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Wednesday, May 16, 1979

It's 'batter up' time in The Hill

Dynes home Thurs.

The 1979 edition of the Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers' Junior fastball team plans on getting the season underway tomorrow night (Thursday) with a flourish both off and on the field.

Opening ceremonies start at 7:15 p.m. and will feature the Richmond Hill Lions Club Majorettes performing along with the Richmond Hill Accordion Band.

There will also be free vouchers handed out to those in attendance for ice cream treats courtesy of the Richmond Hill Dairy Queen.

The official opening pitch will be made by a member of the Richmond Hill Council and then the Jewellers tangle with John Oliver in their first home game of the Beaches Fastball League season.

Richmond Hill Manager Jimmy Cairns figures to be "very

competitive" in the Beaches loop which boasts some strong, experienced teams.

Leading the charge will be pitcher Glen Moreland and newcomer Blair McBratney.

Moreland and McBratney figure to be the mainstays of the Jewellers with Harold DeGeer ready to throw in a few games when he's not holding down second base.

LINE-UP

The Jewellers' line-up is studded with returning local players including outfield-first baseman Jim Davidson, Doug Lewis in centre, and Chris DeGeer catching.

Other young standouts will be Steve Madden, a second baseman, and Paul Philip who is touted as one of the best defensive fielders around.

Kevin Mathews is another outfielder and Benny Bourget will be holding down third base.

Other members are Bill Dickinson, Shawn McKenzie, and Doug Duneci, outfielders, and Phil Wood at first base.

Assisting manager Jim Cairns will be veteran Bill Robson who played with the old Dynes' senior team for several years.

Other administrative members are Sid Moreland, business manager; Angus Philip, treasurer; Fred Simpkin, publicity; Ross McMillan, tournament organizer.

DANCE

Extra-curricular activity will see the Jewellers holding a sit-down Dinner-Dance next Friday at the Lions Hall on Centre Street East in Richmond Hill beginning at 6:30 p.m.

You can reserve a ticket by phoning Sid Moreland at 884-7549, Ross McMillan at 884-5725, or Fred Simpkin at 884-0472.

...lose 6-4 to Sox

Two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning by The Sox chilled the hopes of the Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers chances of getting off to a winning start in the Beaches Major Fastball League Monday night.

The final score was 6-4 for The Sox in a game which saw The Jewellers off to a promising early start taking a 3-0 lead in the

second inning.

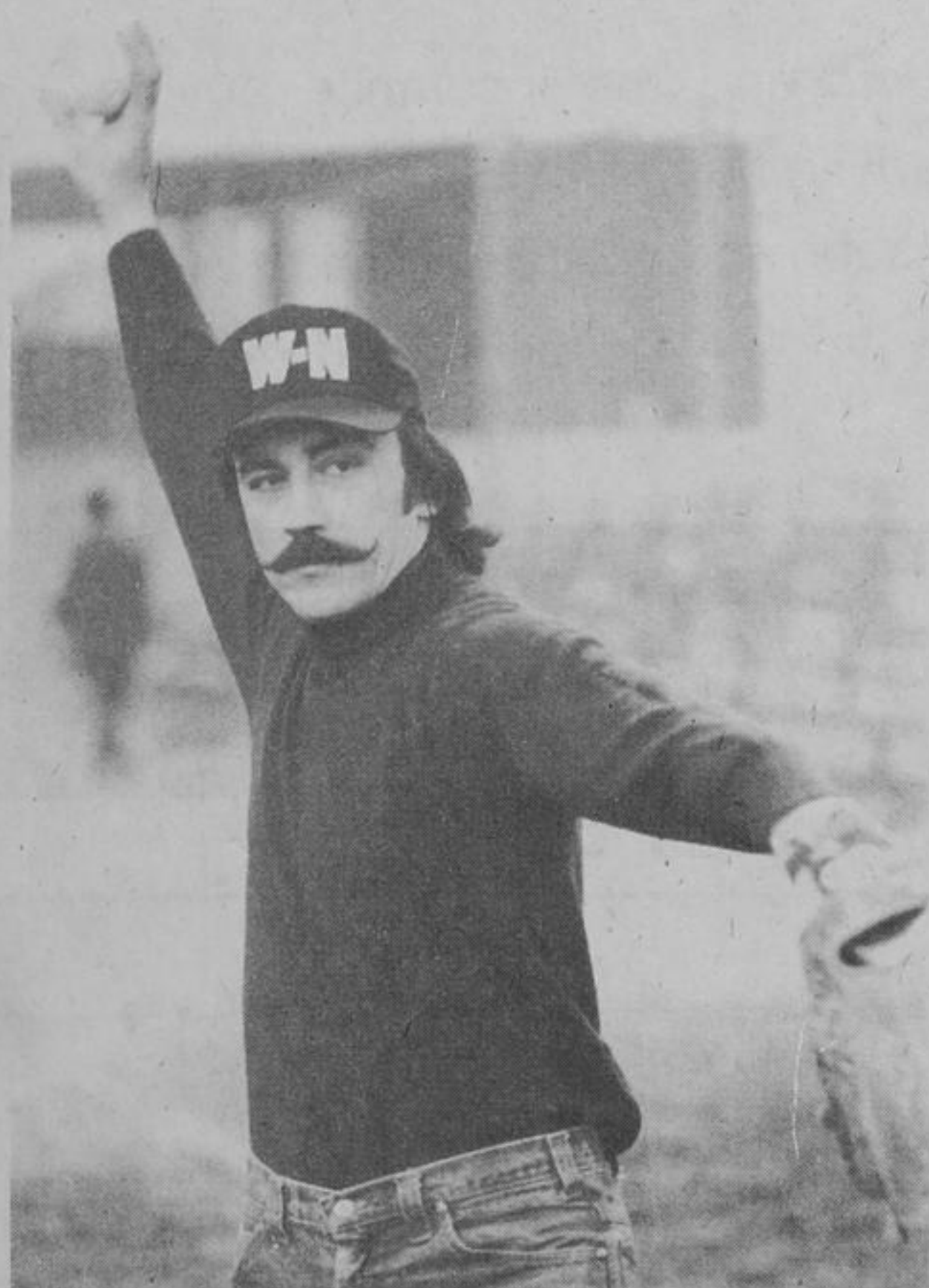
They opened the scoring as Phil Wood singled, Doug Lewis was safe on an error, and Ben Bourget singled to load the bases. Harold DeGeer brought everyone home with a triple.

