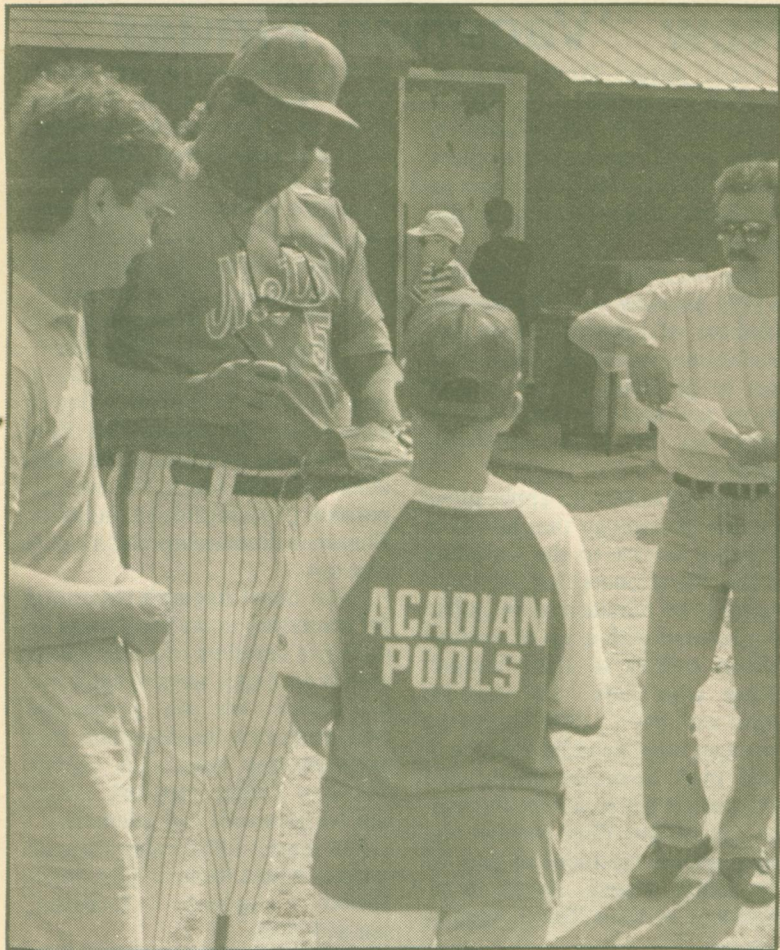


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Andy Lawrence, scout for the New York Mets, autographs a ball glove for Jesse Desjardins, 10, at Honda Canada's Hit, Run and Throw competition at the Glen Williams ball diamond, Saturday.

Mets scout moves to town

Andy Lawrence wants to become a positive influence in local baseball, but right now he's got a more pressing problem to deal with.

Unpacking boxes. Lawrence, 32, and his wife moved to Georgetown last week, and are literally buried beneath a deluge of cardboard and tape as they slowly settle in. But Lawrence doesn't really have the luxury of time because Monday he was back in Mississauga running his baseball camp, which will continue for the next eight weeks.

"Things are a little disorganized right now," he said with a chuckle. "We've got boxes everywhere."

When some semblance of normalcy does set in on the home front, Lawrence would like to examine the local baseball scene to see if he can help.

"I'd like to do what I can to help the kids who are playing," he said. "I don't want to rush into anything, but I would definitely be interested in seeing what the baseball is like here and if I can help."

Lawrence arrives with some impressive credentials.

The six-foot-four, 260-pound native of Trinidad spent many a long night on a bus during a seven-year minor-league baseball career that was split between the New York Mets and Montreal Expos organizations.

He began his pro career by hitting .323 with eight homers and 38 runs-batted-in rookie league ball (Kingsport of the Appalachian League). Kirby Puckett, who would go on to lead the Minnesota Twins to a pair of World Series championships) won the batting title, with Lawrence finishing third.

From that point on Lawrence would hit no worse than .270 and drive in no less than 60 runs annually. However, Lawrence never advanced past Class AA because he had the misfortune of being in

organizations that were already set at first. During his four-year tenure with the Mets, Keith Hernandez and Randy Milligan (now with the Baltimore Orioles) were with the major-league club.

The situation didn't change when he was traded to the Expos in 1985 because Andres Galarraga was quickly establishing himself as a hard-hitting infielder. Midway through the 1988 season with Jacksonville of the southern League, Lawrence called it quits as an active player after being released.

He remains in the game as the Mets' lone Canadian scout, while also running his Ontario Youth Baseball Camp Ltd., which is in its third year of operation and is co-ordinated with the Mets.

"It just shows you that there's more to making it in the major leagues than just numbers," said the amiable giant, who is a former roommate of Manuel Lee when the present-day Toronto Blue Jays shortstop was in the Mets organization. "If the people ahead of you are playing well, then you don't move."

However, life in the minors did teach Lawrence some very important lessons, which he passes on at his camps and clinics.

"I think I've been through and seen enough in professional baseball that I can pass some things on to the kids," he said. "I like to stress practising because mechanics in baseball are so important, and the only way to improve is through repetition."

Lawrence is living proof that it's never too late to get involved in the sport. He suited up for his first baseball game as a 14-year-old, spending most of his younger years playing soccer and cricket, which are popular activities in his native country.

