

Sports Views



by Ron
Johnson

Talking basketball with Angie Pumputis

Midland's Angie Pumputis, star basketball player at Midland Secondary School, recently returned from the Canadian Women's basketball championships at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

She was part of the Ontario women's team that handily won the national championship.

We decided to talk to Angie about her sport. We discussed the national tournament, next year's MSS basketball team, her coaches, her basketball future and her academic future.

Here are the highlights of that conversation.

Q. What did the experience of playing in the national tourney mean to you as a player, and personally?

A. As a player, my game improved just by being around that calibre of basketball. We had a very strong team, winning all the games by 14 points or more, so it should be a real boost to my game as a player. I'll be able to use the experience to help not only myself, but also my school team, to play better.

Q. How did the tournament go for you as an individual player? How would you rate your performance?

A. Well, I scored in almost every game, but my play, due to my relative inexperience, was a bit tentative. I think I played well overall though. The coach, Peter Campbell, said my play was good, but lacked polish on offence. I think I'll get better.

Q. How do you relate playing at the provincial level when you come back to the high school game in the fall?

A. It's a bit frustrating at first, because the play is much less skillful, but as the season progresses, and the team begins to show some unity, it is much more enjoyable. As captain of the MSS team I take it on myself to spark the other players, and urge them on to give their best all the time. It helps me to be a bigger part of the team.

Q. Can you compare coaching styles of the provincial coach Peter Campbell, former MSS coach Brigg Harvey, and new coach Andy Wicksted?

A. As far as Mr. Wicksted goes, I really haven't any knowledge of his coaching style, so that will be something new for me and the team this year. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Harvey are very similar in that they expect a lot out of their players, and know how to get

that extra effort from them. Both men are very intense and emotional as coaches.

Q. How will the coaching change at MSS affect this year's Marauders as a team?

A. Like I said, I haven't seen Andy Wicksted coach anything but volleyball, but he knows the players pretty well, and knows what the program is all about. We'll have a pretty good team with Kelly Edwards, Carolyn Meech, and myself back as starters, so the change shouldn't affect the team too much. We'll have to wait and see.

Q. What are your future plans as far as basketball and school are concerned?

A. I'm going into grade 13 this year, so my next step will be university. I'll consider an American school if the opportunity is a good one. That means a scholarship offer. If I stay in Ontario, and I'd like to, I think right now it will be between University of Toronto, Laurentian, or York. As far as basketball is concerned, I'm looking at the possibility of playing on Canada's national team. It's not in the immediate future, but it would be nice to play on the 1988 team. I think with some university experience I'll be ready.

Q. In general, what did you think of your first experience at a national basketball competition?

A. The whole experience was excellent, for basketball and for me socially. All the players from all the teams were great as far as getting together and sharing their thoughts and experiences. I had a lot of fun in the week during the tournament, not only playing, but in meeting new friends. As part of the Ontario team, I was really surprised how fast they pulled together as a team, since there was only one week of preparation for the tournament.

This was the first time we have had an opportunity to meet and talk with Angela Pumputis, and she comes across as an intelligent young lady, who really knows her sport. She is on track to get that national team spot she is seeking.

The first week of September, Angie, along with Kelly Edwards and Carolyn Meech will be part of the Central Ontario team at the Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury. It should be an interesting tournament for these three, as they will be facing the Central East team. The coach of that squad is a guy by the name of Brigg Harvey!



Reason to be proud

Angela Pumputis shows off her Ontario provincial basketball jersey on her return from the national women's basketball tournament in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Angie got a lot of other equipment as well for being part the championship Ontario team. Pumputis and two of her MSS teammates, Kelly Edwards and Carolyn Meech, are off to Sudbury the first week of September to play in the Ontario Summer Games.

Red Hoots nip Les Bats Blues

Submitted by
SUSAN GEROUX

A dramatic and exciting Powder-Puff game was played last Thursday, with the lead see-sawing back and forth between the Red Hoots and LesBats Blues. The LesBats

Blues were ahead 13-11 after their half of the seventh inning but could not contain the Red Hoots. Three runners crossed the plate during the final half of the seventh, making the score 14-13 for the Red Hoots.

For the winners, Karen Marion (short-stop) hit a home run and Theresa Cote managed to grab a couple of flies in left field, while pitcher, Carol Butineau, struck out two batter.

LesBats Blues' captain left fielder, Rosemary Gilbert hit a two-run homer and Sandy Merkley, (second base), and Patti Hamelin, (right field), each hit a double. A well-played game by both teams!

