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Death leads Rockwood No-Stars

The Rockwood No-Stars Ladies' baseball team upped its record to 8-0 after a convincing 12-3 victory over Lynden on the road last Tuesday.

Leanne Smith and Laurie Leighton recorded triples. Marilyn McKinney also chipped in with timely hits.

A variety of pitches on the mound from hurlers Leighton, Carol Death, Lori Savage and Shelley Desjardins has been the key to a perfect record.

"The ladies are putting forth a good team effort to maintain their impressive record," says coach Dot Polo.

In recent action, Death led the attack for a triumphant 11-9 victory over their arch-rivals, Jerseyville, on the road.

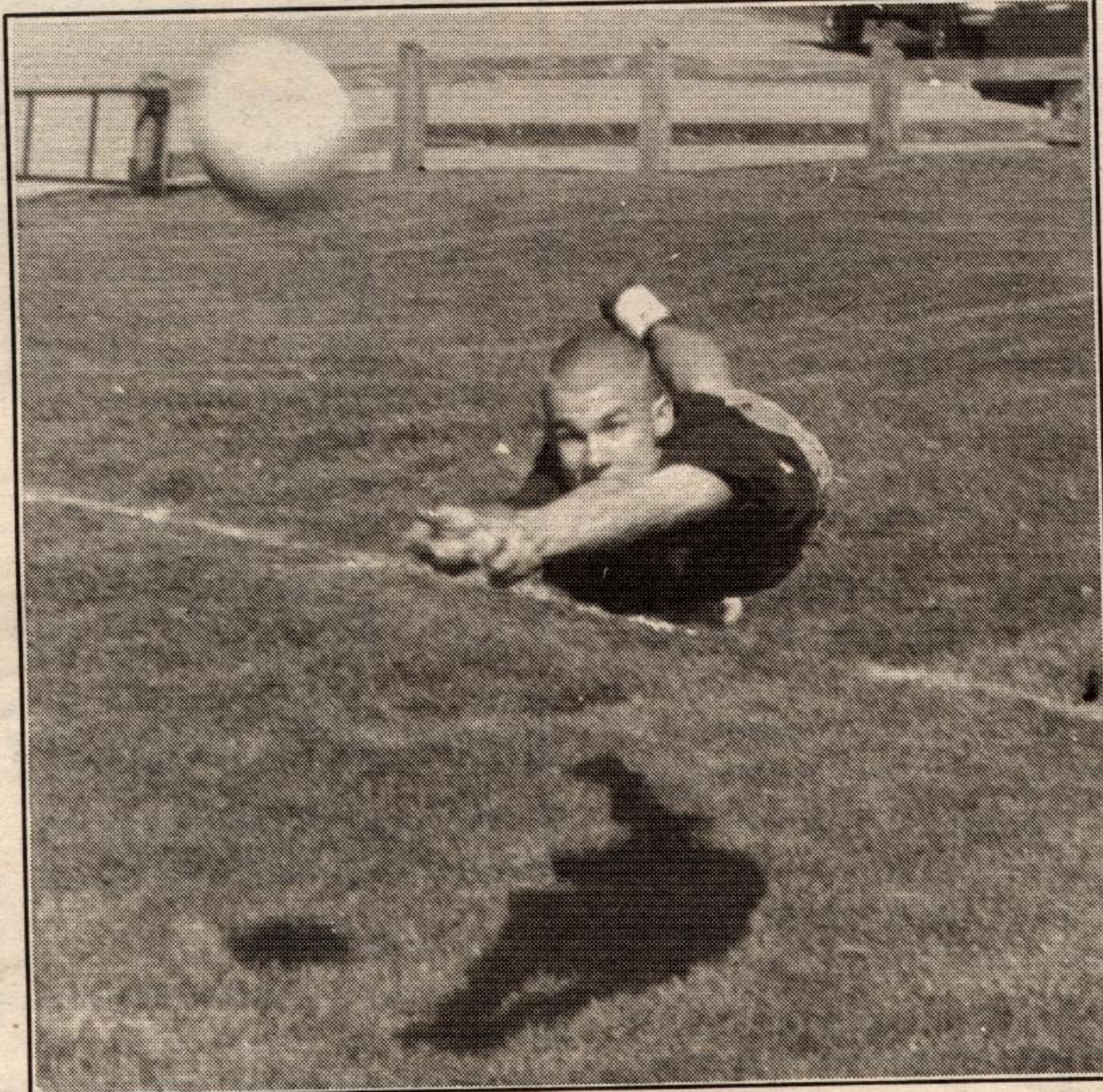
The locals were down 6-2 when Death smacked a grand slam homer to even the game.

