## Rookie Redmen impress early in '95 softball season

#### GIRLS SOFTBALL PREVIEW

BY DOUG HARRISON The Acton Tanner

The future of the Acton High girls' softball team looks exciting, but this year's edition certainly isn't chopped liver.

Although five rookies have joined the squad and reliable third baseman Jackie Jahn has decided to ply her trade on the soccer field, Redmen coaches Al Scott and senior student Chris Cullen still feel they can compete for the title.

"We'll know after we play Milton (on May 15) of our overall talent and ability," said Scott after

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a scheduling miscue resulted in Thursday's match here against Blakelock to be cancelled. "I can put any of the 13 girls in the lineup and we'll do well."

Scott expects first-year players Vicki White, 3B-catcher Chrissy Wygood, Melanie Varley, Pcatcher-2B Kelly Holmes and OF Miranda Timbers to be an integral part of his team's title run. After a 17-7 season-opening win last Tuesday here against Oakville's Queen Elizabeth Park Eagles, he's already impressed.

The diminutive Timbers surprises some with her high level of

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cellent bat and a strong desire to play the game.

And Cullen cites White as the fastest female he's seen play the game. "She also has a great glove and bat, and is intense, but not obnoxious. She stays to herself."

"One through nine in the batting order is not that weak," says skipper Scott, who, like Cullen, enters his second year coaching Redmen softball. "We can rely on every batter going to the plate and we're not afraid to use the bench."

Certainly not if veterans like Heather Ambrose, Lauren Furness, Lindsay Holmes or Amanda

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it at the time.

Scott also predicts the Redmen will be one of the elite teams in the field. Furness patrols centre, while Holmes and Garwood cover the middle infield at short and second base. Amanda Thompson and Mandy Bosch will share duties at

Taking over for Jahn at the hot corner is Shari Patenaude, who according to Scott "has an excellent bat, strong arm and good glove."

Relying on the strong play of the aforementioned athletes could be the best pitching troika the intensity and packs with it an ex- Garwood happen to be occupying Redmen have fielded in the last

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three years.

Heather Ambrose, who was effective on the mound last season, seems to have picked up some velocity on her fastball, while reliable hurler Sharon Kearsey is consistent and strong all around. Rounding out the threesome is Furness, a power pitcher who has already caught the eye of her coaches.

Andrea Lunau and Yvonne Hendry appear to have successfully made the transition from right field to catcher.

Hendry honed her skills playing boys' hardball in Acton last summer, while Lunau has shown grit early in the season and has improved 100 per cent from last year, says Scott. With the bases loaded against Q.E., she quickly pounced on a wild pitch and dove to the plate to prevent a run.

Scott and Cullen are both pleasantly surprised with an already explosive offence, considering poor weather limited the Redmen to a handful of practices — two of which were run inside the Acton High gym.

"I would be surprised if we don't score at least seven or eight runs a game," Scott offers.

Adds Cullen: "The girls just go out and know how to play the game. If they keep their heads in it, we'll do all right."

