

Wednesday, May 23, 1979

Casey gets thumb as season opens

It was one of those typically dull season openings for the new Ontario Fastball League Wilson Niblett entry and veteran manager Russell "Casey" Cripps.

The scene was Oshawa Tuesday night of last week and a doubleheader as manager Cripps celebrated his debut in the OFL by being thrown out of the second game soon after his starting pitcher Paul Wannamaker was thumbed from the first one.

That first-game exit saw the Niblett team having to settle for a 1-1 tie and then losing the second encounter 3-2 against the Oshawa MCL's and lefty star Pete Landers.

The initial schmozzle saw Wannamaker carrying a 1-0 lead going into the seventh and final inning before running into umpire trouble.

"It was typical Oshawa umpires," spluttered Richmond Hill manager Cripps. "Wannamaker pitched that way for seven years in Oshawa and they didn't worry about him then."

Cripps said the umpires were "on Wannamaker for stepping back from the rubber as he went into his motion. You have to step forward."

The Niblett team had moved into a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning with two out when Ron Schnobb singled and went to second on another single by Carl Alhsten.

Bill Jandciu then singled scoring Schnobb. Oshawa's Russ Korbac allowed just those three hits while striking out four and walking none. Wannamaker gave up five hits, struck out four and walked two.

CRIPPS BOUNCED
 The second game had barely got off the ground when Oshawa announced to manager Cripps it was playing the game under protest to Niblett's having Enzo Fredrico in the line-up.

"They claimed Fredrico hadn't been given his release from them," stated Cripps. "But the league had given us permission to use him."

Cripps then asked Oshawa to announce the "protest" over the public address system "to the fans. When they refused I got a little loud," he said.

Exit Cripps.

DEUL
 The game end of it saw a fine pitcher's duel between Landers and McLeod of Niblett with the latter holding Oshawa to three hits while Landers surrendered six.

Oshawa opened the scoring in the third inning on a walk, an infield out, and an error. They made it 2-0 in the fourth when Pete Harrison doubled, moved to

third on a wild pitch, and scored on a sacrifice fly.

Their final run came in the fifth on Frank Schramm's homer.

Wilson Niblett got its two runs in the top of the sixth when Fredrico and Marty Tweyman singled. Both advanced on an infield out and came home on Alhsten's single.

The Niblett team is in Kitchener for a single game tonight (Wednesday) and in Grimsby for another solo tomorrow night. They are at home next Saturday night to St. Catharines in another single game beginning at 8 p.m.

The following Tuesday they are scheduled to play Hamilton in a doubleheader at the Town Park beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Win exhibition

The Wilson Niblett Fastball team edged Newmarket Rays 3-2 last week in an exhibition game in Newmarket.

Key blow was a two-run homer by Bob McLellan off Doug Webster which gave Niblett a 2-1 lead.

Richmond Hill pitcher Bill "Moose" Sunstrum went most of the way with Paul Wannamaker assisting in the late innings.

Newmarket managed to tie the game but Richmond Hill won it in the eighth.



fred simpson

Walk, don't run

I went out for a walk the other day. That's unusual for me. Next to flying, I fear walking the most. It's just that I wanted to get in the mood for the third annual York Region Family YMCA Mini-Marathon Challenge Cup this Sunday.

Not that I plan on running in it. Those foolish days are gone forever. Pressing an elevator button is challenge enough for me. It's just that I thought taking a walk might get me in the mood for writing about it.

And it's quite a deal. Getting bigger every year. Just like my waistline. They figure 100 or more people from all walks of life will be participating.

My problem is I've been around this town so long that I can't walk. Get about a block away from home and someone thinks I'm in distress.

A car pulls up, offers me a ride. Being the type who doesn't like to say no, I always accept.

"Where can I drop you off?" is the usual opener to the conversation.

JUST DROP ME

I always hesitate then gulp out something like, "I'm going home. Drop me off there."

Thinking I just left there they look at me strangely and drive me home. I stand there miserably as they drive away. It's no use explaining. Involved explanations just cause unnecessary worry to people.

Speaking of walking, I discovered one disturbing thing about it the other day. People look at you suspiciously unless you have a dog with you. Even the dogs sniff at you disdainfully.

