

Monday ladies

In Monday night ladies softball action, Betty Anne Meredith's "Popsicle gals" (Country Stop) squeaked by R & H Farms 18-15. Home runs came from Debbie Rennie, JoAnne Steel, Brenda Hackett, Linda Harper and Eleanor Ward.

Linda Grove's number one team, Ringwood Restaurant, did it again, putting out Burds' Actioneers 15-8. Home run came from Pirkko Eager.

Anderson Haulage had to work hard to get past Penanen's Roofing 21-19. Home runs going to Cheryl Schell and Julie Petch.

Saints split two

The Saints split their two game schedule against Aurora last week. Stouffville's girls' novice ball team posted an 11-8 win on Wednesday night, but had the score reversed at Aurora in the second leg on Thursday.

A hot defence kept the Saints ahead in Wednesday night's game. Lynda Belisle dominating the mound with seven strikeouts. At the plate Shawn Morrison and Amanda Develin had two hits apiece.

The lead in Thursday night's game switched back and forth. Jennifer Hathaway gave the Saints inspiration with some excellent plays in left field and timely hits at the plate. While Stacey Evans' pinch hit single brought in two runners.

Unbeatable from start to finish Betz boys collect tourney top prize

There were few surprises in the outcome of the Buttermakers' annual slowpitch tournament.

Last year's runners-up, Betz Pools, took a stranglehold on the tourney from the outset and never faltered. The only team to give them a run for their money were the Ballantrae Blazers, who made them sweat more than a little before exiting 9-3 on a highly controversial call.

The Betz boys were almost automated in their dominance of the tourney. Disposing of Thornhill Thunder 23-3 in the opener, they went on to mercy Village Pools 13-3, Oshawa (Le-

asure Lanes) 12-2 and the hosting Buttermakers 6-1, before again meeting backdoor entry Oshawa in an anti-climactic 11-5 win.

The final was just a little too easy for Betz. Opening with a pair of runs they kept the opposition off the board until the fourth, when Oshawa managed to tie the score.

At the bottom of the fourth, Betz' batting order was placed for maximum effect. Bob Neely led off with a single, followed by Brian Todd, Randy Grant and Co, bringing in four runners to make it 6-2.

To all intents and purposes, the game ended in the fifth. While Oshawa made a

concerted effort to contain the relentless hitting habits of their opponents, Betz batters slugged away merrily for a five-run innings and then sat back. It was a cat-and-mouse performance of catch me if you can.

Oshawa rallied in the seventh with a three run tally, not that it served any purpose. The outcome was never in doubt.

Although no scores were posted on the main tourney board, making it difficult to find out who was doing what to whom, there were excellent performances by local teams.

The Raiders started well with two wins, dropping the Barnswallows 11-2 and Can-

nington 7-1 before losing a 4-2 decision to the Buttermakers. They were eliminated from further play after losing 3-2 in a hotly contested game against Carey Industrial.

The Buttermakers, despite having their hands full hosting the 32 team entry, managed to survive until Sunday. Despite winning four very close games they failed to make a comeback against Oshawa in the semi-final; bowing out 4-3 after nine innings.

Betz collected \$800 for their not too strenuous weekend, while runners-up Leisure Lanes collected \$400.



Happiness is an \$800 purse and an unbeaten record. Betz Pools men's slowpitch team didn't drop a game in their bid for top honors in the weekend Canada Day tournament. (back row l to r) Dave Boyd, Marvin Betz (manager and sponsor), Bill Milos, Steve Malcolm, Frank Blanchette, Cliff Lumley, Randy Grant, Blair Steel (Bat boy), Scott

Connor, Peter Evans. (Front row l to r) Paul Parson, Bob Wagg, Gary Grant, Bob Neeley, Doug Todd, Dan Wendorf and Keith Betz. Posing centre are two young fans Marcus Milos (left) and Brandon Wagg.

IN MY OPINION

BY
JIM HOLT



Congratulations all round for a well organized weekend. After seeing Eldred in knee-breeches, not to mention the stunning bevy of beautiful ladies in period costume, my cup runneth over.

Accolades also to Keith Acton and the Buttermakers. The NHL boys provided us with a super ball game and the fund-raising was very successful.

As far as the tourney itself was concerned there were few complaints, other than a couple of crucial calls that raised player's blood pressure. It is here that standards could be improved upon.

Slowpitch has become big in a very short time. Whereas a few years ago it was considered sissy stuff, played mainly by girls and school kids, it now attracts teams that verge on the professional; the Markham Tonys being a typical example.

