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Kearsey's magic stymies Crusaders

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

It was all a matter of timing.

The visiting Assumption Crusader Girls' softball team jumped all over shaky Redmen starter Heather Ambrose (five walks) on Thursday for four runs in the first inning.

In the fourth, however, the Redmen put together a four-spot of their own and it proved superior to the Crusaders' big inning. It gave the home side a come-from-behind 6-4 lead and came during a stretch when Redmen reliever Sharon Kearsey was silencing Crusader bats.

Masterful pitching became contagious as Ambrose returned to hurl two shutout innings in the fifth and sixth before Kearsey closed the door in the seventh.

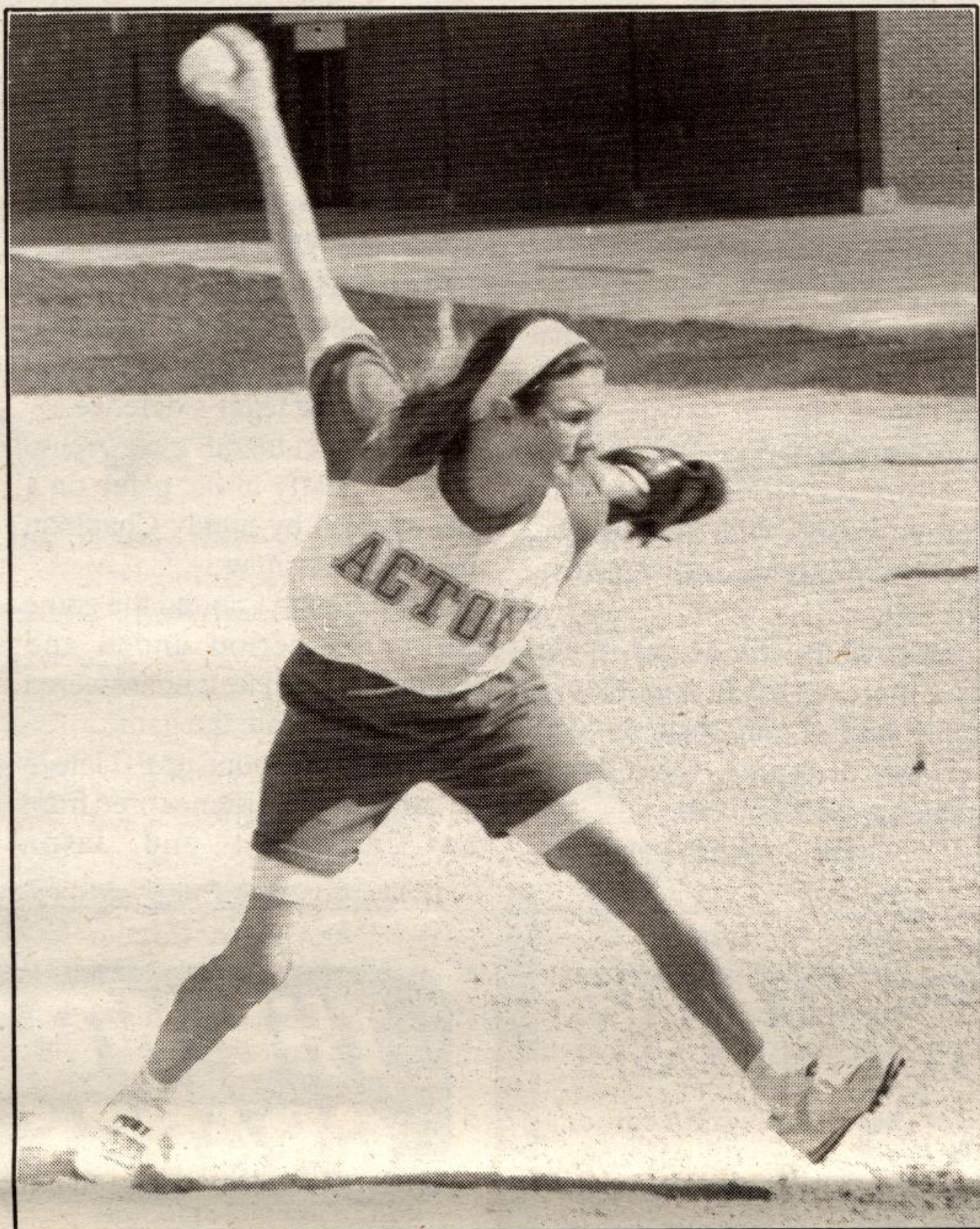
"I didn't feel comfortable. I think the ball was warped," laughed Ambrose later. "I felt more relaxed in the fifth and sixth innings. It wasn't a good day."

"I think she (Ambrose) was tired. Pitching for two teams might be affecting her," added Redmen assistant coach Chris Cullen.

The final moments of the 85-minute contest weren't played without some excitement, though, as the Crusaders rallied for two runs in a 7-6 loss at McKenzie-Smith.