Smith and Anna Weber added triples, while Sue Legge ripped a two-RBI triple.

Death and Brenda Farlow added runs with their alert base-running.

The No-Stars downed Puslinch 15-3 on the strength of a Death homer and Holly Colquhoun's three-run shot.

The No-Stars next home game is tonight (Wednesday) against Greenville. First pitch at Lloyd Dyer Park is slated for 8:30.



FLYING HIGH: Acton's Greg Finley stretches to the limits during a pick-up volleyball game at Prospect Park recently. Finley was a key player on this year's Junior Boys' volleyball team at Acton high school. (Doug Harrison photo)

Winters slams a pair

Kyle Winters spun three strong innings on the mound on Monday night and helped his own cause by swatting two grand slams as the Nellis Construction Tyke baseball team defeated Glen Williams on the road 15-9.

Brett Manes supplied an effective inning on the hill for his first appearance of the year.

Krystal Lillcrop chipped in with her first RBI of the season.

Nellis, 8-1, will tangle again with Glen Williams on the road this Monday.

Meanwhile, after suffering their first defeat of the season last Monday at Glen Williams, Nellis players regained their composure in a come-from-behind 13-9 win over Limehouse at Prospect Park on Thursday.

Manes and Nick Ridler were threats at the plate behind the fine pitching performances of Ryan and Kyle Winters.

Trailing by a pair going to their last at-bat, Nellis rallied for six runs to spoil a fine Limehouse outing.

Venema takes 2nd in golf tourney

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

When Shelley Woolner first heard from a talented young athlete named Amy Venema, it nearly brought tears to her eyes.

"When I got my first letter from Amy," recalled the Blue Springs Golf Club instructor on Thursday, "it was my first year teaching at the course and I almost cried."

Woolner felt for the then 10-year-old Venema, who at the time had to make the colossal decision of pursuing a skating career that had already spanned eight years or turn to her new-found love on the links.

"In the letter she said 'I want to be just like you,'" Woolner continued. "The first thing we had to get straight was that she didn't want to be like me."

It was déjà-vu on Thursday. The tears nearly returned.

Woolner was notified that Venema, her student of four years, placed second among eight girls in the 13 and 14-year-old category of the Optimist Junior Golf tournament at Chedoke Golf Club in Hamilton last Wednesday.

Venema, 14, was the North-Halton representative in her category at the tourney that attracted 160 golfers. She shot a 96 on the par-72 course.

"She was very capable of it. It doesn't surprise me at all," Woolner said of the Grade 10 Bishop Reding student's high

standing. "Other good things are coming to her no doubt. This is the first of many."

"She felt good. Her putting was off, but she was competing against eight handicappers who shot 90," added her father Bert on Thursday, adding it was his daughter's first major tournament.

Venema's young career began when dad took her to a junior clinic for \$1 at the North-Halton Golf and Country Club. She started with a left-handed swing, but dad convinced her to go right and she's never looked back.

"She works diligently in the off and on-season and that's a mark to her credit," said Woolner, who has seen Venema grow from a girl to a young woman. "She works hard, gets great support from her family and has a great disposition for the game. That has helped her more than her swing mechanics (the geometry, timing, tempo and rhythm of her swing)."

Venema, who likes to hit the course four times a week, is a natural all-round athlete. She listens, practices what she's taught and works on her strength and flexibility. "That's dedicated stuff," said her teacher.

"She has progressed immensely. There's not one part of her game that's weaker or stronger than the other.

"She will make out of golf what she wants. She will achieve what she sets to achieve."

Hudson says vets vaulted Rangers to Cup win

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Mike Hudson never realized the edge a team laden with veterans can have in a Stanley Cup final.

Not even when he lined up against such players in the 1992 classic as a member of the Chicago Blackhawks against the defending champion Pittsburgh Penguins.

"We didn't think Pittsburgh, even though they were going for back-to-back Cups, had that much of an advantage," the Acton Sabre product remembers. "But now to have won it makes you realize what it takes (to win)."

Despite only appearing in 48 regular season games and being banished to the press box for the entire Stanley Cup playoffs, Hudson, 27, never felt as if he wasn't part of the team.

The reason? Skating alongside a handful of veterans — led by captain Mark Messier — who were part of the Edmonton Oilers

stretch of Cup victories in the mid 1980s.

"Mess (Messier) and the other veteran players did everything to make you feel part of the team," says Hudson, who stood behind the bench during the final minute of a tense Game 7 against the Vancouver Canucks. "Mess gave the Cup to me the next night, so I could take it to the places I frequented. In the end, I was appreciative (about being on a winning team)."