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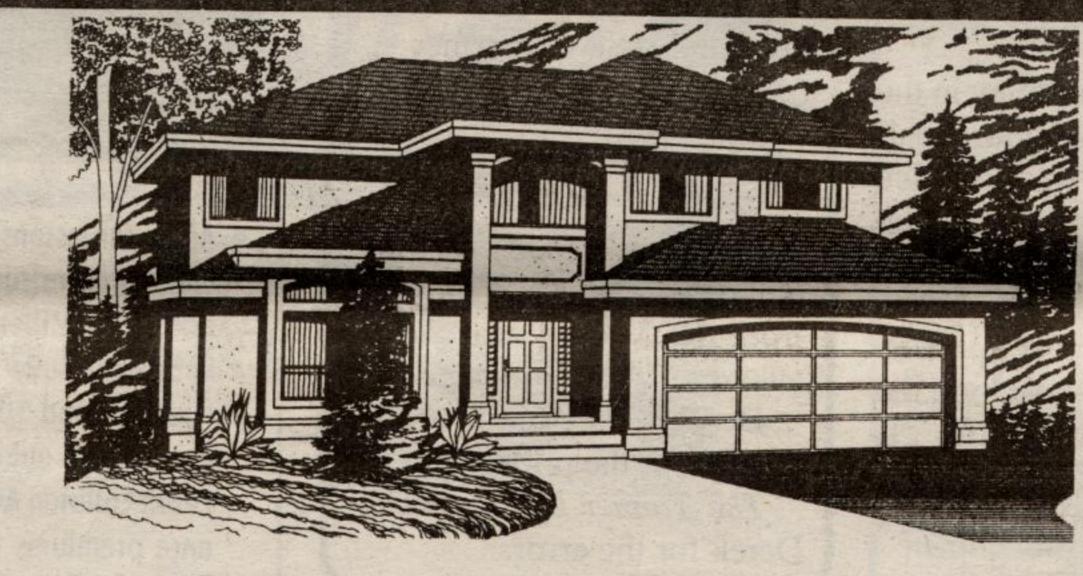
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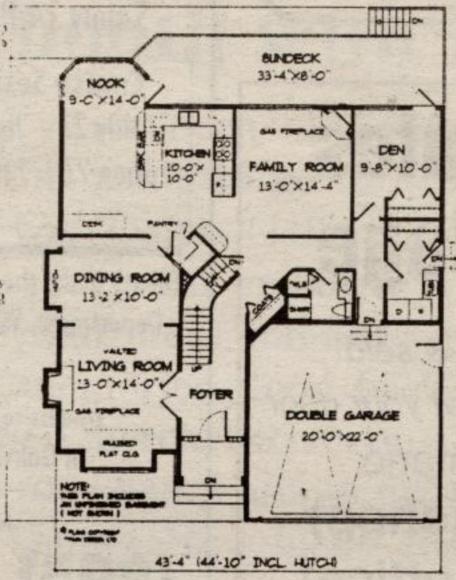
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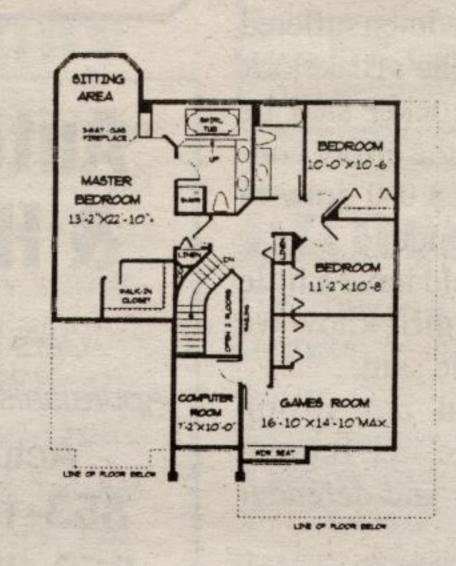
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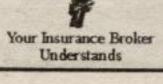
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# Labombard heading to 5-pin nationals

Acton bowler and Acton Bowl co-proprietor Darlene Labombard will represent Ontario at the Master Bowler nationals in Saskatchewan from July 1 to 3.

She averaged 259 against 60 competitors in the last of eight Master Bowling tourneys in Toronto recently to grab the provincial spot.

To become a Master Bowler, Labombard had to carry a 220 average for a number of years.

Meanwhile, four Acton keglers brought home some money from the Young Adult Bowling Association (YABA) bowler of the year tourney held at North Park Bowlerama in Toronto on Saturday.

Graham White topped the local men, copping \$225 after a fourth-place finish.

He totalled 1,409 pins, including handicap, over five pins in the qualifier.

Dave Mills was right behind, copping \$175 after racking up 1,386 pins, while Cliff Britton was \$75 richer after rolling a 1,370 total.

Meanwhile in ladies' play, Mary Labombard was fourth, bringing home \$225.

"The provincial coach, Dave Roeder, has won the national title the last two years," reports Acton Bowl proprietor Gord Labombard.