

Baseball and the living's easy



He pitches...

And it's a high hard one from Richard Parkinson, 12, of Thornhill as he fires one in from

the mound as baseball practices get under way under "beootiful" weather.

THORNHILL — Thornhill Peeewe hard ball coach Jack Fairney was hoping for a reasonable turnout Saturday for his first practice of the season.

He got it.

Twenty-five youngsters turned up glove-in-hand at Thornhill Park under ideal, sunny conditions.

"It was great for the first workout," he said. "Most of the youngsters were from Thornhill. But we're hoping subsequent practices bring hopefuls from Richmond Hill and other areas."

Fairney said, "We took it pretty easy on the first workout, a little hitting, some light throwing. I saw some pretty good ball players out there."

He added, "Some of those 13-year-olds are real big. I wouldn't want to be belted by one of them."

Fairney said he didn't find out "too much with the pitching. Had them throwing easy to avoid any sore arms."

Photos by Kadis

Despite the impressive turnout, Fairney is looking for any and all hard ball enthusiasts of peeewe age.

"Even if a youngster doesn't make our team," he said, "he gets to play house league ball here in Thornhill. There aren't any other hard ball leagues in the immediate area."

Fairney will hold another practice tonight (Wednesday) at 6 p.m. in Thornhill Park which is west of Yonge Street and off old Highway 7B.

A third practice is slated for Saturday at 10 a.m. at the same locale. The season opens near the end of May.

The Liberal Section B

Sports

Classified

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...he misses

Hey, that's a mean ripple. Mike Fairney, 12, of Thornhill, gives it a lot of expression here as he swings and misses. Catcher Eric

Howson, 12, also of Thornhill, looks on approvingly. Occasion was the first

practice Saturday morning of the Thornhill Peeewe hard ball team. It was a great day.



fred simpson

I'm confessing

I've got a confession to make. I didn't go on the Variety Club's fifth annual bike-a-thon Sunday for several reasons.

The least important one was my lack of a bike. Cowardice was the main reason. I haven't been on a bike since I was side-swiped by a lady some 25 years ago. More on that later.

Instead I left it up to Gord Eardley, district sales manager of The Liberal to carry the colors. He's also about 80 years younger than I am.

Gord did all right, too. He completed the 20-mile course in two days. It took two days because he was a day late in showing up. These young people. I paid him anyway.

Show-off

Another show-off on The Liberal staff was Jim Irving who writes a weekly column on the intellectual end of the paper. You may have heard of him.

He manned one of the check-points in the bike-a-thon and, in between checks, whiled away his time playing chess.

That's an in-joke. Jim once made a beer commercial on television and he's been living off the avails ever since. Everything he knows about chess I taught him. Nothing.

About that bicycle incident years ago. I was paddling contentedly home from school when this lady hit me.

Impact

The thing that bothered me was she wasn't even driving. She walked out from between two parked cars and levelled me. She was rather portly. Think she got charged with criminal negligence.

Never been on a bike since. Terrific good going Gord. It was for a still cause.

There was yet another reason I couldn't go on the weekend. I had tribulations. Helped someone move. Think I hurt myself.

A pretty heavy job this moving. I handled four lamp shades, five pillows, a giant-sized box of cereal, and Tolstoy's "War and Peace." I was beat. Think I pulled an in-step.

Lucky alive

I was lucky to come out alive. Got tangled up with a pile of clothes hangers and almost died from the

stab wounds. It was a bad day. My friend was moving into a high-rise apartment or suite or whatever. The kind where they've already got a rug and drapes laid down and waiting for you.

A nice rug it was, too. Brand new. It looks a trifle seedy now because I dropped one of those potted jungle-like plants on it. Big ones. Heavy.

To make matters worse, I fell on the plant and broke all the leaves off. She took it pretty hard. Attacked me with a clothes hanger.

Anyway

But that's all part of life. You have these days. I won't go into the rest of it. Like dropping a big box of books all over the main corridor, or parking my car in the wrong spot in the underground garage. These things happen.

I blame it on the time of year. Hockey's just about breathing it's last and it's really too early for the summer sports.