Dynes starting pitcher Blair McBratney fared well until the fourth inning when The Sox scored two runs on three hits. He

was in more trouble in the fifth

inning giving up two more runs. Trailing 4-3 the Jewellers tied the game in the eighth inning as Doug Lewis singled, Bourget singled and one run came home on Paul Philip's single.

Then came the bottom of the eighth with The Sox scoring twice off reliever Glen Moreland to win.



Wannamaker

Wilson Niblett fastball fans will see a lot of Paul Wannamaker in this pose during the 1979 season. The Niblett boys open at home next Tuesday night with a doubleheader against Grimsby. (Photo by Hogg).

Wilson Niblett opens Tues.

The Richmond Hill Wilson Niblett team makes its home debut in the Ontario Fastball League next Tuesday night with a two-night doubleheader against the Grimsby Peach Kings.

Gametime is 7:30 p.m.

Manning the helm will be veteran manager Russell "Casey" Cripps who has coached ball in Richmond Hill since the 1960's and piloted a Hill team to the World Championships in 1973.

"We've got a lot of new faces and some familiar ones in our line-up," he said. "I'm looking for a very good year. We'll be competitive."

Cripps is basing his optimism on the big right pitching arm of Paul Wannamaker.

MAINSTAY

"Paul is the mainstay of the pitching staff and look for a big

season from him. He's also a real leader and has played for the Oshawa Tony's so he knows what winning's all about.

Backing Wannamaker up will be Mike McLeod who at 6'5" is one of the tallest players in the league.

"Mike won some important games last year," said Cripps, "but because of his job his pitching was hurt."

The Niblett team has also signed up a third pitching member by name of Bill "Moon" Sunstrum.

MOON

"Bill's from Guelph and pitched in the States in the Atlantic Seaboard League where Ray Judd played before he came to Richmond Hill," said Cripps. "Moon also played in Hespeler

and we're looking for a great year from him."

Some of the familiar faces will include the return of Ron Schnobb at third base. Schnobb had a fine year at bat last season and is a good fielder.

Colin Wood, along with Jeff Wood, are local products at the infield and catching positions respectively; George Dickey, veteran catcher who has been with the club off and on since 1967 and is still considered one of the better catchers in the country.

Also back is Carl Ahlsten who plays first and second base positions and hit .345 OFL in 1977; Marty Tweyman, second baseman and good hitter; Bill Jandciu, outfield, infield.

NEWCOMERS

Some newcomers are Andy Purmals of Bradford, outfielder;

Terry O'Kafka, outfield, of Stratford; Brian Harris, catcher, just out of junior; Gary Prezcat, outfield, who comes tabbed as a power hitter; Al Steele, outfield, just out of junior ball; Enzo Frederico, outfield, from Brampton and Oshawa ball clubs.