Up 7-4 entering the seventh and final frame, Kearsey began by issuing a walk to a Crusader player.

The next batter then skied the ball behind second as Ambrose



MOUND MAGIC: Acton Redmen Girls' softball pitcher Sharon Kearsey shows the form that held the Assumption Crusaders to two runs during her four innings of work on Thursday. Acton edged the Burlington squad 7-6. (Doug Harrison photo)

raced in from her centre field position. However, she lost the ball in the high sky and the ball fell for a double to put runners at second and third with no out.

After Kearsey fanned the next

batter and then snared a hard liner back to the mound, Crusader hitter Melissa McCaughey ripped the ball to right-centre that scored two runs. But she overran the bag too much and was caught trying to

extend a single into a double.

"I'm breathing easier now," sighed Redmen assistant coach Chris Cullen after the nailbiter pushed the Redmen record to 4-2 following a win by default last Tuesday against Lord Elgin. "It's pretty tense when you have runners at second and third and no out. But we fought it (the rally) off. The defence was excellent."

It was, indeed. First baseman Amanda Thompson ended the first inning doubling up a wandering Crusader baserunner off a hot smash heading down the right field line. And shortstop Lindsay Holmes snuffed a threat in the sixth, scooping a hard grounder and rifling the ball to first, stranding two runners.

The difference, though, was Kearsey on the hill. She came in after Ambrose was shelled in the first and stifled the visitors' bats. Over the next three innings, she surrendered three hits, walked one and fanned a batter.

"Sharon pulled it off. She handled (a tough relief role) like it was nothing," said Cullen. "You have to like that. You have no choice."

The Redmen took the lead for good in the fourth inning, highlighted by an RBI-double by Kearsey, a delayed steal of second by Beth Henderson that scored Kearsey — who broke for home on the throw — and a bloop RBI single by Mandy Bosch.

NOTES: The Redmen finished the regular season yesterday (Tuesday) at M.M. Robinson.

Andy's drops 2

Scoring 14 runs in two games usually means two victories.

But when it coincides with a wavering pitching staff, a win can be as sure as a loss.

Andy's Restaurant Peewee hardball hurlers allowed a total of 17 runs to Kilbride and Acton II last week in dropping two games.

Andy's scored three runs in the first two innings on Thursday against Acton II, courtesy of Chris Scully's RBI single and other RBIs by Matt Bodin and Travis Stewart.

Stellar pitching kept Andy's bats quiet until the sixth when Joey Thompson scored to make it 6-4 for Acton II. Scully then retired Acton II 1-2-3 via three strikeouts, but it was too late.

Last Wednesday in Acton, Kilbride pitchers issued 11 walks that resulted in eight of Andy's 10 runs.

However, the home team's work on the hill didn't fare any better as Kilbride pounded out 11 runs for an 11-10 win.

Six Andy's runners — Matt Bodin, Steve Forbes, Chris Scully, Paul Kerins, Wayne Hopkins and Adam Ahearn — scored in the first inning.

Forbes, Scully, Ronny McCaslin and Matthew Wilson finished Andy's scoring in the fourth.

Turkosz tops tennis team at Halton's Andy's clips Hillsburgh to open soccer season

Acton High tennis player Steve Turkosz was a four-round winner last Wednesday at Bronte Provincial Park in Oakville, becoming the Senior singles champion at the Halton Senior tournament.

Turkosz, 19, won rounds of 8-2, 8-7, 8-6 and 6-2, 6-3 over opponents from Nelson, M.M. Robinson, Bishop Reding and Matt Todman of Oakville Trafalgar.

Amanda Garwood and Shelley Hand were finalists in the Junior doubles bracket after convincing wins of 8-0, 8-4 and 8-4 against Bishop Reding, Milton District

High and Assumption. The local duo was downed 6-4 and 6-1 by an Appleby College tandem in the final.

In Senior Girls' singles, Michelle Blakey handled her Notre Dame opponent 8-1 in Round 1, but was edged 8-6 by a Nelson player in the second round.

Devon Ambrose and Chris Cullen were doubled 8-4 by a twosome from St. Thomas Aquinas in Senior doubles play. Beckie Boycott and Aimee Kamminga also fell in Round 1, losing 8-1 to an Assumption pair.

In Senior mixed doubles, Redmen Kirsten Hand and Chris

Muir were trounced 8-1 by two Georgetown Rebel players.

Grade 9 student Jamie Birrell succumbed 8-0 to a Nelson athlete in Junior singles mens' play, while Lise Grimwood was handled 8-1 by her Oakville White Oaks counterpart.

Meanwhile, the Acton Redmen golf foursome all broke 100 in a recent competition at Richview golf course in Oakville.

Dave Moore led the locals with an 84, while Devon Ambrose threatened to top the Acton golfers with a front nine score of 40. However, a 47 on the last nine holes gave him an 87. Kevin Tribe edged Dave Dolliver 96-97 as the two played even on the back nine.



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