

Ontario softball tourney here



Lake Wilcox's Neil Roberts gets back just in time as Harold DeGeer of Jack Blyth Real Estate puts a tag on him in Monday

Close but safe

night's Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League game. The real problem for Lake Wilcox was getting to first base as their

counterparts from Oak Ridges put the blitz to them to the tune of 10-1. Marcel Forget got their one run on a homer.

Richmond Hill will be "where the girls are" next weekend and that's for sure.

No less than 276 young ladies will be doing their thing at the Junior Ladies Elimination Softball Tournament which starts Friday night at the Town Park, Crosby, and Boyle Park (formerly Bradstock).

They'll be members of 23 teams — the largest number of entries ever in one series — who will be participating in the three-day tournament.

Summer games

To the victors goes the right to represent the province in the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland, Aug. 15 to 18.

Hoping to be the team to make the trip will be two local entries: Mary Williamson's Richmond Hill Newtonbrook Plaza Juniors and the Thornhill York Junior Ladies under Bob Booth.

Good chance

"We've got a good chance of winning it," states Richmond Hill coach Mary Williams without so much as crossing her eye-lashes. "Anything can happen in a tournament."

"We've got good pitching and if the girls can put it together we'll be heard from. Of course, you're going against the best in the province."

Mary's hopes will be riding on the promising arms of Darline Nelson and Donna Querengesser for most of the heavy duty.

Long ball

Offensively it will be the likes of Sue O'Connell who "is a good all-round ballplayer and who can hit the long ball."

Equally hopeful is Thornhill manager Rod Leonard who, along with coach Booth, is optimistic although "it'll be tough competition."

Giselle Marchand will be the bell weather on the pitching mound for Thornhill with the offensive power provided by Cathy Pacini who "is probably our best all-round player."

Open Friday

Richmond Hill opens Friday night at 7 p.m. in the Town Park against Milverton. Other games are Grimsby vs Bridlewood; and Kitchener vs Glenfield.

Playing at 9 p.m. are Thornhill and Brampton; Brockville and Cedar Hill; Dublin and Oakville.

The schedule continues Saturday at 9 a.m. with Byron going against New Liskeard; Burlington and Ottawa Valley.

At 10:30 it's Hamilton and Georgetown; 12 noon, Port Colborne and Prescott; and Hillsbury and St. Catharines; and Cobourg vs winner of game one.



Donna Querengesser ... tosses for Hill

The wrecking crew's back

By Dave Barbour

Town Auto Body has emerged as the "wrecking crew" of old in Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League play.

The "crew" routed Lake Wilcox 7-0 last week on the strength of John Rumble's two homeruns and two doubles.

Friday they used five homers to flatten York Regional Police 15-1.

Rob Clephan threw the shutout in the first game as Garry Oliver declared the winner in the second one.

Other games saw second place Joe's Garage Juniors picking up two wins as they blanked Barrow's Insurance 2-0.

Pitcher's duel

This game featured a pitchers duel between winner Glen Moreland and Barrow's Billy Hamilton. Joe's got four hits and gave up only two.

Both Joe's runs came in the second as Jim Noble and Doug Lewis each knocked in a run. Grant Rose and Paul Hunter had Barrow's only hits.

Joe's win 7-0

The same Joe's Garage added another shutout by 7-0 over Lake Wilcox with Moreland and Paul Phillip sharing the shutout.

The winners got a two-run homer by Moreland, a double by Chris DeGeer, plus good offensive and defensive work by their teammates.

Rick Collins threw for the Lake.

Jenkin's split

Jenkin's Garden Supply split games last week to maintain a hold on third place.

They lost 4-3 to Video Real Estate and then came back to beat Ronald's Federated by the same score.

Clyde Dimmell and Mike Thompson scored for Video in the first and second innings. Losing pitcher Brian Madely was instrumental in two Jenkin's runs and Bellavance's triple put the gardeners in front.

Gord Woolnough scored the tying run and Bobby Howard the winner on an error in the sixth. Dave Berseth was the winning pitcher in relief of starter Bill Fox.

Jenkin's win over Federated was highlighted by Cec Sarafin going three for four, the fourth being a life on an error. Bruce Sampson and winning pitcher Madely made the decisive hits. Chuck Nelson stole home for Ronald's while Mike Daggett's two-run homer accounted for their scoring. Pitcher Dave Tatum took the loss.

Polhamus homers

Other game results: Richmond Hill Auto Body 2, Ronald's Federated 0. Glen Polhamus socked a homer with Glen Greenslade and Rob Forget on base in the first. Jim Clement hurled the shutout. Tom Drennan gets the loss.

Big homers

Barrow's Insurance 9, McKinlay Drywall 4. Dale Crouter and Paul Hunter homered to drive in a pair of runs for the winners. Billy Richardson also banded in a pair.

Bob Carton had a three-run homer in the first in a losing case. Al Underhill was the winning pitcher with relief from Billy Hamilton. Loser was Wilf Diceman who was relieved by Craig Shuttleworth.

3-run blast

Jack Blyth Real Estate 4, Video Real Estate 2. Brian Jones hit a three-run homer for Blyth in the first inning.

