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Wednesday, July 25, 1979



Sandy

Bob Fish of the Summit Golf and Country Club didn't mind two-putting. He didn't make the cut has to rely on blasting at the edge of the 18th but said he'd never play in the tourney again. green. He was just finishing up his second round (Liberal photo by Steve Pearlstein) in the Ontario Amateur Championship and

Crowe relieved without hearing

Allencourt Fish and Chips of the Richmond Hill Minor Soccer League has a new coach but many parents of the players feel he obtained the position unjustly.

Their beef is that the original coach, Bob Crowe of Richvale, was unilaterally relieved of his duties and they claim he was denied a hearing by the executive committee of the league.

His removal stems from an incident during a game played on June 28 when Mr. Crowe, charging the referee was being so biased as to affect the morale of his players, pulled his team from the field.

This contravenes a league rule which gives only the ref that kind of power.

League President Jane Stel feels many of the parents are overreacting to the whole issue. She said she must stick by the committee's decision to replace Mr. Crowe, although he has a right to appeal.

"There is no real problem," she said. "Bob Crowe did something he had no right to do and then he tried to appear before the executive without giving any notice. He knows there are proper channels and ways of resolving these things. I didn't hear from him until five days after the game — all I got was a report from the referee and the opposing coach — nothing from him."

She emphasized he went to the wrong authority but that his basic fault is a quick temper. She admitted he is a good coach and

gets along well with the kids, who are really the major concern.

Sandra Armstrong, mother of an Oak Ridges player, was peeved at the way she and a dozen other parents were treated when they showed up at an executive meeting July 16 at the Town Offices.

"Nobody should be fired without a just hearing," said Mrs. Armstrong. "This is turning into a vendetta for an incident that happened last year involving the same coach. He may be known as a hot-head but he was a pro soccer player and I have nothing against him — the kids all like him."

She said Frank Briggs, president of the coaches' association paid her family a visit "and tried to sweep the whole matter under the carpet" by saying Mr. Crowe had gone about his complaints the wrong way.

Mr. Briggs, who claimed to be too "deeply involved personally" would make little comment. He admitted Crowe has the support

of some of the parents but by no means all of them.

"The reason we haven't heard from him formally in writing is that he knows he'll lose if he goes through the proper channels. The man we have selected to take the Allencourt team has just as much experience and talent as Mr. Crowe," said Mr. Briggs.

In an interview, Mr. Crowe said he is being "railroaded" out of the league and his wife who was formerly the club's registrar, has had to quit.

"My only interest in this as a volunteer, is in the kids," he said. "All I'm asking for is a chance to be heard — there's no way anyone in their right mind would put up with that kind of refereeing and let them get away with it. It was getting to the point the kids were afraid to touch the ball for fear of being called for a penalty."

He claimed if the executive isn't competent enough to deal with these sorts of problems to the point it begins to affect individual players, then it should be replaced.

A few bugs in Ontario Amateur

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN

Now that all the excitement of the 57th annual Ontario Amateur Golf Championship has died down at the Summit Golf and Country Club in Richmond Hill, it might be an idea to sit back and take a general look at the tournament. Sum it all up, if you'll pardon the expression.

Paul Davis, of Whitevale, took first place with three steady rounds of par 71 golf. He led after three rounds with a 73-71-71 54-hole total of 215. He won the Toronto Star trophy (sponsor of the tournament) with a two-over 286.

He was what you might call a surprise, though deserving, winner, since everyone had their eyes on Oakville's Nick Weslock, the 61-year-old veteran, who has won the tourney eight times before. Spectators were also cheering for Gary Cowan, who had to struggle to grab a share of seventh spot with four other golfers at 296.

But Davis wasn't the only surprise, at least the way this writer saw it. I was up at the Summit last Wednesday for the second round — the day Weslock captured a two-stroke lead from Brian French of Blue Mountain, the unknown who called himself a "hacker" after he took an early 18-hole lead.

Granted this is not a professional tournament. You get that idea as soon as you drive up to the club. It has a beautiful expanse of lush, green lawn out front with lazy, almost Southern-style trees scattered across it. For the four-day contest, it was being used as a parking lot, likely to the chagrin of the members.

Since there was no admission and no hassles with "getting in at the gate" I stepped into the press room. Nobody asked who I was, where I was from or if I had any right to be there. There were typewriters for reporters from the major dailies and everyone seemed overly concerned with drinking beer and other journalistic aids.

