

Talk of East-West ball game heats up

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

"You're on the wrong side of the river."

Those were the words of western Eden Mills resident Joe Martin to easterner Jan Gould as he left Marshall's store on Friday.

Yes folks, the ribbing for the third annual East-West baseball game, slated for June 19 at Eden Mills Memorial Park has begun.

"West is best and we laid the East to rest," exclaims Debbie Marshall, referring to last year's Western victory.

The game, organized by Marshall, is one of the Homecoming events that started after the 150th anniversary of the village in 1991. Also confirmed for the event, which begins at noon, is a horse-shoe tourney, kids' games and a pot-luck picnic set for 4:30 pm.

The outdoor dance, which managed to draw 100 people last year despite the downpour, is cancelled

for this year. Marshall, who owns the store and is president of the Community Hall, says the hall, which was an option, is booked.

"Homecoming is becoming an event," says Marshall, who adds activities are only planned for one day this year due to the potential of poor weather. "It brings the community together and attracts people who grew up here."

Marshall says she will soon post sign-up lists outside the store, since the hype of the game, pitting residents who live on either side of the Ash Street River, has started.

"We're going to win. We'll bring in some ringers," Martin, a 14-year resident, predicts.

Gould didn't participate in last year's ball classic, but says she heard the West did well.

"It's good to see everyone out and participating. As long as people come out we'll still do it. Hopefully it will continue to be a yearly event," she says.



GETTING FIT! Hundreds turned out Saturday morning at the Lions' Waterside Park to participate in Rockwood's first FitWalk to celebrate Canada's Fitweek. People looped through the Conservation Area during their walk, which took about an hour. (Lori Frechette photo)