Bobby Smith and Steve Woods countered for Video. Don Walker tossed the win.

Jack Blyth Real Estate 15, York Regional Police 3. Pitcher Walker and Pete Stuart each had a homer and a triple for the winners.

Mill's Roses 17, York Regional Police 3. Bill McVeigh homered for Mill's and Jack McLean went four for four. Ray Bunce, Mike Fleming and losing hurler Bruce Stevens each drove in a run for the police. Barry Mathews hurled for the Roses.

Mill's Roses 4, McKinlay Drywall 2. Dave Roberts led the way with a three-run homer. Losing pitcher Wilf Diceman homered for McKinlay.

Layefsky makes...

Comeback in basketball

By Fred Simpson

Just when Paul Layefsky of Thornhill decided to give up taking basketball seriously it started taking him seriously.

"I was pretty disillusioned about the whole game when I returned from the University of Arkansas," he was saying

the other day at his home at 66 Laureleaf Rd.

Layefsky, a former basketball stalwart at Thornlea Secondary School, had designs on making it good in United States university basketball circles after graduating from the local high school ranks.

He invested in a box of stamps and envelopes and wheeled out no less than

a hundred application forms to colleges across the United States.

Surprisingly, he got a raft of interested inquiries and happily settled for the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

"I was excited about the opportunity," said Layefsky, "but things didn't quite work out the way I expected."

Became unhappy

The originally happy Layefsky became unhappy "riding the bench" for a year and a half at Arkansas and finally decided serious basketball wasn't for him.

"I came back and played last year for the University of Toronto for the fun of the game and I didn't really have a great year."

He plans on pursuing a law career at either U. of T. or Osgoode Hall.

Maccabiah games

Layefsky had just about written basketball off when tryouts for the Maccabiah Games in Israel were announced. They are the Jewish version of the World Olympics.

"I thought I'd give it another whirl," said Layefsky.

He was one of 50 athletes who vied for the chance to get to Montreal where the final pick from every province would be made.

"I survived the trip to Montreal," continued Layefsky, "but I didn't think I showed too well at the start. I got better as we went along."

Off to Israel

Something of an understatement. Layefsky made the 10-man team — plus two alternates — and will embark for Israel and the Maccabiah Games July 6.

"I think it helped my being a rather aggressive type," reasoned Layefsky. "I'm really not that tall for basketball but I don't mind getting in there and pushing people around."

He added that "they really play an aggressive game in Europe. They don't just foul you. They grab you and throw you down."

You might have gathered by now that Layefsky really doesn't enjoy talking about himself. He makes it sound like he was lucky to make the team.

Don't you believe it. He got there by ability.

Big booster

One of his biggest boosters is former coach Jay Hooper of Thornlea Secondary School who says:

"Paul was one of the most determined ball players I've coached at Thornlea. He was just an all-round, excellent athlete and student. A quiet leader and always a gentleman and very popular with everyone."

Probably says it all for Layefsky. As for the future, immediate future? "I'm back to taking basketball seriously. Working out regularly, four or five hours a day, running, doing pushups, lifting weights."

The idea being to make a good showing in Israel and maybe, just maybe, catch the eye of the powers-that-be with the Canadian National basketball coach.

"I'd like to play for the regular national team," admits Layefsky.

Why not? It's more fun taking basketball seriously when it takes you seriously.



fred simpson

Cheer the girls

Whenever Mary Williamson starts off an interview with the words "I'm having a bad day", I instinctively take cover behind the nearest retaining wall.

It usually means I'm in trouble. I should start off by explaining to any newcomers just who Mary is.

Mary's the manager of the Richmond Hill Newtonbrook Junior Ladies softball team and she'll do battle for them — or any girl ballplayers — at the drop of a baseball bat. Usually on my head.

I should hasten to add our disagreements never last longer than the average ball season and, what the heck, it's all part of the job.

Boo men

Mary has been on the Richmond Hill ball scene for many years both as a player and manager. And she feels the "men" all too often get all the headlines and front page hullabaloo.

Her mood doesn't improve when you mention the fact her present team is the first one in a few seasons to attract a sponsor.

Simply because the sponsor, Newtonbrook Plaza, is located in Willowdale. Need I go on? Why not Richmond Hill?

Guilty

We'll skate around that festering sore and go onto try to make amends for any sins or omissions on our part so far this season or any other seasons. I'll plead guilty to almost anything to save my skin.

Which is why I'm sitting here right now telling you people to get out and support the big Provincial Junior Ladies Elimination Softball Tournament in Richmond Hill this weekend.

Starts Friday

It starts Friday night and it should be a great weekend for softball with 23 teams — the largest number yet — vying for the winner's trip to the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland, Aug. 15 to 18.

Home base will be the Richmond Hill Town Park (plus other diamonds) with Mary's Newtonbrook team trying to pull an "upset" along with the other local entry in the tournament, Bob Booth's Thornhill York Lady Juniors.

This tournament is particularly important to Mary because she has been thirsting for some kind of a provincial championship since she started coaching Richmond Hill teams away back in 1959.

"I've come close in the last few years," she states, "but only to lose."