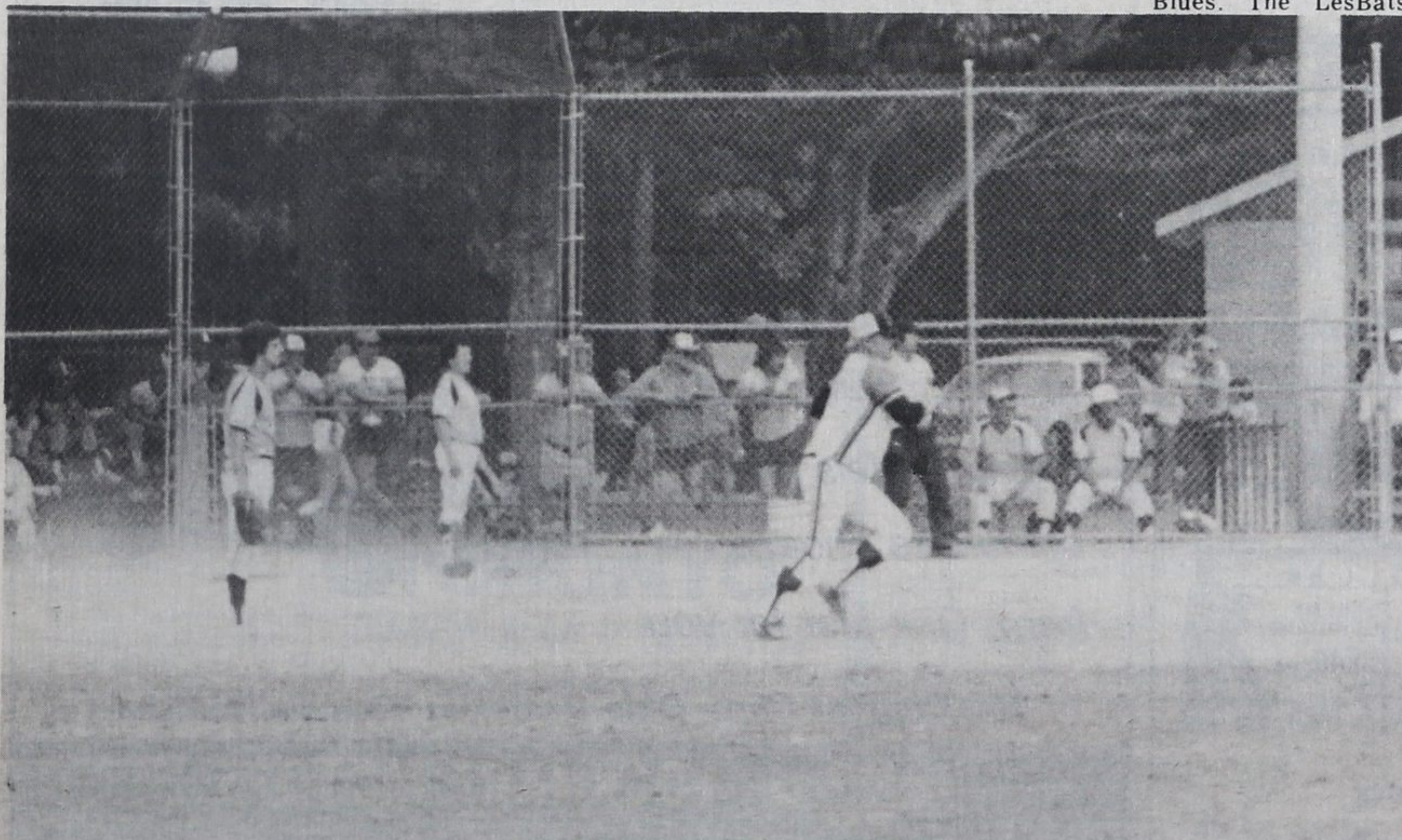
In the second game, Super Shams out-scored Blue Thunder 20-13. Super Sham home runs

were hit by Verna (Marilyn) Gervais, (third base) in the first inning, Pat Robitaille, (short-stop), in the second and Bev Greenwood, (rover) in the sixth inning. The coach wishes to commend each team member for the effort put forth.

Blue Thunder's catcher, Gail Sweeney started off the first inning with a home run and centre fielder, Linda McKinnon had two R.B.L.'s in the third.

With only two more weeks of regular play, the games are becoming more competitive and the calibre of ball has improved a great deal. As we look forward to our tournament, August 27, let's not forget to keep our games fun!

Winner of the 50 50 draw was Mr. Hunter.



You watch, I'll run!

Jim Mills, first baseman for the Vasey senior men's fastball team, chugs into second base with a double, against Midland Wye Heritage Marina. Action took place on Sunday during the Wyevale

Invitational fastball tournament. Vasey beat Wye Heritage, then advanced to the championship game where they topped Elmvalle Mets for the title.

Video Daze win consolation

Midland Video Daze Vixens won the consolation championship of the Georgian Bay Intermediate Ladies Fastball League last Thursday by squeaking by Coldwater Home Hardware by the score of 12-11.

Lillian King led the offence with a grand-slam homerun, and Jackie Dyer scored the winning run.

The game was a one-game-sudden-death meeting for the consolation title played in Port McNicoll.