So I'll just sit back and while away my time and make sure I don't get anyone mad at me. It's too upsetting.

Play ball. I'm ready.

Notes

Speaking of ball, the Dynes Jeweller fastball team continues its workouts these early days of spring.

The squad will be working out today (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. and on Sunday at 10 a.m. Weather permitting, the sessions will take place on the town park diamond in both cases. If not, in the arena.

A note from this paper's Oak Ridges correspondent, Millie Stewart.

She reports "truck after truck of fill being hauled down Lake Avenue and into the Bond Lake arena property.

"It looks like we will finally have decent parking and an adequate area to hold all the cars that are constantly using the arena driveway for parking."

Millie adds there's "a whisper on the winds which says the baseball diamond should be ready for use this year. "No lights yet, but maybe a diamond.

Having been one of those people plugging our way to Bond Lake arena, we can only add: Amen.

'Ridges Lions lose roar

OAK RIDGES — The Oak Ridges Lions are just one point away from being All-Ontario Double C juvenile champions.

But it's turning out to be a big point. The Lions were only able to gain one

tie in two games on the weekend as a resurgent Lambeth club tied them 3-3 here Saturday and then defeated them 4-2 Sunday in Lambeth.

Oak Ridges now leads the series by seven points to five and needs just a tie to win.

It won't be easy.

"We won the first three games," said Lions coach Glen Wright, "and we thought it was all over. We forgot to convince Lambeth."

Wright said, "Lambeth is gaining momentum and we're going to have to play 60 minutes of every game to beat them. If we play that way we've got the title."

The two teams go at it again Saturday at Bond Lake Arena in a 4 p.m. game. Saturday's 3-3 tie was a particular disappointment for Oak Ridges who thought they had the win clinched.

The score was tied 2-2 at the end of regulation time and Oak Ridges got the go ahead goal in the 10 minute overtime.

"We were leading 3-2 with only four minutes left," said coach Wright, "when they got the tying goal. It was a tie but it felt like a loss."

Karl Taylor was the major point getter in this one contributing a goal

and an assist. Jim Gerber and Glen Wright each had a goal with single assists each to Paul Smith and Tony Roffey.

It was a different story Sunday. "It was easily our poorest game of the series," reasons coach Wright.

"It was the first game we got the first goal and it backfired on us."

Lambeth overcame the early one goal deficit to rip home four straight goals in the second period to decide the issue right there.

Oak Ridges could only get one goal back in the final period.

The Oak Ridges goals were scored by Bruce Wilton and Karl Taylor with single assists to Ted Clague, Chris Smith, and Jim Gerber.

Finally, coach Wright keeps coming back to Lambeth:

"They have a lot of spirit and they never give up. I think we realize we're in a tough hockey series and I also think we've got the players to win."



It's a save

Oak Ridges Lions' Paul Smith (12) and another teammate put the heat on Lambeth goalie Dan Murray in some hectic weekend

action in All-Ontario hockey finals. The Lions tied this one 3-3.

Tournaments win cup

RICHMOND HILL — Overtime goals by Paul Harrietha and Andrew Don won the York Simcoe hockey championships for the Richmond Hill Tournaments Inc. Minor Bantams.

Victim was Thornhill.

Final score was 4-2.

Both teams had entered this final game with two wins apiece with Thornhill winning the first game 3-2 at Richmond Hill, Tournament the next two by 3-2; Thornhill the fourth game by the same score.

Both hockey teams played remarkably well disciplined hockey for four periods in the final game.

The game was rough but clean. Richmond Hill held a 2-1 lead going into the final stages of the game although Thornhill refused to give an

inch. Thornhill continued to apply pressure and received life with 2:04 remaining in the game when Richmond Hill walked into a penalty.

Thornhill removed its goalie in favor of a sixth attacker and did manage to score a goal. It was disallowed due to one of Thornhill's players ending up in the crease.

The undaunted Thornhillers kept pressing and got the equalizing goal with only seven seconds remaining.

Richmond Hill bounced back in the overtime to completely dominate play topped off by the game-winning goal by Harrietha. Don's goal came when Thornhill again removed its goalie for an extra attacker.

His shot found the open net.