Born diplomat

Being a dreamer (also a born diplomat) I'd like to see both Richmond Hill and Thornhill meet in the finals. Then let the chips fall where they may.

In any case, anyone staggering out to the ball park next weekend will see 23 of the best girl teams in Ontario. I took in that Canadian championship in Richmond Hill a few years ago and the quality of ball was excellent for the most part.

There Mary, I came through as I always do eventually. Can I come out from behind that retaining wall now? Just for awhile?

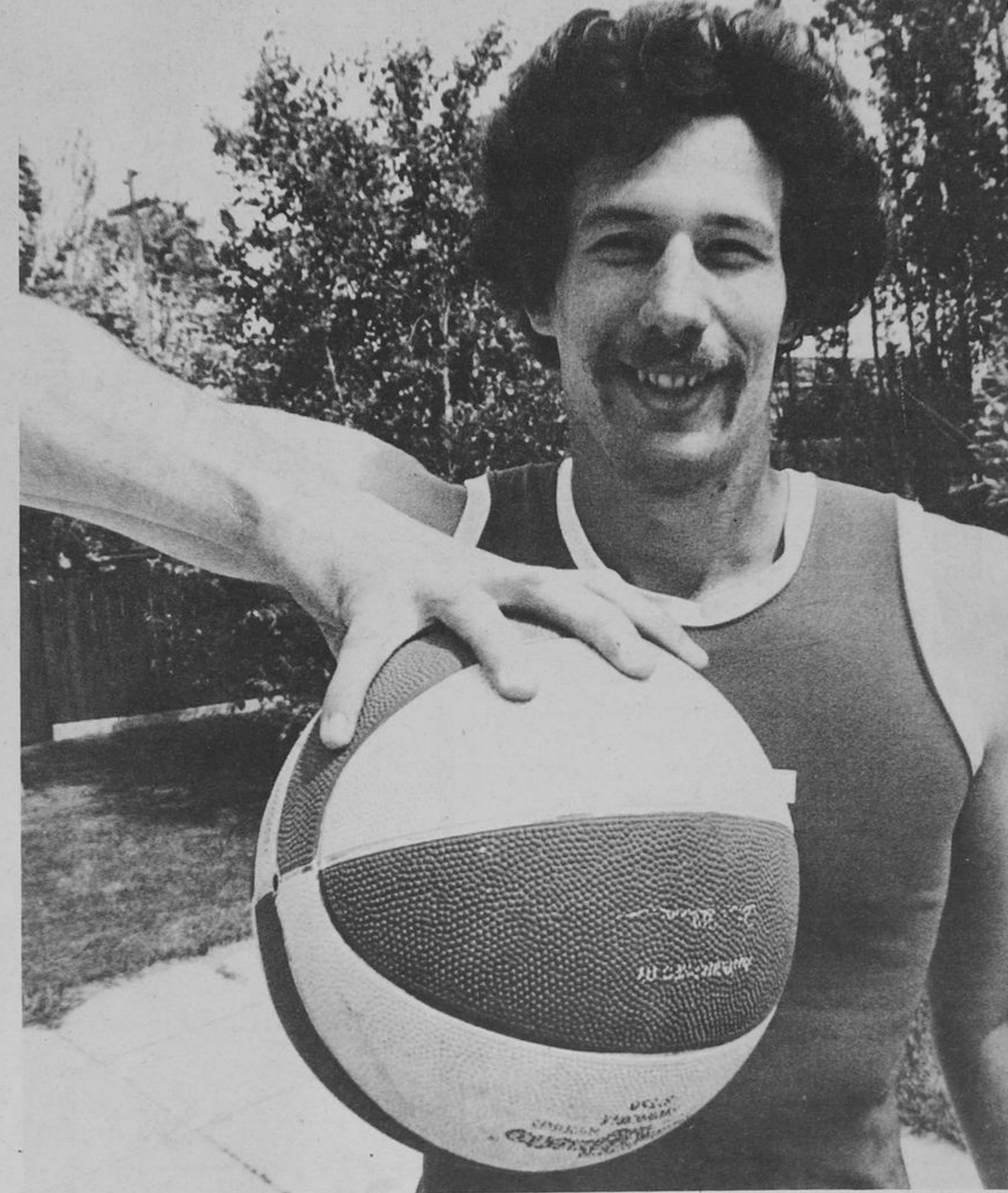
Just notes

Speaking of that tournament: I don't wish to be negative but I certainly hope any preparations on the Town Park will have been finished by the time the first ball is thrown.

After all, it's an Ontario championship and there's something to be said for going "class." Let's have none of this scrambling around fixing this and that just before gametime. Simply looks bush. Amen.

Finally, three of Richmond Hill's finest will be doing duty during the tournament behind the plate and bases, etc. They are John Shearer, Harry Bryan, and Bob Price Jr.

It's more fun booing someone when you know their names. See you at the tournament.



That's a big peach

Paul Layefsky of Thornhill hasn't got hold of a peach with his one hand. That's a basketball. Layefsky is a member of the basketball team

picked to represent Canada in the Maccabiah games this summer in Israel. Try two hands now, Paul.

(Photo by Hogg)