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Wednesday, August 22, 1979

The Red Eyes gulp down Sudsers

By FRED SIMPSON
 Liberal Sports Editor

The upstart Red Eyes, a blend of 'youth' and Rene Fournier, clawed their way through empties and every other adversity on the weekend to win the Richmond Hill Slo-Pitch League's Mid-Season tournament championship.

A large crowd of awed spectators looked on as the Red Eyes rebounded from a first-game loss in the tournament to win their next six games and walk away with the Royal Bank Trophy.

They did it by defeating the previously-unbeaten Sudsers in two back-to-back contests by 11-3 and 11-10 Sunday night at the Town Park.

The six-team tournament produced several upsets or near-upsets throughout the day with pre-game form going right out the window.

The Red Eyes, who come by their name honestly, were stunned by an opening game 16-11 defeat at the hands of the Sudsers who had won only three games this season.

Undaunted, they retreated to friendly climes to discuss their plight, and came out refreshed enough to win their next four games to earn the right to meet The Sudsers.

They bounced the Old Jays 21-8, the Bombers 7-6, the Ball Machine 1-0, and the Misfits 7-3.

That set the scene for the final match-up between the Red Eyes and the Sudsers.

That first game saw the Red Eyes overcome an early Sudser 1-0 lead to move in front 3-1 and then 5-1 going into the top of the fifth.

The Sudsers got two runs on Jim Barry's double but the Red Eyes scored four in the bottom of the fifth on a homer by Jim Lane and singles by Jim Bridge, Mike Ignatowicz, Gerald Lavoie and Paul Ryan to lead 9-3. They scored two in the sixth to win 11-3.

HOMERUN

Offensive highlight of this game came in the second inning when Fournier, ducking to get out of the way of a fast ball cracked a line-drive homer over the

rightfield fence.

The final game saw the Red Eyes jump into an early 4-0 lead and hang on to nip the surprising Sudsers 11-10.

Red Eyes' pitcher Bob Whitmarsh made the final Sudser out in the last inning as he made a nice grab of a line drive. Offensively it was Paul Ryan, Whitmarsh and Jim Lane hitting doubles. Ron McCallum doubled for the Sudsers and Gary Palethorpe hit a triple.

1-0 GAME

The most classic game of the tournament had to be the one between the Red Eyes and the Ball Machine, which ended 1-0 for the former.

Red Eyes' scored the winning run in the final inning on a throwing error and a dropped fly ball.

One of the surprise showings in the tournament was turned in by the lightly-regarded Misfits.

The Misfits staggered the Bombers by dumping them 6-3 in the first game. They lost the next one 11-8 to the Sudsers in a tough loss and then extended the Red Eyes before bowing out of the tournament via a 7-3 loss.

The Old Jays and Bombers took their lumps as both were eliminated in two straight games.

TRAGEDY

Biggest tragedy in the demise of the Bombers was coach Eric Hillaby who was so shook up by it all he downed 10 straight hotdogs. Without mustard. He was led away.

Another highlight of the tournament was the Red Eyes' third baseman, Mike Ignatowicz. He survived. Mike kept trying to go through the wire fence at third base chasing foul pop-ups. Park officials were seen checking the fence for damages the next day.

All in all, a great day.

The regular Sunday schedule for the Slo-Pitch league continues next Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Town Park.

Boo Red Eyes.



Two happy Red Eyes here as Royal Bank of Richmond Hill Manager John Smith (centre) presents the championship trophy to Coach Rene Fournier while Red Eyes' captain (left) Bob Whitmarsh and Paul Patenaude, tournament organizer. (Liberal photo by Alec Bruyns).

Red Eyes

Hill Intermediate girls take silver in All-Ontario

The Richmond Hill Intermediate Ladies went prospecting for gold in the PWSA Ontario finals on the weekend but had to settle for silver.

It was a case of too-much

Barrie for the Hill girls who fell twice to that team despite coming up with a valiant struggle in the final game which saw them lose 2-1 in 11 innings.

Richmond Hill had opened the

scoring in the first inning as Gizelle Marchand walked and came home on Sue O'Connell's double.

Barrie tied it in its half of the same inning and the score remained that way until the 11th inning when Barrie pushed across the winning run for a gold medal.

Tillsburg could only manage one more run in the seventh inning.

