

Georgetown Baseball Association getting bigger and better

Jean Aubin, last year's sponsorship chairman of the Georgetown Baseball Association, is looking forward to the start of the 1991 season.

The new year will feature a minor and a major peewee rep team as well as a rep T-ball team. Aubin said registration has in-

creased to the point where no more players can be added without making drastic changes to the schedule since there is no more field time available.

"We've been getting bigger numbers each season, going from about 500 when I started to 600 this year. We'll have close to 40

teams with that many signed up."

Aubin said one of the biggest signs of the association's growth last year was the ability to have their own peewee team instead of having the younger children combined with bantams and midgets.

"It was very tough for the young ones because that ball was really coming at them when playing against the bigger guys. Competing against people their own age really made a difference."

Aubin said one of his goals this year is to make sure that trend continues, gathering more players in order to help improve the quality of the association's teams.

"T-Ball is a good example of

how well things are going. We had 11 teams in house league, so getting a rep team was the next step. We don't have a junior team this year, but we gained one with the other peewee team."

Aubins said the other major goals for him this year has been finding volunteers to help coach the teams, people to umpire the games and find sponsors, most of which has been accomplished so far.

"Volunteers were our biggest need. Without them we couldn't run the games. We've gotten coaches for the teams and convenors for all the leagues, but we're still really short of umpires and a coordinator for them."

Aubin said an umpire coordinator is needed to help find peo-

ple willing to call the games and set up the training programs in order to get them certified. He said the returning umpires, many who are players in the older divisions, know their business and are looking forward to helping new people learn the ropes.

"As for sponsors, Jack Oesch, the sponsorship chairman, has done a great job for us, filling all the spots in a time when the economy hasn't been that well off. With the start of the rep season at home on May 13 and the house leagues after the Victoria Day weekend (May 20), our biggest need is the umpires."

Aubin said anyone interested in umpiring or having other questions can call Dave Beavan at 877-6425.



The Georgetown Baseball Association experienced another year of growth, adding three new rep teams to its roster. Registrations have been so good that a cap had to be put on sign-ups this year. Due to the shortage of fields, the GBA will be forced to change its scheduling in order to accommodate the increased numbers of players. (Herald photo)

Youth soccer in the Hills a going concern

Soccer in Halton Hills has experienced a small reduction in its numbers this year, something the local minor soccer presidents say comes and goes regularly.

"It goes in cycles. We did very well with over 300 players last year. This year we have just under 280. Still, a lot of our senior players haven't signed up yet, so that may change a bit," said Mary Bailey, president of Acton Minor Soccer.

Steven Lee, president of Georgetown Youth Soccer Association, said last year's numbers were lower than the year before. Last year the organization had under-18 boys and under-18 girls teams, but this year it will just be the girls taking to the field.

"We didn't quite have the numbers this year for the boys, so we've made an under-14 boys team which we'll try and build up over time. The under-10 mini soccer is going very well and is full this year."

Both presidents said there are enough numbers and interest among their members to try and compete with more teams from the surrounding area instead of just among themselves.

"We've been in discussions with Milton and Acton to play in a house league with them to make things more challenging for the kids. The difficulty is that nobody wants to do it until they can find out if they can make it viable,"

said Lee.

Bailey said Acton is just entering a five country all-star league which includes Halton, Wellington, Dufferin, Perth and Norfolk.

"We haven't had too bad a response from our people. The players involved also have to play 80 per cent of their own house league games. It was a little tough convincing some to give it a try, but it looks like things will go well."

Both groups say they have a common problem: playing fields. Bailey said the soccer field behind Acton High School is often unusable because it remains extremely wet for a long time, leaving only one, at M.Z. Bennett School, for everyone to share.

"We have several fields that are really awful to play on. Wrigglesworth, St. Francis and G.D.H.S. (Georgetown District High School) are places we really try and keep off since they're basically unplayable," said Lee.

Also, both groups are trying to get their executive boards in better shape. Bailey said there are plenty of people doing a number of things for the organization, but not everyone is necessarily following through with the responsibilities they have taken on. Lee's group is fairly new, having taken over for people who have handled it for 10-12 years. He said it will just take some time for the members to adjust.

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