quality of their play will suffer."

Tom Shepard, director of parks and recreation for the Town of Halton Hills, said when the town looks at its master plan within the next year or so, the numbers showing near capacity (seven days a week) for the fields will have to be there in order to justify the expense of building a regulation sized field. Money for such a project, if justified, hasn't been budgeted until 1994.



Rugby scrimmage

Members of the North Halton Rugby Club scrimmage at the Fairgrounds on Tuesday, getting in shape for the upcoming season. The club is always looking for new players aged 14 and up, forming two

senior, one under 19 team and one under 17 team this year. Anyone wanting more information can call Sandy McKenzie at 877-2207. (Herald photo)

SPORT SHORTS

Crushers cruising

Orangeville Crushers continue to improve their chances of repeating as All-Ontario Jr. C hockey champions after taking a 2-0 lead in their best of seven series with Uxbridge Bruins.

Crushers won the first game 7-5 in Uxbridge on Friday and blew away the Bruins at Orangeville 16-3 on Sunday. Crushers scored 10 power-play goals and four short-handed markers in a penalty-filled game and will be looking for a sweep of the series with a win at home today (Friday) at 8:30 p.m. and another on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in Uxbridge.

In the other Jr. C semi-final series, Hanover Barons are tied with Belle River Canadiens 1-1.

Blades trail Welland 2-0

Oakville Blades, winners of the Central Ontario Jr. B hockey league, trail Welland 2-0 in their best of five series. Oakville hosted game three yesterday (Thursday) but results were unavailable at press time. If necessary, game four will be played Sunday in Welland at 8:00 p.m.

Selects win

Peel Juvenile Selects volleyball team won the gold cup at Neward, Delaware's tournament last weekend, going undefeated in all its sets against some of the premier teams in the Eastern United States.

Selects played four round robin matches to begin the tournament, defeating Mid-Hudson New York 15-6, 15-4; Metro 12 Pennsylvania 15-9, 15-7; South PAS TIGER Pennsylvania 15-6, 15-5 and Delaware A 15-8, 15-12, which earned them a bye through the quarter finals.

Liberty Bell team from Philadelphia faced Selects in the semi-finals and were beaten 15-10, 15-8 as the Peel team were intent on reaching the gold cup match.

A team from Washington, D.C., Capital Blue, ranked as the number one team at the start of the tournament, had also gone through its schedule undefeated, but Selects soon changed that.

Peel had some trouble in the first set, trailing 11-6 before coming back to win 15-12. Selects improved its passing in the second set, winning the tournament title with a 15-12 victory.

Bridge club

Georgetown Duplicate Bridge Club's winners at the Legion this week were: 1. Rene March and Karol Tobiasz. 2. Blaine Hillock and Diane Johnson. 3. George Sargent and Jack Kaarsemaker.

Baseball group needs volunteers

The Georgetown Baseball Association, faced with the largest registration in its history, is in need of coaches, convenors and umpires to help its teams have another successful year.

Donna Blight, vice-president of the association's house league, said this year promises to be a challenging and exciting one for everyone involved, especially with the increase of the Bantam/Midget/Juvenile house league from three to five teams.

"We really need a convenor and more umpires, especially for this league. Last year saw this league operate without a convenor and again no volunteer has come forward to offer their help in this area."

Blight said there is an obvious interest among youths aged 14 and up in playing recreational baseball, but without the support of parents in helping this league to operate, those players are likely to be disappointed.

While most of the jobs are on a volunteer basis, the umpires are paid \$8 for each game behind the plate and \$6 for each one in the

field. The shortage last year for umpires was so severe at times that parents often had to be asked to be the second official; something the GBA wants to avoid this season.

Blight also said the need for volunteers to help with organizing the operation of the expanding association is also growing.

She said Dave Beavan, director of volunteers, would be happy to have any person interested in assisting to give him a call at 877-6425.

As a result of the increase in teams, Blight said more sponsors are also needed at both the rep and house league levels. Sponsors play an important role in the organization of baseball, helping to keep player fees as low as possible.

Blight said the cost of sponsoring a house league team is \$250 while a rep team is \$400. She assured that anyone helping out in this area would be given their due acknowledgement by making their support well known in the Georgetown area. Interested parties are asked to call Jack Oesch at 873-2333.



Curling playoffs

Phil Jones, a member of the JAWS team, takes careful aim during Industrial Curling League playoff action at the North Halton Golf and Curling Club on Saturday. Dunlop Insurance captured first place after leading the regular season standings for some time. Kendale Mechanical Eight Enders won the consolation championship. (Herald photo)