Since everyone present, including the tournament co-ordinator, had their eyes glued to a large scoreboard, I went over and helped myself to a Coke.

I got onto the course and was immediately impressed with the calibre of golf. Many of the players were there to try and earn a spot on the Ontario Willingdon Cup team, a competition which is played during the first two rounds of the Canadian Amateur at Brantford in August. Others were at the Summit just to do as well as they could.

Since there was very little organization on the part of the club or the sponsor, spectators were allowed to roam within feet of the players even as they were making their shots — either off the tee or in the middle of the fairway. There might not have been money for marshals, but if I had been playing, I would have protested long and loud. That sort of thing doesn't make the game any easier.

The largest gallery I saw, flocking mainly around Weslock and Cowan, couldn't have been more than 25 people. It was a shame more fans and golf nuts didn't take advantage of the excellent play. The price sure was right — no charge.

The golfers had their own complaints. I talked to Bob Fish, one of three players from the Summit in the tournament (there were also four players entered from different clubs in Thornhill) just after he signed the scorecard at the 18th. I asked how he liked the play: "It was just too damn slow out there — I'm all finished with this, they're all taking too much time."

Would he enter again next year? "No way, never again," was the answer. Bob shot a first-round 79 but didn't make the cut after the second day.

According to the tourney co-ordinator, the course plays at an average four hours and 40 minutes. At 5 p.m. that day, there were still 14 trios of players yet to make their way to the 18th tee, so complaints of protracted playing seemed justified.

If you've ever followed Weslock around a course, you can get free golf lessons by listening to him explain his mistakes and the particular injuries plaguing him that day. Sometimes he recites poetry. The fans love it. He doesn't exactly earn the admiration of his competitors, though.

Players who enter these tournaments do so because they love the game. But it's these little organizational problems that add up, which leave you to conclude that "amateur" applies to more than just the players.

Reaching for playoffs

Dynes win 4-2 drop perfect game

With 10 games to go in the regular season, the Richmond Hill Dynes have a better than 50-50 chance to grab a fifth playoff spot from John Oliver — a team they trail by five points — in Beaches League play.

Last week, the Dynes won one and dropped a 2-0 decision, which turned out to be a perfect game. League-leading Streetsville managed two runs on three hits, in what was otherwise a lackluster performance.

Their starting pitcher, Mike

Stewart went the distance, striking out seven Jewellers.

Dynes had a no-hitter going themselves until the sixth inning when starter Blair McBratney gave up a single and then walked the Streetsville pitcher. The next batter, Rislo, got up and smacked a triple, bringing in the two lethal runs.

McBratney, who took the loss, was pulled for Glen Moreland. Moreland went the rest of the way allowing no hits or runs.

The following night, on

Thursday, the Dynes made up for their poor showing by dumping the Beaches Sox 4-2. Moreland went all the way to the home-half of ninth, fanned 11 batters and gave up the two runs on six hits and three walks. McBratney came in for one batter and struck him out handily.

Punching out singles for Dynes were Phil Woods, Craig Walton and Steve Madden. Harold DeGeer got two bases on balls and standout performances were turned in by Jeff Joslin, at third

base, and Walton in left field. He made two outstanding catches. Tino Manganaro was tagged with the loss for Beaches. He managed to strike out 11 but walked four and gave up six hits.

"The way we're playing now, I think we can take the last playoff spot," said Fred Simpkin of the Dynes.

While they're five points out of fifth place, they're only seven out of second — that's how tight the race is.

"Our players are all junior-aged and it took us five games to

get used to the pitching and hitting this season. We seem to have good luck against the tough teams like Streetsville and bad luck against the easier ones," he said.

For example, Dynes have beaten the Beaches Sox three out of four times. They lost to them 6-4 in the first game of the season and Simpkin feels that should have been an easy win. The Jewellers' next home game is tomorrow (Thursday) against Bradford. Starting time is 8.15 p.m. at Town Park.

Rob MacMillan and Scott Low, Glenfield blasted a pair of home runs themselves in the third inning to know the score at 5-5.

At that point Bell took over on the mound for starter Apps, and shutdown Glenfield the rest of the way.

Both teams had chances to end the game, but after seven innings it was still tied 5-5.

Finally, in the bottom of the ninth inning, Negri led off with an apparent game-winning home run, but it was called back as a ground rule double.