Veteran Mickey Hancock will be back as player-coach with the team.

Mickey has been around for a long time and was a member of the Richmond Hill Canadian championship team in 1973. He holds the record for most stolen bases at the Canadian championships.

Also on hand will be Assistant Coach Stan Thornington who played ball for "Casey" a number of years and helped him with the team at the World Championships.

Manager of the team is Rod Smith. Rod has played industrial ball in Richmond Hill the past six years. He is a local businessman. This is his first year of involvement with senior ball.

Track showdown

By BOB THOMPSON

Area high schools took another step along the trail to the Ontario Track and Field championships this week as they staged regional qualifying meets.

The top six athletes in each event from all schools in York Region were slated to meet head-on at Bradford to decide the team and individual champions for 1979.

More important to some athletes was the advancing to the Georgian Bay finals next week. Acceptance to the Georgian Bay meet may be gained by placing in the top two at Bradford or making a pre-determined standard for each event.

The emphasis placed by some schools on team awards tends to cloud the efforts of individual

athletes as they strive for excellence and the OFSSA finals June 8 and 9 in Toronto.

Of the 391 athletes competing from the South Zone at this week's York championships a mere half dozen will still be in the running come Ontario championship time.

Surest bet to represent the area in the finals is Mary Anne Ball, a senior student at Langstaff who specializes in the 100 metre hurdles.

Teammates Heinz Losberg and John Armstrong have an outside chance of surviving in the 100 metres and 400 metre events.

Thornlea Secondary School will rely upon distant runners Sue French and Peter McLellan to carry their colors to the finals.

A surprise is Midget javelin

thrower Louis Hext who could make the June 9 competition but will have to add over five metres to his distance to stay in the top three in Ontario.

The field event competitors are just too far behind in conditioning to afford any serious threat to the other schools in Ontario aside from the pole vault competition.

Langstaff's Dave Massarella has the ability to be among the best in the skyscraper event with an early season best of 3.20 metres.

After last weeks South Zone Meet local schools had qualified 391 athletes for further competition. Thornlea, 115 athletes; Markham 80 athletes; Langstaff, 50; St. Robert's, 45; Woodbridge, 30; Bayview, 29; Thornhill, 27; Richmond Hill, 15.

No way to meet a friend

Richmond Hill used car manager Tommy Burns is a good friend of Canadian heavyweight champion George Chuvalo.

But it wasn't easy. "I fought George twice for the heavyweight championship," the 44-year-old Burns was recalling the other day from his office at Don Little Ford on Yonge Street.

"The first time was in

1970 and he TKO'd me in the seventh round. The second time in 1972 he knocked me down 13 times, separated my rib cage."

They've been friends ever since.

GOT HIM MAD

"I think I kind of got George mad in that second fight," reasons Burns. "I've always been a good puncher and I gave him a good sucker punch on a break. I hurt him. I

stood back and his eyes were looking up at the lights. Then he started swinging."

That match turned out to be Burns' 61st and last professional fight before retiring and going into the car business on a fulltime basis.

"George and I still reminisce about it once in a while," said Burns. "He always says I fought one fight too many."

Burns was particularly anxious to talk about Chuvalo because he plans "on having him show up here in a week or so to do some promotion work with me." He added that final details had to be completed before "we announce a definite date."

Fighting has been a way of life for Burns since the days as a youngster when he used to "shadow box in front of the radio when Don Dunphy was announcing the fights".

He started taking his fighting seriously when he joined the navy in 1951 and won the heavyweight championship. From there he eventually drifted into amateur boxing under Deacon Allen of Toronto and later turned professional.

"I was never a 'Fancy Dan' fighter," he said. "I was strictly a puncher, rough-house type. Get in there and get the job done."

Burns fought all over the country in such places as Sudbury; Nelson,

British Columbia; and also in the United States. He won quite a few.

"I guess I was popular because people knew they'd see an interesting fight."

Burns has also run boxing clubs for boys but hasn't done that for a while.

"I enjoyed boxing," he said. "Because it helped me get off the streets and I think it's a good sport. One thing about it; when you're in the ring with another guy you certainly learn what life's all about in a hurry. Survival."

Burns, incidentally, was born in Holland Landing although he moved to Toronto at an early age.

"Sure I miss fighting sometimes," he said. "because it kept me in shape. I think I might do some exercising because I don't like to feel the looseness around here," he said patting his mid-section.

Burns confines his fighting these days to friendly discussions particularly with people like Chuvalo.

"One thing George and I got in common," he said. "Neither one of us has ever been knocked out."