When asked what was special about being a Ranger this year, the Rockwood native quickly turned the subject to captain Messier.

"He's a classy guy and talented, but that's not always the best thing," he cautions. "What I enjoyed was his intensity and what he brought to the game."

Sitting above ice level through

the playoffs — most notably in the all-important Game 7 — wore Hudson out emotionally. He

watched enforcers Nick Kypreos and Joey Kocur play ahead of him (some say both needn't be on the ice). He was frustrated, but never bitter.

Not even when his teammates skated around the ice hoisting the Cup, while he loosened his tie for the post-game celebration

at Madison Square Garden. "It's certainly not the way you envision it when you're a kid," he says, "but it's beyond my control. I always felt I could and should have played."

On the flight home from Vancouver after Game 6, Ranger coach Mike Keenan approached Hudson, asking the seven-year veteran if he could play Game 7.

"I said certainly, but I guess he

didn't have the same feelings," laughs Hudson, who retained the same level of respect for his coach through the tough times.

"I love playing for him. He has only one requirement — work hard everytime you're on the ice. There are no games with him. Winning is everything," says Hudson, who played for Keenan in Chicago.

Put simply, it was an up-and-down year for the personable 6-foot, 185-pound Hudson.

He had to adjust to yet another move in his career, heading to Broadway in the National Hockey League waiver draft in early October after a five-game stint with the Oilers. His father Sandy past away early in the season, he found himself in-and-out of the lineup and then late in the year, he was slapped with a 10-game suspension for a two-handed high-stick on Pittsburgh Penguins defenceman Kjell Samuelsson.

"Until the suspension I was playing my best hockey. I had

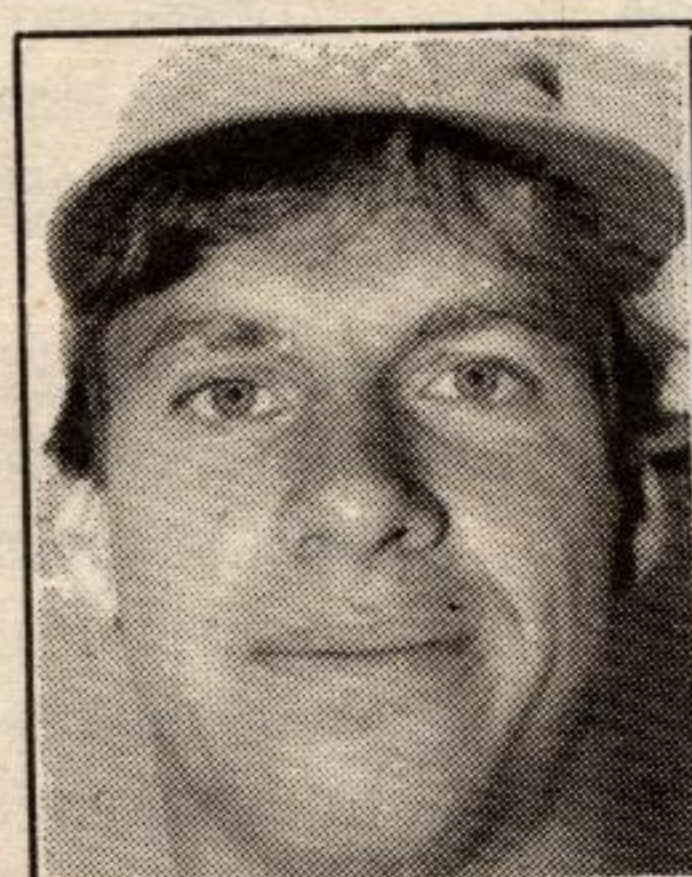
points in three straight games," he says. "I guess you make sure your highs are never too high and your lows never to low ... I wouldn't trade anything for a Cup win."

The acquisition of veteran centre Craig MacTavish at the league trade deadline in March ultimately kept Hudson out of the lineup for the remainder of the campaign.

Meanwhile, MacTavish turned down a coaching position with the Oilers on Friday and is being courted by the Philadelphia Flyers, who are reportedly prepared to outbid the Rangers offer of \$800,000US over two years.

Hudson, though, fully expects to be a Ranger next year and only mentioned he's heard rumours of MacTavish's departure from the organization.

Although his agent and Ranger management are discussing a deal for next year, Hudson revealed he will likely play out his option next season and earn his 1993-94 salary of \$375,000.



MIKE HUDSON