Two batters later, though, it was all over. Dave Repath beat out an infield single, and the subsequent throwing error allowed Negri to score the winning run.

Negri had three hits in this contest while Low, MacMillan, and McWatt all had two.

The entire team played outstanding defensive ball in this game, backing up Apps and Bell

who combined for eight strikeouts.

LEAGUE ACTION

Richmond Hill continues to roll along in Etobicoke Softball Association play, downing Alderwood 2-1, and following that up with a 3-4 shellacking of Woodbridge last week.

The Alderwood game saw the Hill getting only two hits, both singles from Hughes and Low. Hill pitcher Bell was just as stingy, giving up one hit while recording 13 strikeouts.

Apps worked the five-inning contest against Woodbridge, and allowed just four hits while fanning seven.

MacMillan, Bell, and Chepelsky all had three hits in this game, with Bell and Chepelsky getting a home run each, with Bell's being a grand slammer.

Derek Battista, who seems to thrive on Woodbridge pitching blasted a pair of homeruns, while Mike Leonard had two singles.

Hill squirts win four at Pickering

The Richmond Hill Dairy Queen Squirts played their best ball of the entire season last Saturday, as they won four straight games to capture the championship in the two game double knockout Pickering tournament.

The Hillers opened the tournament Friday night with a 6-1 win over the Glenfield "B" team.

The score is rather misleading since Richmond Hill could manage only four hits. Glenfield errors contributed to the victory.

Joe Apps went the distance on the mound and allowed only one

hit, that being a home run. He struck out 13.

Mike Leonard and Matt Lawlor both made good catches.

GLENFIELD "A"

The next morning saw the Hillers facing the real Glenfield team, and they came out on top with a 3-1 victory.

A tremendous two-run homer by Cesidio Negri in the first inning gave the Hill squad a lead they never relinquished.

In all, the Dairy Queen boys had 10 hits with Jim Hughes, Paul McWatt, Dave Repath, and Negri all getting two apiece.

Robbie Bell picked up the win as he surrendered only six hits while fanning 11.

DOWN BAY RIDGES

The next game saw the Hill boys make the most out of a few hits, as they downed Bay Ridges 13-9.

The Dairy Queen team had only six hits in this game, but made them count. They also had eight walks.

Negri continued his hot hitting, knocking out four hits including two home runs, one of which was a grand slam. He also had six RBI's in this contest. Robby Chepelsky and Dave Repath had the other hits.

Bay Ridges also made the most of their hits, since hurler Bell allowed them only eight hits. Four of those were home runs. Bell also struck out 10 and walked seven.

CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

The championship game was a classic, as Richmond Hill jumped into an early 5-1 lead over Glenfield, thanks to home runs by

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Niblett, Kitchener faceoff for final playoff berth

The Wilson Niblett fastballers came within three points of Kitchener, the team they're trying to catch for the last playoff position, after beating them 3-1 and tying 2-2 in a double-header last week.

The Hillers actually came closer but Kitchener defeated Grimsby the following night, to give them the three-point margin. By the time this story is published, St. Catharines will likely have clinched first place.

Other playoff spots will go to Oshawa and Grimsby with the fourth position virtually up for grabs between Kitchener and Richmond Hill.

The race will probably go right down to the wire as the local boys must play St. Catharines again — a team they've managed to beat only once this season.

In the first of last Tuesday's

games, Paul Wannamaker went the distance in what should have been a Richmond Hill win. He gave up only three hits and two walks and fanned seven batters.

Kitchener scored two unearned runs in the first inning, off a hit, a walk and two errors. But that was all they needed to earn the tie.

Dan Yantzi, whose eight strikeouts, four walks and four hits should have kept him in the game, had to be taken out in the seventh because the Kitchener coach came to the mound twice, by mistake. The rules say he (Yantzi) had to be replaced and Brian Anderson went on to allow another run and put two Hillers on base.

In the twilighter, Wannamaker started again and gave up a walk and five hits, striking out four. Wilson Niblett's bats came alive and pounded out 10 hits, three of

them doubles all coming in the sixth.

