



**BASKETBALL DREAMS:** Acton High School students Josh Essiembre (left) and TJ Fry are fundraising to pay help their way to a top amateur basketball competition in the United States in July. The tournament in Ohio attracts U.S. collegiate scouts and potential scholarship offers to top players. — Frances Niblock photo

# Two Acton athletes invited to top USA basketball camp

By Frances Niblock

Two Acton High School students have been invited to one of the top amateur basketball competitions, the USA Junior National International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio.

Based on their strong performances at a state level selection tournament in Michigan earlier this year, TJ Fry and Josh Essiembre are raising funds to attend the final prospects' tournament that attracts U.S. collegiate scouts and potential scholarship offers from July 23 to 29.

Acton High School head of athletics, Spike Adams, said fewer than 100 Canadians were invited to the initial Michigan camp, and both Fry and Essiembre, who played for the Acton Bearcats, should be very proud to make it to the next stage. He's helping them

raise the \$1,600 (US) they each need to make the trip by writing letters seeking donations.

Adams said Fry, a 17-year-old, Grade 12 honour student, is "tremendously short and incredibly quick."

"TJ was MVP in Michigan — he's learned to lay the ball up around bigger guys. He's a decent outside shot and passes the ball well and he's very good at distributing the ball and creating offensive openings," Adams said.

"Josh is a defensive spe-

cialist who is incredible at getting the key baskets — he has a real knack of nailing the pressure shots — he's enthusiastic and is tenacious and a good ball passer," Adams said.

Fry said he's going to Ohio to have fun and show the scouts and coaches what he's made of.

"I never thought I made it that far — I'm excited. I'd like to go to college or university and play basketball and see where it goes," Fry said on Saturday, adding his ultimate

goal is to play in the NBA.

Essiembre, also a 17-year-old Grade 12 student, said he's going to Ohio to "prove to myself that I can compete with some of the best."

The all-round athlete hopes to become a commercial pilot, and begins flight college this summer.

To donate to the fund to help send Fry and Essiembre to Ohio, call the high school at 519-853-2920. Tax deductible charitable receipts will be issued for donations over \$100.



DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 12 NOON

## Slow start for minor ball

With recent construction at Prospect Park in Acton and the Gellert Centre in Georgetown, some Acton Minor Ball Association division's games have been delayed up to two weeks.

Games will be re-scheduled throughout the season.

Most teams have been using the time to practice for upcoming games, and the players are thrilled to be back.

Mosquito Hardball

Acton Chudleigh 12

Georgetown CPI -6

Acton was defeated 12 - 6

Stars of the game: Justin Gardipy, Mitchel Lawzon, Matthew Norton.

Rookie Hardball

Acton Daniel Varanelli

Georgetown Stereo and Television

Game tied at 13.

Acton led by Christian Holmes, Kieran Mullin and Madison Armstrong.

Acton's Daniel Varanelli- 11

Georgetown's Paul Armstrong Insurance-13

Acton was defeated 13-11

Kieran Mullin had a good bat all game, Ty Martin made 2 great outs on first base and Michael Allian making his first homerun of the season.

## 240 Grade 4 students learn to swim

Thanks to the Lifesaving Society Swim to Survive® Grant Program, 240 Halton Hills Grade four students will be the first in Halton Region to learn the swimming skills they need to survive an unexpected fall into deep water. Swim to Survive® grants help provide in-water survival lessons to children during school hours with no cost to the school or students.

Based on recommendations from the Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board, Grade four students are being targeted. Each board selected two Halton Hills schools to kickstart the program in 2007, with the intention of expanding it next year. Participating schools include St. Brigid, St. Joseph's, Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith Bennett.

The Swim to Survive® Launch Day is Tuesday, May 29 at 12:50 pm at the Gellert Community Centre, Georgetown.

## Acton Villa kicks off season

Acton Soccer Club - now known as Acton Villa - started its 2007 outdoor soccer season on a chilly Saturday morning, while parents hugged their coffee for warmth.

On the field were players in two age groups — under 10s, and older.

They were anxious to pull on their new uniforms and get the season started. The Under-12 Boys teams played at Rotary Park on Elizabeth Drive. The action was quick, with a number of goal-filled games to get the players back into the swing of things.

The younger players start May 26.

This is an exciting year for Acton Villa, with a new look and new colours. The club's financial contributions have helped to ensure the building of both the Acton Agricultural Society's fall fair and indoor soccer building (the Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre), as well as the Acton Sports Park project that will

result in two new outdoor soccer fields for 2008. There have also been changes in the Under-10 program, so it is now being run on bigger fields and with larger teams than before. Thanks are due to both the Town of Halton Hills and to McKenzie-Smith Bennett School for supporting this, the result being the

four new mini-soccer goals the Town has installed at the Pool end of MSB.

The season started properly for some teams on May 14, with most of the older groups (Under-16 and older) starting on May 21. For all the latest Acton Villa news, see the web site at [www.actonsoccer.org](http://www.actonsoccer.org).

## Bearcat Girls win soccer consolation championships

Kirsten Lowe captained the Acton High School Varsity Girls' soccer team Bearcats to its second consolation championship two years running following a tournament at Burlington's Lester B. Pearson high school. The Bearcats had six goals and a clean sheet in the consolation final winning 1-0 against Port Credit. They had a semi-final win of 5-1 to get into the final.

Great goal-keeping from Nicole Pitre made our team solid and unbeaten.

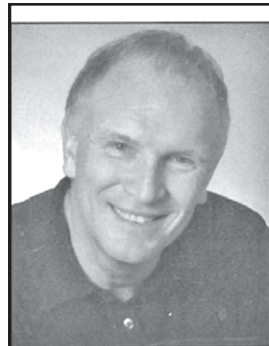
Kirsten Lowe and Emma Jolly controlled

the game, assisting on a series of goals from: Tori Petersen, Renee Martineau and Julia Soderholm.

Acton MVP Lindsey Atkinson scored a tournament hat-trick. Gabby Kosziwka and Ally Martineau led the young and strong defence to victory.

League results: Acton 3 - Milton 1. Acton 1 - Burl Cent 0. Acton 0 - Aldershot 0. Acton 0 - St Thomas 3. Acton 7 - EC Drury 1.

Acton is currently in third place of 7 "AA" teams in Halton, with three wins, one loss and one tie.



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