Maybe they're just puzzled. When I'm walking I sometimes pause to drink in the morning air, appreciate the surroundings around me. Great to be alive on a sunny Spring day.

TREE

I did this the other day not realizing I was blocking the only tree in the vicinity. By the time I roused out of my reverie I discovered there was a line-up of six owners and their dogs behind me. They were all waiting for the tree and staring at me very accusingly.

No more walking for me. Despite my own horrible experiences, I'm all for urging other more fortunate people to enter such things as the Family YMCA Mini-Marathon Challenge Cup.

A FEVER

And so is Family YMCA Director Jim Ferguson who tells me "the interest in running, walking or jogging is at a fever pitch. This is our third year and it should be our best yet."

You don't have to be an athlete to enter this 12-mile jaunt. Just approach it as a healthy spring walk in the country and that's good enough. You'll love it.

Just be at the Y Sunday morning. The starting gun goes off at 9 a.m. If you haven't registered you can do so between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. It costs you only \$3.

I hope it's a nice, sunny day. If the conditions are right I might even go for a drive in the country.

NOTES

Some weak, weary post-holiday-weekend notes to follow:

Donna Hunt of the Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association informs me there seems to be some confusion among parents re the new interlocking ball schedule involving Richvale, Richmond Hill, and Oak Ridges teams.

Relax, says Donna. The interlocking games will start June 4 at Bradstock Park but the schedule for same will be available before then. If you have any questions phone Donna at 884-5274.

Donna also reported that the recent pitcher's, catcher's clinic was a great success and the association hopes to repeat it in the future.

Finally on minor ball, the 1979 Richmond Hill season got underway Monday night at Bradstock Park at 6:15 p.m. And it'll be going strong the rest of the season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

POWER SKATING

Bill Woloski of the Richmond Hill Power Skating School also reports some confusion regarding a planned summer power skating school to be run by The Town.

Reports Woloski: "It has nothing to do with our power skating school which has been going for the past 11 years and will be held again this season starting in September."

Woloski indicated the summer session has been instituted to utilize some spare ice-time when the rink isn't being used by the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club. Hope I haven't confused you.

SLO-PITCH

Incidentally, the Richmond Hill Slo-Pitch Softball League opens next Sunday at the Town Park with a tripleheader starting at 6 p.m.



Great year!

Sponsor Marvin Meretsky of Kent Clothes presents the Richmond Hill House League championship trophy to his team as well as the first annual House League Tournament cup at a special ceremony last week. In the photo are Phil Sanders, coach; Peter Jenkin, coach; players Chris Reed, John Cronin, Gary Armstrong, Mike Smith, Richard

Janssen, Tim Warren, Nick Vanhalteren, Kevin Lee, Mat Knights, John McLaughlin, and Bruce Morrison. John Adams was absent. The Hill Midget-Juvenile team won both the regular house league schedule and the House League tournament to cap a big year. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

Jewellers lose to John Oliver

The youthful Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers Juniors have taken some lumps in the early going this season but manager Jimmy Cairns is confident they're heading in the right direction.

played well," said Cairns in the wake of a 7-3 loss to the powerful John Oliver squad in Beaches Fastball action last Thursday night at the Town Park.

It was Dynes' second loss in two league starts.



He won

Dynes Jeweller hurler Blair McBratney pitched his team to one victory on the weekend in the Bradford softball tourney. Dynes bowed out losing the second game 3-2 in 11 innings. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

The Jewellers went on to participate in a Bradford Fastball Tournament on the weekend winning their first game by 3-2 over Innisville before being eliminated via a 2-1 11-inning defeat in the second game by Kent Real Estate of Toronto.

"What we're missing right now," said Cairns, "is a couple good long ball hitters. Defensively we're in good shape."

Cairns is happy with the pitching he's getting from his two youngsters, Glen Moreland and Blair McBratney.

"Glen will be fine when he settles down a little. It's early yet. He never gave up trying against John Oliver and he pitched a superb game against Kent's in that Bradford tournament."

"McBratney also came up big for us in our first-game win against Innisville."

