

Markham the champion in slo-pitch tourney

The area's first slo-pitch tournament, the Hudson Invitational (for want of a better name) went off without a hitch over at Hornby ball park on the weekend. Organized by Garry Hudson and Bob Davidson, the tourney brought together a rag-tag collection of 16 teams from several walks of slo-pitch life and drew some of the largest crowds to the park this year. For the record, Markham Trendsetters, featuring former Toronto Maple Leaf defenceman Bob Neely at shortstop, won the grand championship beating Air Canada 15-10 in the final to take home the

\$300 first prize. However, judging from the expressions of the many people who lined the park over the weekend, the tournament was strictly in the vein of fun and didn't really become competitive until the final game. Markham has participated in six tournaments this year and posts a record of five championships and one finalist spot to claim \$1900 in prize money. Neely, who took a lot of verbal abuse throughout the tourney but remained cool about it says that slo-pitch is on its way in as a major adult game.

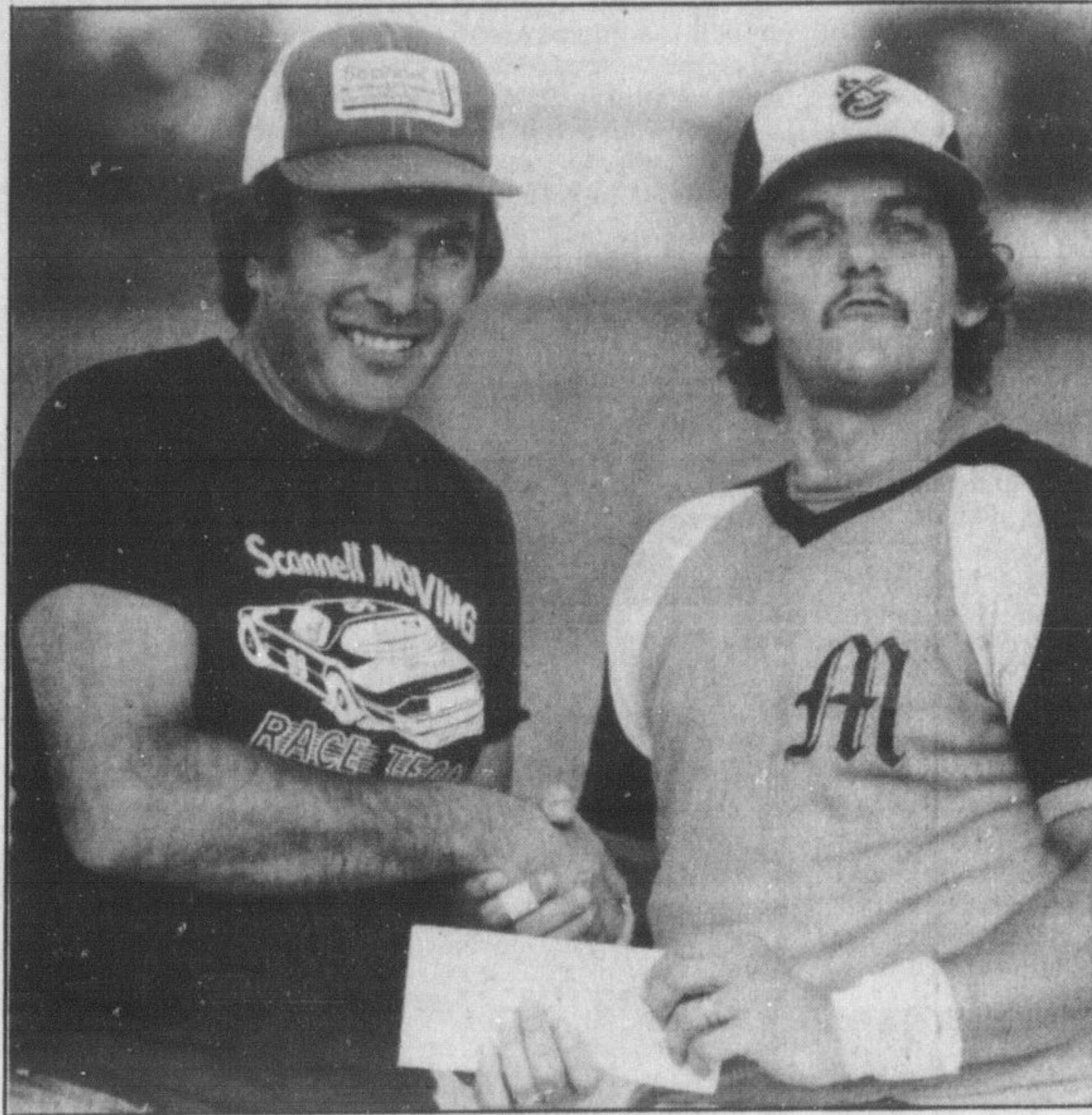
"I think because fastball is all pitching and catching," explained Neely, "slo-pitch is built on defence. Everybody can hit the ball and it keeps all players in the game." Air Canada took home \$200 for the runner-up spot. The Town, which strongly resembled Firefighters in the Milton Industrial Hockey league and was sporting the jerseys of John Burns Stable won the consolation championship and \$100 with a 17-8 win over Toronto Brokers. The Town lost the opener 16-3 to Air Canada before advancing to the consolation final. Brokers carted home \$75.