WIN 3-2

Sunday morning saw Richmond Hill playing a powerful team from Kitchener and hard put to scrape out a 3-2 victory.

Niblett over Streetsville at Bulova Watch tourney

The Richmond Hill Wilson Niblett senior softball team got off to a flying start in the annual CNE tournament Saturday night blanking Streetsville 5-0.

Mike McLeod had little trouble

subduing the Beaches fastball league entry from Streetsville.

He gave up only three hits while walking none and striking out five.

The tournament opened on the same disappointing note for the Hill girls in the Port Colbourne tournament as they were dropped by Barrie 7-1. Marchand was the only player to cross the plate for Richmond Hill.

FIGHTBACK

The girls fought back to decision the Belleville Bombers 3-1 as they got off to a quick two-run start with Marchand and Sue Taylor singling. Darlene Nelson then singled in Marchand and Janet Buxton did the same for Taylor.

Nelson was sacrificed to third and scored on a sacrifice out by Kelly MacInnis.

The Hill got its go-ahead run in the seventh inning when Thompson walked. Taylor was put in to run for her and proceeded to steal second and third base and then scored on Marchand's long fly ball.

It was yet another squeaker against Ottawa with Richmond Hill squeezing out a 2-1 verdict getting their runs in the fourth inning.

Big scramble for first spot

Lenny Hughes, with a 4 hitter, takes the win, Billy Hamilton, the loss.

Kinnear Leasing regained its fourth-place edge by crushing Linear Sound and Video 10-0 on the strength of a one-hitter by Dave Webster. Offensively, Bob Viverette and Mike Thompson had two RBIs each. Webster and Bob Smith each had a pair of hits and runs, while Gord Woolnough scored twice.

Richmond Hill opened the scoring in the second inning as Colin Wood doubled, was sacrificed to third, and scored on an infield error.

The third inning saw Mickey Hancock walking. He was safe at second on an attempted sacrifice by Carl Alhsten as the fielder missed the throw and Hancock came home to score.

Catcher George Dickey then singled Alhsten home.

Pitcher McLeod then helped his own cause in the fourth inning as he led off with a homerun.

Wilson Niblett got its final run in the fifth inning as Colin Wood tripled and Enzo Fedrigo singled him home.

Taylor reached first on an error and went to third on Darlene Nelson's single. She then scored on Bernie Thompson's single. O'Connell then singled to score Nelson and Bonnie Bryson tripled to bring in Bernie and Sue.

It was another tight contest against Lakefield in the sixth game with the Hill girls prevailing 3-2.

Richmond Hill opened the scoring in the second inning when Kelly MacInnis singled, reached second on Motley's push bunt, and scored on Sue O'Connell's double.

Dynes in last gasp for playoff berth

The Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers' hoped for late-surge to make the final playoff spot in the Beaches Major Fastball League suffered two severe setbacks last week.

They came via 2-1 and 1-0 defeats at the hands of Streetsville and The Sox.

Pitcher Glen Moreland was the victim in a Wednesday night 2-1 loss to Streetsville. He gave up seven hits but the Jewellers could only manage one hit off the offerings of the opposing pitcher.

ERRORS

Errors also crippled Dynes with Streetsville scoring both of its runs in the third inning on two singles and two errors. Richmond Hill's lone run came in the first inning and also resulted from errors. Craig Walton scored.

Blair McBratney took the second loss last Thursday night giving up five hits while striking out eight batters and walking three.

The Jewellers could only manage five hits off Tino Manganaro. He struck out 12 and walked one.

The Sox got their winning run in the eighth inning as Manganaro and Phil Knight singled and Joe Peleggi was hit

The defeats left the Dynes junior still two points behind Fred's Sports who currently occupy that last playoff spot.

And the big crunch comes tomorrow night (Thursday) when the Jewellers collide head-on with Fred's Sports in an 8 p.m. game at the Town Park.

As of writing, the Jewellers have two league games remaining and Fred's Sports just one.

NO HIT

Again it was good pitching, no-hit problems for the Jewellers in those two losses.

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The Sox got their winning run in the eighth inning as Manganaro and Phil Knight singled and Joe Peleggi was hit

by a McBratney pitch. A sacrifice fly brought in the winning run.

