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## Mets sign Kitchener player

Continued from page 25 he had a bit of a co-ordination problem. It took him a long time to get basic drills down. He had a strong arm but just couldn't do the simple drills. Look at him now!"

On Fielder and McGriff, who Lawrence played against in A ball in the South Atlantic League: "People don't realize just how hard they hit the ball. You were almost fearful of them hitting it to you. They hit the ball much harder than the other players."

When Lawrence decided to finish with his playing career he felt scouting was the next step.

"When I was finished, I was approached by the Mets scouting department to do scouting up here."

Lawrence scouts Eastern Canada from Ontario to Newfoundland between May and September. That consists of scouting high school players 16-andolder; covering tournaments in the summer, the national team and players he may here about by way of word of mouth.

"I'll send reports back to New York. If I highly recommend a player, they would fly up to see the kid or fly him to New York."

The Mets signed a player Lawrence had been scouting out of Kitchener, Ross Ferrier, a 6-foot-5 225pound outfielder who is now in the instructional

As for the Mets, Lawrence says things will change things around after this past season's mess.

"A couple of bad things happened such as players not playing up to performance and the (Vince) Coleman thing looks bad for the organization, it's something they will recti-

(Coleman tossed firecrackers at fans after a game. Was charged by the police, pleaded guilty and has yet to be sentence. He has been released by the

"Whether it's bringing up different players or starting with new young players, there will be changes." He feels that outfielder Bobby Bonilla and pitchers Dwight Gooden and Brett Saberhagen will be staying.

Lawrence also coaches youngsters in Georgetown and Mississauga, something he takes pride in.

"We have a winter program I run with Ron Chabot (a scout with Blue Jays) for kids who are aspiring to go to college and we try and prepare them by keeping up with their training."

He says the players who go to colleges in Texas, N.Y. State and Alabama are involved in his specialized camp and go through a program with a complete staff of coaches.

As well, Lawrence will be helping with Ontario Youth

experience

Baseball Camps for players aged 9-to-16 in December and March and says that proper coaching for young players is very important if they are to advance.

"We can teach things we've learned at the major league level. The younger they are, the more skills they can learn.

"Right now their knowledge of the game isn't carried through as they get older. The mechanics aren't carried through."

Lawrence says he will continue scouting for the Mets. Also that being the Vice President of Mini Dome will keep him busy as the plan is to have 10 domes in Ontario eventually.

Since the World Series is front and centre on every baseball fan's mind, Lawrence was asked what he thought of the Blue Jays-Phillies match-up.

"If the Jays are leading games after five innings, it's to their advantage and they should win. Their bullpen is much better. Philly has a good staff with Tommy Greene being a key. I'm surprised the way Philly is hitting the long ball. But the Jays line-up is the best I've seen, they're solid right through. I think the Jays will take it in seven."

If anybody would like information concering the Mini Dome or the camps run by Lawrence, call him at 905-897-4441.



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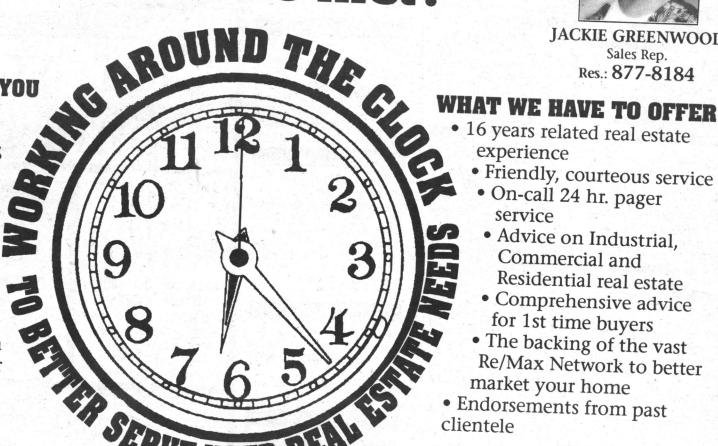
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