Out by a foot--the left one

A player with Markham is out at the plate by the Air Canada catcher in the Hudson Invitational Slo-Pitch Tournament over the weekend in Hornby. A total of 16 teams from several different areas made the

tournament, a first-year attempt, a success. Markham Trendsetters won the championship with a 15-10 win over Air Canada.



Recognize this guy? Well, the guy on the left is Howie Scannell who is presenting the winner's cheque to former Toronto Maple Leaf defenceman Bob Neely who represented the winning Markham Trendsetters.

Wheeler to finals in G'town tourney

An error-filled first inning allowed Bramalea's Jake's Boathouse three unearned runs and the squad went on to beat Milton's Fifth Wheel 8-1 to capture the championship of the Georgetown Invitational Fastball tournament over the weekend.

The defeat brought an end to Fifth Wheel's string of three victories which moved the club to the finals in the 16-team tourney.

Fifth Wheel took home \$300 for their efforts while the Bramalea team earned \$500. Acton Roadrunners which were beaten by Fifth Wheel in the opening game, won the consolation championship and \$200 with a 4-0 win over Georgetown's National Trust.

Fifth Wheel beat Roadrunners 1-0 in the first game beating pitcher Keith McKinnon with an unearned run. Terry Morgan scored Fifth Wheel's run, reaching base with a single, advancing on a sacrifice bunt all the way to third with some heads-up base-running and scoring when the Acton catcher missed a third strike and then promptly threw the ball into right field trying for the out at first.

Norm Topping pitched excellent shutout ball for Fifth Wheel allowing the unearned run to stand up.

In the second game of the tourney, Wheelers met up with a strengthened Miltonwe Realty squad. Coming up against Colbeck's Al Fenton on the mound, Fifth Wheel produced a 2-0 victory.

Jeff Heggie belted a tape-measure home run for a 1-0 lead before Norm Mowbray, a pick-up from Thornborrow Oilers, scored the insurance run later in the contest. Another Oiler, Ed Dunn, pitched a complete game for the win.

Fenton arrests Slugger Colbeck's win string continues in ORSA

The Omagh/Colbeck team is within one win of taking the second round of the Ontario Rural Softball Association playdowns by taking the opener by a 2-0 margin over Cayuga Sluggers Wednesday at Cayuga.

Colleen and then Robison came home on a passed ball.

It marked Colbeck's seventh game in succession without allowing an earned run. Colbeck

won six of the games with shutouts. The team lost the seventh game 2-1 to Thornborrow Oilers in the final of the Milton Fastball League tournament.

Reinforced Omagh midget team qualify for Ontario

Omagh's reinforced midget team advanced to the provincial championships at the Ontario Amateur Softball Association juvenile level with a two-game sweep of Hespeler last week.

Sponsored by Samson Farms, Omagh swept a two-game series with a 5-2 win in the opening game Wednesday in Omagh before edging Hespeler 5-4 Saturday at Hespeler.

The victory gives Omagh the zone championship. The club now advances to the provincial championships August 22-23 in

Kirkland Lake. The team is coached by John Eves, Bill Inglehart and Wayne Marshall are the assistant coaches.

The squad, which has lost just once in tournament and league play in 23 games, decided to move up to the higher classifications of both juvenile level and OASA foregoing their opportunity at the Ontario Rural Softball Association midget level.

The team is made of four juvenile players, Don Pickett, Barry Riebot, Grant Eves and Glen Inglehart. In addition four players, Glen McBryde, Derrick

Neelands, Brian Lisk and Bruce Lisk have Milton addresses which forced the club to go OASA.

Pickett, who plays with Miltonwe in the Milton Fastball League, limited Hespeler to four hits and three walks in the second game of the series and struck out 10 to earn the win in the seesaw battle.