THREAT

Richmond Hill mounted two mild threats. One came in the third inning when Ben Bourget doubled with one out. He died there. The second one saw Phil Wood doubling in the bottom of the fifth inning. He stole third but the next three batters struck out.

The Jewellers also entered the Streetsville tournament on the weekend and had little luck there either.

They won the first game by default but went on to lose 1-0 to Streetsville in the first game and 5-3 to Crotoy in the second one.

Moreland took the loss in the first game despite a fine two-hit pitching effort. McBratney got nailed in the last game giving up three runs on five hits in the first inning.

Dynes play in the Mt. Albert tournament on the weekend.

Incidentally, the Richmond Hill Auto Body team's roots go back to St. Mathews United Church. This club has had only one previous sponsor, Pinecrest Speedway.

Standings

Team	W	L	T	P
Town Auto Body	16	6	0	32
Barrow's Insurance	14	5	2	30
Richmond Hill Auto Body	14	8	2	30
Kinnear Leasing	10	9	3	23
Jack Blyth Real Estate	10	11	0	20
Linear Sound & Video	4	15	2	10
Pizza Press	3	17	3	9



fred simpson

Harvest Moon

There's always someone around to remind you that summer is fast on the wane. Sometimes there are two or three people around to do it.

Just the other night I was gazing rapturously at the big, fat yellow moon that was adrift on the horizon. It was playing hide-and-seek with a few strands of clouds. Smmh.

Then someone said: "That's what we used to call a harvest moon. Summer's almost over." That did it. Threw an empty at it.

A day or so later I get a call from another person who wanted to talk about, yea verily, hockey. What is there to do?

This person turned out to be Bob Reeves who is president of the Richmond Hill Minor Hockey Association.

"Aw, c'mon, Bob," I protested vigorously, "it's only August and when you get to be my age you try to hang onto every precious moment. Can't it wait until September Song, anyway?"

No dice. He overcame my stubborn opposition by offering me food and libation. Not necessarily in that order. I was there in minutes.

So here goes.

THAT TIME

Would you believe registration for the local minor hockey association's 1979-80 season gets underway September 8 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the new Richmond Hill Arena? Truly. Further details will follow next week.

BAN BODY CHECKING

An interesting item I picked up from Bob was the decision by the association to ban bodychecking up to and including the pee-wee divisions. No surprise, here.

Other minor hockey associations are doing much the same thing and, on the whole, I guess it's a good thing. Especially in the younger age group.

States Bob: "It's something everyone seems to want to see happen. It's the 'Russian Syndrome' with the emphasis on teaching the basic skills such as skating and play-making."

Personally, I just hope they make sure the youngsters don't pick up bad habits to compensate for no bodychecking. Such as hooking, holding, and such to slow down the opponent. Not to mention the highsticking and other nonsense. It's the latter that's ruining hockey.

Enough of that for now. You know what I mean. I'm all for teaching the youngsters the basic skills. Carry on.

AGGH

I could go on to say that hockey, aggh, is breaking out all over in August. The junior hockey clubs, Rams, Thunderbirds, Dynes Jewellers, are on the verge of opening training camps. And the Rams, sir, play their first exhibition game September 4 at North York. It's all madness. The summer jig's up.

I've got to shake this depression and get back to summer.

And I'm going to do it by chatting just a bit about nine-year-old Darren Creighton who lives at 150 Oxford Street in Richmond Hill.

HOME RUN KING

Darren had a wondrous thing happen to him recently in minor softball. He hit his two first-ever homeruns. In one game, yet. He was playing, I believe, for the Block Parent team.

Needless to say, I was overcome with envy. I've been playing ball off and on for 20 years and have never hit a homerun. Darren, it seems, is well on his way to an illustrious homerun career. Oh to be young again. Dammit, I'm going to get a homerun yet. If a nine-year-old kid can do it, well... congrats Darren.

Finally, it should be acknowledged that ex-Rams' hockey player, Frank Nigro, was a fifth choice in the draft for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Frank played his hockey last season with the London Knights of the Major A loop.

Really, finally, the Dynes Jewellers Junior B's are inviting all Richmond Hill area Midget-Juvenile junior calibre players to a try-out camp August 28 at 7 p.m. in the Bond Lake Arena.

On that winter note we take leave. I just hope we have a green Christmas.