

Seed shines in first taste of international lawn bowling

Enjoys unbeaten run to help Canada prevail at North American Challenge

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

One huge shot and a whole lot of support. That's what stands out for Laura Seed from her first taste of international lawn bowling competition, which presented itself earlier this month in Burlington.

Part of Canada's 20-member team — comprised of both elite-level bowlers and 'development' players, of which she falls into the latter — the 48-year-old Miltonian admits she was more than a little nervous through the initial stages of the North American Challenge.

The event has the men and women each split into two groups of five to play either pairs or triples (triples) through the first half and then finish with singles or fours competition.

Adding to Seed's anxiety was the fact that she was named skip for pairs — for the Canadian Women's Folkins team — and had to begin amidst morning showers that made throwing the bowl quite tricky.

Calming influence

That's where seasoned teammate Shirley Ko proved to be the difference.

Delivering some exceptional back-end play, the Willowdale lawn bowler provided a stabilizing presence

through the early going of game one — allowing her Milton partner to work through her jitters.

"She single-handedly kept us in the game," said Seed.

But Ko wouldn't have to carry the team for too long, as Seed nailed a beautiful five-point shot in the sixth end. This not only boosted her confidence, but also served as the catalyst for a huge reversal of fortune for the pair — who rallied from an early five-point deficit to topple their American counterparts 19-12.

Said Seed, "That was a total turnaround for me. After that shot the nervousness disappeared. I've got to give Shirley a lot of credit for giving me time to collect myself. Her support was phenomenal."

Solid rest of the way

Thoroughly distancing herself from that shaky start, the local lawn bowler was a model of consistency during the remainder of pairs play, in which she and Ko scored 20-10 and 26-9 decisions.

"The second game was actually neck-and-neck for a while, but the final game we completely dominated," said Seed.

Making her efforts even more impressive was the fact that this was her first time in 18-end play — significantly longer than that of provincial or national lawn bowling.

"Yeah you've got to keep your focus."

Seed would maintain her undefeated streak through the balance of the North American Challenge.

Playing vice on a fours squad led by Nova Scotia's Lena Cameron, the international newcomer turned in a rock-solid performance in both a round-one 28-6 massacre and 20-15 follow-up victory.



Laura Seed

C'ville midgets fall short in finals

The wait goes on.

Heading to Burlington's Ireland Park Saturday morning, Campbellville's midgets looked poised to secure their first Inter-Municipal League (IML) playoff title in more than half a century.

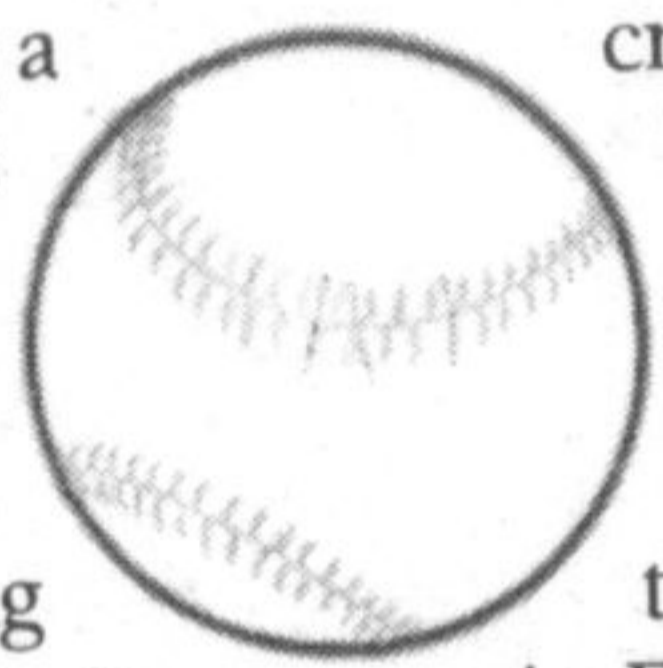
Fifty-three years to be exact.