Omagh jumped ahead in the first inning when Bruce Lisk drove in Barry Riebot with a double. Hespeler took the lead 3-1 with a three-run third inning before Omagh battled back with two runs in the top of the fourth to tie the

score at 3-3.

Glen Inglehart started things off with a solo home run. Riebot followed with a walk, Bruce Lisk singled him to second and he scored on Pickett's ensuing single.

Hespeler tied the score in the fourth and once again, Omagh battled back with one run in the fifth to tie it up. After Dan Eves and Derrick Neelands singled, Inglehart was intentionally walked to load the bases. Riebot came through with an RBI single.

Omagh won it in the seventh when Scott Pickett's fielder's choice scored Neelands from the third who had reached on a single. Inglehart was the star of the opening game

mowing down 16 Hespeler batters on strikeouts including 11 of the final 12 batters he faced in the game. Inglehart finished with a six-hitter and walked just two.

Omagh managed just six hits themselves but made three ground-outs produce their first three runs and salted it away with a two-run sixth inning. They then left the chores to Inglehart who handcuffed Hespeler and set them down 1-2-3 over the final four innings.

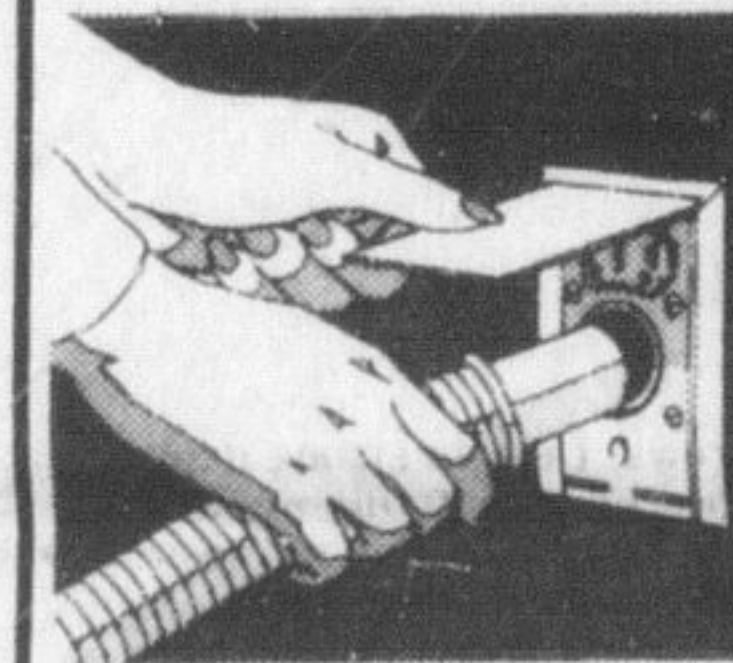
Neelands, Scott Pickett and McBryde each had RBIs from ground-outs to produce a 3-2 lead after four innings. McBryde and Neelands knocked in the final two runs in the sixth with solid hits.

Pitcher Al Fenton and centre fielder Darren Eliot shone for Colbeck. Fenton threw a two-hitter and didn't allow a walk while Eliot performed miracles in centre field taking away two sure extra-base hits with great defensive catches. In addition, Eliot had singles in Colbeck's six-hit attack.

Colbeck didn't need much in the way of offence as Fenton dominated on the mound with 13 strikeouts. Colbeck scored both runs in the sixth inning.

Tony Ceelen started the sixth-inning rally with a walk. Frank Robinson followed with a single. Fenton advanced both runners with an out. Wayne Roskum's fielder's choice scored

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Kilbride edged 3-1

In a preview of a first-round playoff series, Burlington Cougars made the most of their six hits to take a 3-1 win over Kilbride Merchants in Inter-City Fastball League play Wednesday at Kilbride Park.

With the season winding down, Burlington and Kilbride seem assured to nail down the third and fourth places respectively in the final league standings. The playoff structure calls for the first and sixth-placed teams to play a best-of-seven while the second and fifth, and third and fourth battle it out in best of threes. The survivors of the best-of-threes play in the semifinal in a best-of-five while the winner of the first series waits it out.

The loss evened Kilbride's mark to

12-2 (the standings were incorrectly reported the previous week), two and a half games behind Burlington.

Kilbride has four games remaining, all rained-out games, with the season officially coming to a close next Wednesday. The top four positions in the league are pretty well decided with the only races existing in the bottom half of the eight-team league where just two games separate the bottom four squads.

Kilbride opened the scoring in the bottom of the first against Burlington when Mitch Lajeunesse drove in Randy Koster with an RBI single.

Burlington jumped ahead 2-1 in the fourth and scored an insurance run in the ninth inning to salt away the win.

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