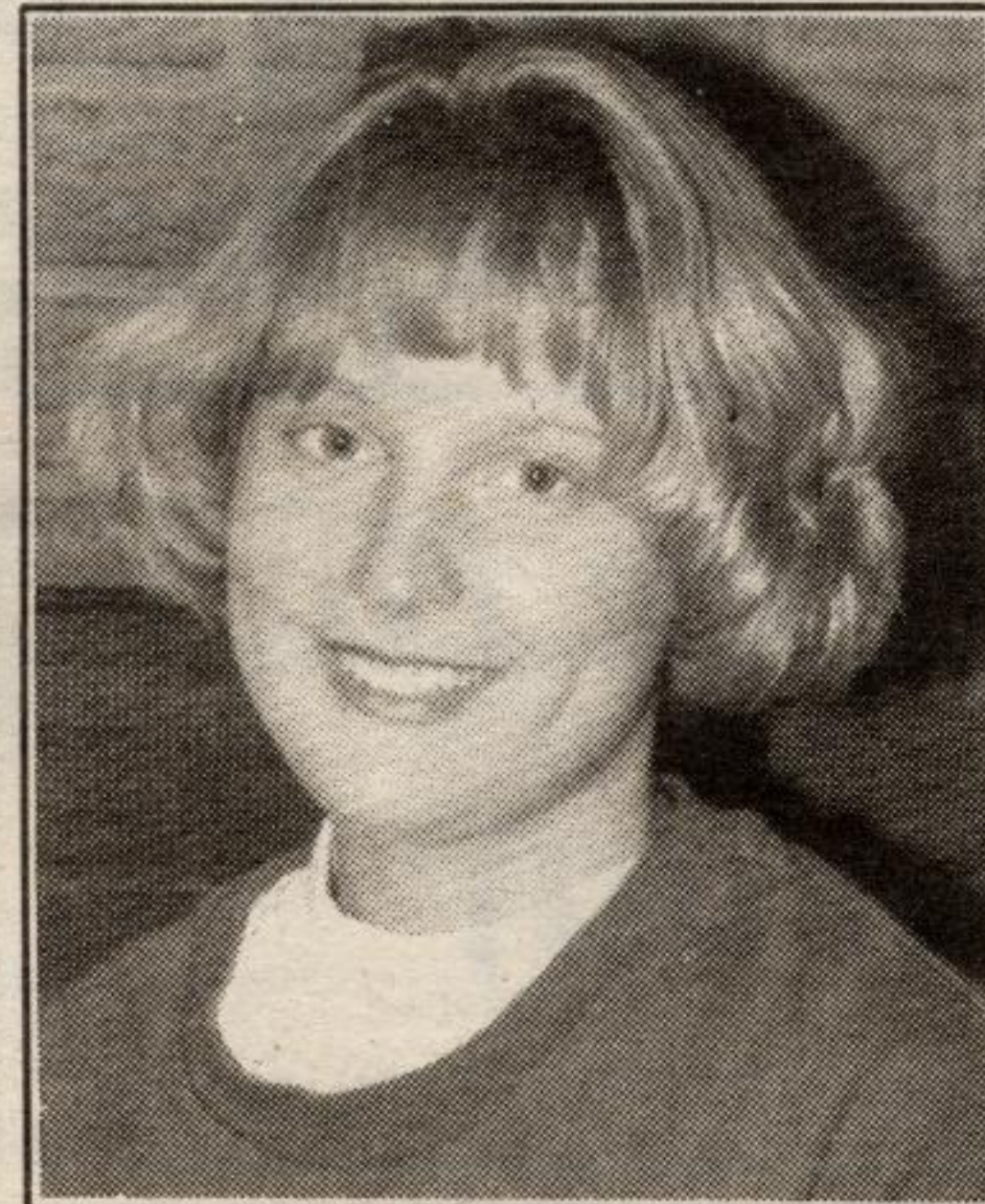
'Nothing finer' than Carolina for Kari

BY DOUG HARRISON
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For Kari Trow, gaining a starting position in her freshman year on the Western Carolina varsity basketball squad will be like climbing up a hill — or a mountain.

While the Rockwood resident will be wearing the purple, gold and white of the Catamounts come September, she'll likely be red-shirted. This means Trow will practice with the team, but not play.

But rather than letting this crush her confidence, the five-year veteran of the John F. Ross Collegiate Royals basketball program



KARI TROW

has adopted a positive outlook.

"There will be a lot less pressure and it will be easier to adjust in my second year," she offers.

The 5-foot-11 power forward, who sent out 500 to 600 applications to universities through the College Prospects of America recruiting service, narrowed her choices to Bridgeport in Connecticut and Western Carolina. Trow finally favoured Western's breathtaking mountainous backdrop.

"Western Carolina looked pretty. I didn't want to go to a large school or a tiny school and when I went there it was gorgeous. And

everyone was really nice," Trow says of the school of 6,500 students that sits near the West Tennessee border.

"I've always wanted to go back to the States, too."

Western Carolina is presently finalizing Trow's financial package, though a full scholarship could be awarded for her second year.

Trow, who moved from Connecticut at 5, says the American game is similar to the style played in the Division 10 loop.

"The tempo is a little more upbeat," she concedes. "But they play man-to-man, so it'll be easier to adjust."

Trow says Catamount coach Gary Peters was impressed with her ability to run the floor. She figures Peters is looking for a good runner with strong defensive skills, the 18-year-old's "biggest asset."

It's no wonder Trow garnered so much attention south of the border (only western Canadian universities and local colleges showed interest here).

She made herself known two years ago when she was a standout at the highly-rated Hoosier Basketball Evaluation Camp at Tri-State University in Indiana. While there, she gained top marks for shooting, aggressiveness and rebounding.

In the same year, Trow, a member of John F. Ross' Athletic Council, graduated from the Syracuse Basketball Camp and was praised for her aggressiveness and attitude.

But it all began at McKenzie-Smith Middle School in Acton.

"I got a lot of confidence in my Grade 8 year. In one game I scored 19 of the team's 21 points. Basketball became something I enjoyed."

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