In keeping with the games new status, officiating has more or less managed to keep pace with the demands made upon it. However, there are still a number of rulings that cause problems. I witnessed one or two bizarre calls myself over the weekend. Considering the big bucks at stake I feel the point is worth mentioning.

It would have been nice if someone on Council had made the effort to come down to the diamond and thank the Leafs for an entertaining evening. It's only a small thing I know, but I think it would have been nice to have an elected representative of the Town on hand instead of leaving everything to the organizers.

Not running.

Eldred can breathe a sigh of relief. Spoke to Bill Kamps over the weekend and asked him if there was any truth in the rumour that he might run for Mayor next year.

"No, I just haven't got the time," he said.

Pity.

High praise

People sometimes tend to be bitchy regarding the efforts of others in organized sport, especially when in direct competition; but not always. Just before going to press I received a phone call from a member of the Raiders' slowpitch team. I won't embarrass the guy by mentioning his name, but he was full of praise for the Buttermakers' tournament.

I think it's pretty nice when the competition recognizes good effort, and it's high praise indeed when it comes from a member of a team that runs a pretty good tourney of its own.

I think it's called good sportsmanship.

Leafs delight spectators

Friday night's charity ball game between the Buttermakers and the NHL All-star team brought out one of the biggest crowds on record. The event, in aid of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hospital Fund, was a huge success.

Star of the game was undoubtedly Leaf Walt Poddubny, who delighted the crowd with his powerful hitting; belting the ball out of the park for three homers and, afterwards, patiently signing autographs.

The outcome of the game was not as important as the evening's entertainment. Dressed as nurses, several young ladies passed amongst the crowd to collect nearly \$500 for the Hos-

pital Fund. The game was everything the crowd could ask for. The Leafs got under way with four runs in the first and, with the exception of the sixth, brought runners across the plate in every inning.

The only other big hit of the game came from Leaf Steve Thomas; Thomas belted a three run homer in the seventh innings to cap the Leafs 13-7 win.

Stouffville's Keith Acton switched from being a North Star to a Leaf for this game. Keith was instrumental in putting the whole thing together in the first place. He, too, spent a lot of the time signing autographs for the eager young fans.

Panthers fail in Robbie bid

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Panthers, who defeated Sudbury 4-0 in the opening round of the International Robbie Soccer Tournament and followed it up with a convincing 3-1 win over Agincourt, received a bitter blow to their hopes when they took a 2-0 against Mississauga. The game was scoreless right up until the final three minutes of play. The Panthers had their chances in the first 15 minutes of play but failed to capitalize on them.

Following their defeat by Agincourt, the Panthers

were edged 2-1 by Potomac (Maryland) in a hotly contested game.

Top striker for the Panthers was Giles Francis with four goals, while Jason Melko, Travis White and Frank Nardi were outstanding at midfield. Wes Barbour played well in defence.

According to coach Alfons Rubbens, it was the toughest competition the Panthers had encountered in some time and a great experience for the team.

Next weekend the Panthers travel to Waterloo for an International tourney



Buttermaker catcher Wayne Nugent, who also happens to be a hockey referee, found he had lots in common with Walt Poddubny. Although the 'Nuge' was slightly disappointed that nobody asked for his autograph.

Atoms consolidate league leadership

Stouffville's Atom soccer team's game plan worked perfectly against Bradford last week. Bradford, a high-scoring team with a season's record of 32 goals and one against, arrived at McNeil's field with high hopes of continuing their unbeaten record - they didn't. Stouffville, whose league record stood at 22 goals and none against were, along with Bradford, unbeaten in their three previous games. The Bradford attack fizzled from the start. Thanks to fine defensive work by

Neil Puente, Tyler Cave and Jessie Smith, the forwards were contained; allowing mid-fielders John McVarish, Jay Hause and Steve Fockler to penetrate the Bradford half. Fockler proved particularly intelligent in placing the ball.

Striker David Caramanico was well positioned to put Stouffville on the board at the six minute mark, followed by goals from Fockler and Sheridan to make it 3-0 at the half.

Goalkeeper Shawn Gilbert gave up a possible shut-out when Bradford put on

the pressure; scoring within three minutes of the kick-off.

From then on in Bradford were doomed. Fockler picked up the ball at midfield to make it 4-1 on a cannonball shot, while winger Sheridan left a trail of bewildered and frustrated defenders in his wake with two dazzling runs down the wing for a pair of beautiful goals. It was Sheridan's first hat trick of the season.

The 6-1 win consolidates Stouffville's position at the top of the league table.



Leaf Walt Poddubny proved himself a powerful hitter, bringing the crowd to its feet with three home runs in the charity ball game prior to the tournament.