

# Soft hits hurt Redmen in softball opener

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Often a stellar defence and a masterful pitching performance will even outduel a powerful offence.

Sometimes, though, the odds can shift in a hurry — like during the Acton Redmen Girls' softball 11-0 home opening loss last Tuesday — and two soft hits can quickly change the game's complexion.

Redmen starter Heather

Ambrose sailed through the first four innings, as did her Aldershot Lions counterpart for a tight 1-0 Lions lead entering the fifth.

Ambrose was also backed by some defensive gems from the infield and one by right fielder Yvonne Hendry, who snared a ball heading for extra bases in the right-centre field gap. She reached across her body and immediately gunned the ball to second, doubling up a

wandering Lion baserunner.

But a couple of soft hits and a solo homer off Redmen reliever Sharon Kearsy began an onslaught of runs by the visitors.

"We played well. The score didn't reflect how we played," says rookie Redmen skipper Al Scott. "We hit the ball well, but just at everybody.

The fact 11 of the 16 Redmen players are Grade 9s and were fighting off the proverbial first game jitters didn't bode well for the home team. Especially when you're facing a fireballer.

"They (the Lions) had an excellent pitcher. She had a lot of heat on the ball and the young girls hadn't seen pitches that fast before," explains Scott, who adds there wasn't a weak batter in the Lions' lineup.

The Redmen played at Burlington Central yesterday (Tuesday) and are at home tomorrow to face Milton. Game time at McKenzie-Smith is 3:30 pm.

# AHS Junior Boys' soccer team starts slow, edged 3-2

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The rain delay lasted 35 minutes, but the game — at least on the scoreboard — was over in 15.

The visiting E.C. Drury Spartans scored three goals in a 12-minute span on Monday, but were halted by a stingy Acton Redmen defence thereafter.

However, it was all they needed as the Redmen defenders failed to loft the ball to their teammates up front for the equalizer in a 3-2 loss in Junior Boys' high school soccer action on a soggy Acton High field.

"After the delay my guys came out in a carnival atmosphere," said Redmen coach Colin Bain following the contest that was delayed by hail, lightning and a steady downpour. "We'd hardly knocked the ball before they (the Spartans) scored their third goal."

The defeat extended the Redmen losing streak to three games and with a 1-4 record, the prospects for post-season play appear slim.

"To be down 3-0 and get two back isn't too bad in this league," said Bain. "Most teams tend to lose their cool and get chippy when down three goals, but the guys played their game."

Pinned in their end for the majority of the second half, the Redmen were unable to loft the ball over pressing Spartan for-

wards in an attempt to even the contest 3-3 on the slow field.

On the other hand, the home side offence was whistled numerous times for being caught offside.

"The forwards were slow getting back to our zone, but that could be attributed somewhat to the heavy conditions," conceded Bain, who added his team needs improvement in this area.

"But there weren't enough lofted balls to force their halfbacks to turn around. The balls that came through were on the ground and the Spartan defence just kicked the ball in our zone."

The Redmen did bite into the visitors' lead, though, as Chris Young tipped a Todd Chumley kick to make it 3-1 with two minutes left in the first half.

Joel Lucier cut the lead to a goal at the seven minute mark of the second half, taking a pass from a Redmen fullback and outthrusting a Spartan defender to the goal from 20 yards inside the centre line.

He then blew the ball to the left side past the Spartan netminder, who lost his footing when readying himself for the shot.

NOTES: The Redmen dropped a 4-1 decision to the defending Halton champion Assumption Crusaders in Burlington last Wednesday.

"The boys played a well-disciplined game, but were just outgunned by a stronger, more experienced team," Bain stated on Friday.

"Given another year of physical growth and experience and we could become a good team."

Defenceman Chumley scored the lone Redmen goal ... Scott McIntyre returned to action on Monday after serving a one-game suspension for receiving his second yellow card (in Milton on April 27) of the season.

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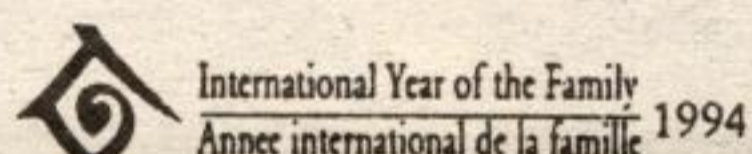
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## Helpful bike hints!

Keeping with my bike safety and rules theme, I would now like to share some helpful hints. Keep these hints in mind to ensure your general safety for the cycling season.

1. Bicycle helmets are not yet required by law, but certainly reduce the chance of head injuries.
2. Wear BRIGHT clothes, day or night, it increases your visibility.
3. Do not carry packages on the handlebars of your bicycle, they could become entangled in the tires, and they disrupt the balance of the bicycle.
4. Bicycle licensing is available through the City of Burlington for \$5.
5. Make sure that you lock your bicycle at all times. If you keep your bicycle in your garage, ensure that the garage is locked.

I hope that you enjoy your cycling, and remember,  
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