SHAKY INNING

The Beaches game against Oliver saw Moreland run into a shaky fourth inning which saw the visitors scoring five runs on five hits including three doubles.

They upped the score to 6-0 in the fifth inning on a long homer to centre by Glen Nadeau.

Richmond Hill battled back in the bottom half of the fifth inning with two runs. It was Paul Philip singled and then scoring on Glen Wood's double. Steve Madden then singled Wood home.

John Oliver's Brian Lancelot homered over the right field fence in the top of the ninth.

Dynes got its final run in the bottom half of the same inning as pitcher Moreland homered.

TOURNEY

The Bradford tournament saw McBratney coming up with a sharp performance allowing only four hits, striking out 15 batters in seven innings and walking only one.

Dynes opened the scoring against Innisville in the bottom of the second inning as Kevin Mathew got a life when he was hit by a pitched ball. Philip sacrificed him to second. Catcher Chris DeGeer was then safe on an error which scored Mathew.

Innisville tied the game in the third inning on a walk and a double.

They moved into a 2-1 lead in the seventh on three singles but Richmond Hill bounced back in the last half of the same inning to tie the game. It was Chris

DeGeer singling, advancing to second and then scoring on Steve Madden's single.

HOMERUN

The game went into extra innings with the Jewellers winning it in the eighth on Doug Dunec's home run.

Then came the tough 2-1 lost to Ken Real Estate of Toronto in the second game with Moreland going 11 innings and giving up just three hits. The Jewellers could only manage one hit of their own.

That one hit came from the bat of Harold DeGeer in the bottom of the fourth inning and it was a four-baser.

Toronto tied the score in the sixth on an error and a double.

The game was scoreless until the 11th inning when Toronto's Gary Preszcatto homered to win the game.

Moreland, incidentally, struck out 11 batters in his 11-inning stint.

NEXT

The Jewellers are at home tomorrow night to Bradford and pitcher John Lenneville in an 8 p.m. game at the town park. Friday night they play Fred's Sports at Kew Beach.

English soccer tour

By PAT KELLY

At about 2 o'clock this afternoon (Wednesday) a Wardair plane touched down at Toronto International Airport and discharged a group of 13 and 14-year-old soccer players and their chaperones from Wilbraham High School, Manchester, England.

It was the beginning of a very busy two-week visit which will take the English teenagers all over south-central Ontario and into the United States in a hectic schedule of soccer playing and sightseeing.

Tomorrow may be the only quiet day they have. They will have settled by then into billets with players of various Richmond Hill and York Royal teams in Richmond Hill and Thornhill.

Plans for an exhibition game on Thursday have been shelved out of consideration for the need our English guests will have for a brief visit before they are launched into a gruelling schedule of games in the Inter-

national Memorial Day Tournament in Chatham, New Jersey, and sightseeing in New York City over the weekend.

Setting off at 7 a.m. on Friday morning along with the Wilbraham team will be a team of York Royal Bantams coached by Ron Sharkey from Newmarket.

GOOD LUCK

The two teams will return May 28. Results of their efforts in this important tournament will be published in next week's Liberal. Good luck wishes are hereby published in this week's edition.

Tuesday and Wednesday of next week will be devoted to sightseeing in the Toronto area. The visitors will see Toronto from the top of the CN Tower and will visit the Ontario Science Centre and Ontario Place among other places of interest.

EXHIBITION

On Thursday evening they will be playing an exhibition game as the guests of the Whitechurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

Friday should be a very exciting day, not only for the visitors, but also for Maurice Cook's York Royal Minor Peepees.

The two teams will be playing an exhibition game at the CNE Stadium at 6 p.m. just before the Toronto Blizzard and Atlanta game.

The Wilbraham-York Royal game will be refereed by Derek Smith, chief referee in York Region with linesmen Paul Thomas and David Kenny.

RESULTS

Reports of the activities of the Wilbraham visitors, results of games played and further information as to what they will be doing between June 1 and June 6, the date of their departure, will appear in next week's paper.

Meanwhile it is sure no effort will be spared by the Richmond Hill Soccer Club and the York Royals to make their guests welcome and their visit enjoyable.