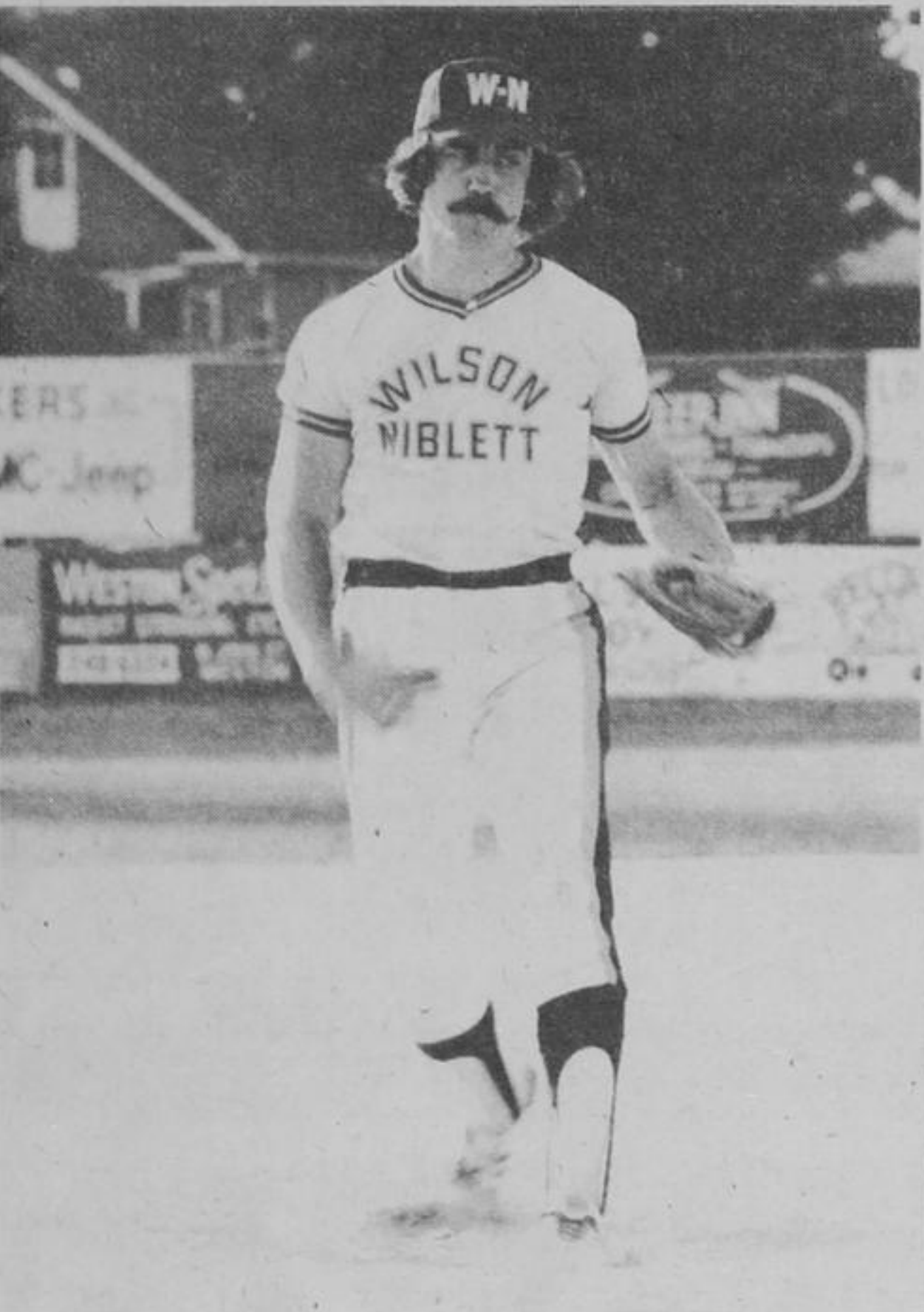
Two-base hits went to Carl Ahlsten, Brian Harrison and Enzo Fredrigo.

For Kitchener, Brian Anderson went five-and-a-third innings and was responsible for the three Richmond Hill runs. He gave up eight hits and a walk and struck out six.

Yantzi came in and allowed the other two Hill hits.

Richmond Hill actually had to come from behind to take the game as Kitchener picked up their run in the second on the strength of a walk and a triple.

Niblett was to have played in a tournament in Newmarket over this past weekend but its next league game (and probably its biggest home game of the season) is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31 at Town Park. A playoff spot hangs in the balance.



Paul Wannamaker lets one rip against Kitchener. From the look on his face, a good pitcher needs a balance between stamina and concentration. (photo by Alec Bruyns.)