The Tigers had won the regular-season pennant just two weeks earlier and were facing a Kilbride team they'd rallied to edge in the second-last game of a 13-2-3 campaign.

However, no such comeback was forthcoming in the high-stakes rematch, as a mid-game lapse and lack of timely hitting served to crush Campbellville's bid to add to its championship haul.

"We just couldn't hit at the opportune times and had that one bad inning that killed us," said head coach Larry Small, moments after the 5-3 defeat. "It's tough."

The Tigers held their neighbouring rivals to a mere four hits, and just one beyond the opening frame. However, they gave up three runs in their only real breakdown of the finals — with three walks and an error allowing Kilbride to turn the tables in the fifth inning.



Campbellville would strand three runners in scoring position over the balance of the contest and left eight on base overall.

Lead-off hitter Jason Entmaa scored the first and final runs for the Tigers, while recording RBI were Jase Lavigne and Brayden and Spencer Abraham. The brothers would also deliver some credible pitching, particularly Brayden, who blanked Kilbride over the final two innings — with four strikeouts — to keep championship hopes alive.

Spencer had the only extra-base hit of the game, a first-inning double that cashed in Entmaa.

Seemingly nervous to start the championship, both teams had a few mental hiccups before settling down for an exciting finish to 2008 play.

The Tigers suffered some uncharacteristic defensive glitches earlier in the week as well, but managed to overcome them for a 12-7 semifinal win over Carlisle.

Campbellville's midgets may very well find themselves back in the championship hunt again next summer, as 11 of the 13 players are eligible to return.

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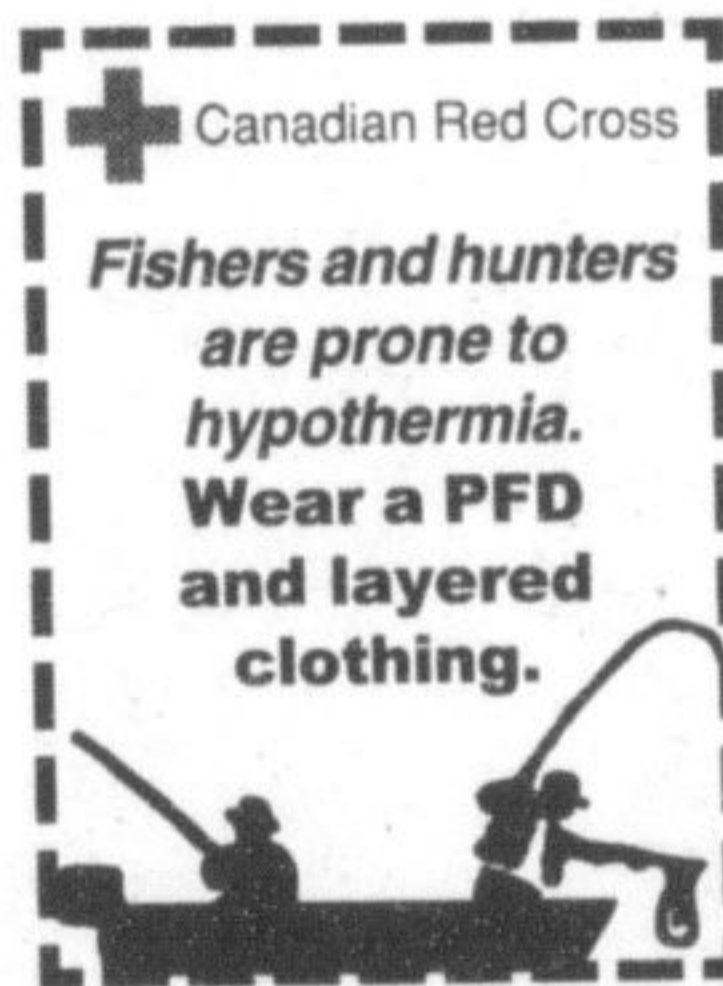
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