"My dad took me to the ballpark and signed me up because

Continued on Page 15

Powderpuff tournament attracts 28 teams to fairgrounds

Sizzlers 8 - Fowl Balls 8

Sizzlers pulled through with excellent defense and offensive efforts. Kim Wilton made an outstanding pitching debut along with terrific pitching by Jeanine Loruso allowing only one run. A triple off the bat of Bev Daguano, doubles from Lynn Farrimond and Jeanine Loruso. Great comeback to tie the game.

Doubles by Fowl Balls players Bonnie Hatcher and Charyn Shearer. With five team members absent Fowl Balls remained competitive. Good game by all.

Draught Dodgers 22 - Dinomite 4

A good offensive game by the Dodgers. Home runs by Joanne Richardson and Anne Korzack created a big inning. A triple by Monica Mastalerz and a double by Anne Korzack. A great game defensive by Paul Raine. Dinomite's Wendy Reed (Yes Corey and Glenn's mom) had a great night at the plate with a home run, and a ground rule double. Teammate Linda Ovenden had a nice double play along with nice defensive plays by Louise Herbert and Lisa Witton.

In Living Colour 17 - Blue Steal 9

Heavy hitting by Colours' Robin Maitby going 3 for 4, Cathy Dawson with 3 RBI's, Margaret Entwistle hitting 2 doubles and a triple going 3 for 4 with 4 RBI's. Donna Levenberger had a great evening at the mound with 6 (count 'em) strikeouts. For Blue Steal Bev Bird hit 3 singles, 3 doubles by Kim Kirk as well as a double by Judy Faulhafer, Jannette Gale and Nancy Rand.

Fowl Balls 8 - Diamonds in the Rust 4

Fowl Balls double the score with

nice hitting by Sheila Willis. Great all 'round defense by Sue Walsh, making a double play, Paulette Froilet snagging a nice catch at short and yet another double play by Jane Peterson. Pitching perfection by Betty Flikkema. Diamonds in the Rust Susan Grant belted out a triple, going 2 for 3 at the plate. Good hitting by Debbie Anderson, Anna Barkhouse, Mary Becker Jane Long and Joanne Payton. Good effort although ending in a rusty defeat.

Sharks 21 - Stealers 11

Sharks bite off another win with home runs by Gail Sheppard and Diane Moore. Two doubles by Tammy Lockwood (David's mom), a triple by Patti Sheppard and Diane Moore, Barb Martin and Deb Davies (hi Deb!) all hit doubles.

Excellent bats by the Sharks. Stealers Linda Peacock led the offense with 4 RBI's and a steal home. Denise Harden had a 2 RBI home run. Bonnie Henderson, Cindy Poloz, Laura Given and Karen Tales each brought in a run. Great defense by Robin Richardson and Pauline La Roche.

Draught Dodgers 19 - Sizzlers 12

Dodger Shaaron Cater hit out a home run along with Monica Mastalerz. Monica had a great offensive game with 3 triples and a double. Also good bats by Monica Donaldson with a double and 6 RBI's. Sizzlers pitcher Joanne Kemper helped keep the score respectable. 3 RBI's by Jennifer Reynolds. A triple by Jeanine Larusso followed by a double by Lisa Knoepfli.

Entertaining game for the spectators.

Handwashed 13 - Dirt Bags 12

Close but no cigar for the Dirt Bags. D.B.'s Sharon Zmija put out 3 pitches for 3 outs to take the inning herself. Gail Houghton pounded out a homer with doubles by Betty Boomsma, Lisa Johnston, Pat Morey, Sandy Robinson and Sharon Zmija. Despite the buffet of pitchers the D.B.'s couldn't tag this win. Handwashed also had a 3 up 3 out inning pulled off by Shannon Russell.

A 3 hit inning fielded by Penny Cassista, Barb Terry and Paula Zilio who made a nice running catch.

Handwashed win came in the bottom of the 7th with Sue Martin stealing to 3rd, positioning herself for the winning run, and Penny Cassista hitting the winning RBI.

With N.V. 12 - Dinomite 11

N.V.'s Stacey Hamilton played a fantastic all 'round game, pitched well and 2 RBI's. Ruby Gingras hit a triple remaining consistent with 2 RBI's Doreen Dobbins pitched 3 great innings. The team's success is contributed to their ability to play together as a team. Dinomite's Karen Porter belted out a home run with 2 triples by Wendy Reed. Doubles by Suzanne Presswood and Annette Van Dyke. Dinomite shook the boots of the N.V. team coming from behind at 10 to 4 to make the score a little closer at 12 to 11.

In Living Colour 15 - Purple 9

Colour's Carol Hillock rang through with a home run. A triple by Joanne Emmerson with doubles by Silvana Larose and Robin Maltby. Great hitting by Cathy Seaton, Helen Slingsby and Carol Hillock. No comments from Purple.



Tina Henneberry of Milton takes a swing at the softball during the Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League softball tournament held at the Georgetown Fairgrounds, Saturday. Henneberry, of Fat Freddie's, was batting against the Random Car Club of Georgetown. 28 teams participated in the tournament.