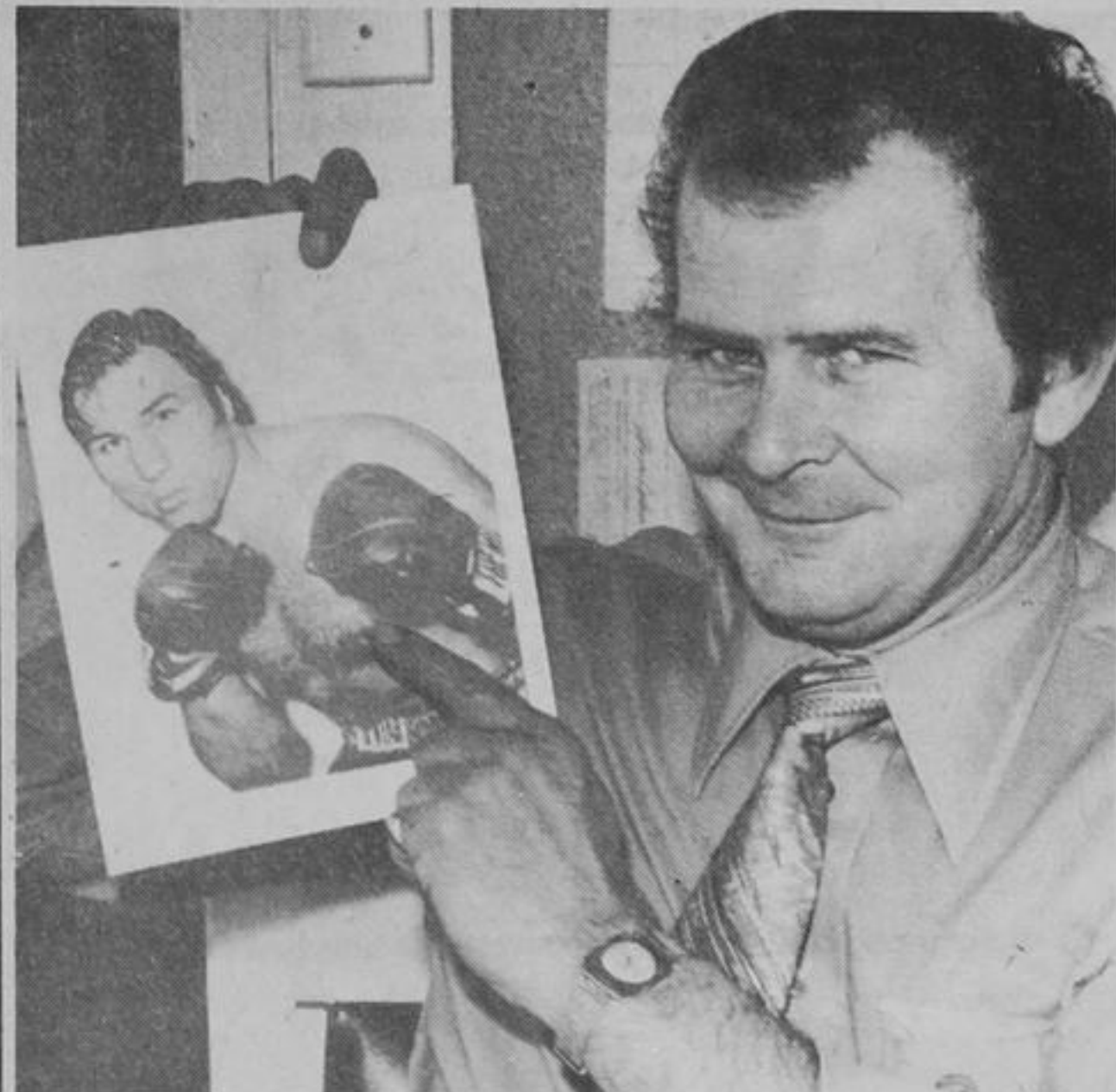
Burns still looks like he'd be tough to knock out.

Even for Chuvalo, although he's not about to test George anymore, except with a firm handshake.



Moreland

Dynes Jewellers' Glen Moreland shows the style he'll be using when his team opens its home Beaches schedule tomorrow night (Thursday) against John Oliver. Festivities start at 7:15 p.m. (Photo by Hogg).



Nice guy

Tommy Burns holds up photo of "buddy" George Chuvalo, Canadian heavyweight champion. They became good friends the hard way — for Tommy. (Photo by Hogg).



Champs

Mrs. Ivy Dunn presents the Gord Dunn Memorial Trophy to Sue Campbell, 12, and Greg Byer, 14, who were the top junior bowlers at ABC Bowling. (Photo by Hogg).