



Unionville's Albright Investigation Squirts cleaned up at the Ontario softball championships last weekend. Team members include (back, left to right) Manager Robert Field, Head Coach Larry Lightfoot, Ted Wyborn, Greg Pipher, Bill Field, Jamie Burton, Mike Kingston, Assistant Coach Al Burton, (front) Mike Mitandis, Chris Stringer, Danny Cronin, Brad Griffin, Bat Boy Randy Pipher, Mike Johnstone, Andy Herrington and David Lightfoot.

Unionville boys win Ontario title

Unionville's Albright Investigation Squirts liked winning the Ontario C championship so much last year, they went out and did it again during Labor Day weekend.

The club won four games over three opponents to take the championship tournament, which was held in New Hamburg.

However, this is really the first provincial crown for most of the roster. Only Greg Pipher, Dave Lightfoot, Jamie Burton and Bill Field were left from the 1984 team.

A 13-5 annihilation of New Liskeard (located south of Timmins) started the locals on their way. Lightfoot — who also handled the pitching duties — led the offence with three hits.

Ted Wyborn, Mike Johnstone and Chris Stringer contributed a pair each. Game two was equally easy, though the score was close at first. Unionville brought home two runs in the first inning, with Kemptville doing the same in the bottom of the frame.

However, the club then blew the game open with six and seven-run innings to cement a 16-2 victory.

This time Johnstone looked after the mound duties, tossing a five-hitter. Lightfoot again led the hit parade with four, while Burton contributed three.

Pipher (including a three-run homer) and Field stroked a pair of hits each. According to coach Larry Lightfoot, the championship game was the toughest.

"But a very key game was that morning one against Garson (located near Sudbury)," he added. "By winning that

game, we were able to sit around and wait for the final. It was the turning point in the tourney."

Unionville opened the contest with three first-inning runs and never looked back, grabbing a 7-4 decision. Mike Kingston led the defence, with his sliding catch in right field stemming a possible Garson rally.

Lightfoot and Wyborn paced the offence with a pair of hits each.

In the final, the squad rallied from a sixth-inning 4-3 deficit and beat Kemptville 5-4.

Andy Herrington started the rally with a single. Field singled to advance him to third base, then Lightfoot brought him home with the tying run on a single.

Greg Pipher won the game with a homer in the bottom of the seventh inning. Burton and Field slugged two hits apiece.

Coach Lightfoot said he "wasn't surprised" with his team's triumph.

"We've been playing very well in the last 1½ months," he pointed out. "If you'd asked me a few months ago I wouldn't have been so sure (about our ability to win the title again). But we've improved a lot."

Unionville plays a disciplined style with a reliance on key hits (including bunts) and smart base running, the coach explained.

"We're a very good defensive team too, so if we stick to our style we're usually successful."

And in case anyone wants to dispute that assessment, all Lightfoot has to do is point to the results.

Unionville boy 'barefooting' it

By FRANCIS KING
Sports Editor

When students at the new Unionville High School relate their summer activities, most will talk about trips to the cottage, or playing soccer and softball.

Most of them won't even believe what Ken Harper has been up to. But fortunately, there are photographs to prove that he's a barefoot skier — and a good enough one to win a trophy at his first competition.

The 13-year-old Briarwood resident took up the relatively new (and little-known) sport four years ago after watching father Jim, 43, perform.

Since then Ken has surpassed his father and is so good at doing the tricks of the sport that he had to compete in the Advanced Men's division at the Barefoot Challenge.

That competition, held recently at Chandos Lake in the Kawarthas resort region, saw Harper finish second out of 10 barefoot skiers. One of the opponents he beat out was a competitor in this year's Canadian Championships.

"We really didn't know what to expect when we went to this thing," said Jim, who serves as Ken's coach. "We just planned to go with tricks Ken had been consistent with. Next year he'll use some more difficult moves."

Ken went into the sport "mainly because my father was doing it. Barefoot skiing is exciting. It's something to reach goals with."

But what about the better-known, older sport of water-skiing?

"He does it, but his first love is barefooting," Jim explained.

"Barefooting is more challenging," Ken added. "It's harder because the skis are bigger than your feet (so there's less control). You have to have some concentration on the tracks."

Ken started the sport without much knowledge of what was involved.

"I didn't know there were any tricks until I went to a show. Then I bought some magazines and used the tips they had."

In addition, said Jim, "we must admit Ken spent a week training in Florida with Mike Seipel, the world champion barefoot skier. They (the instructors) think he has a lot of potential."

Indeed he does. Harper fearlessly does a variety of stunts, including backwards skiing and performing on one leg.

One thing Ken is not worried about is injuries, among them the risk of suffering whiplash if he falls while barefooting backwards.



Ken Harper and his first trophy

"You have to know how to fall," said Jim. "It's a little difficult in the early stages. You learn by trial and error."

He also stressed "it's important to wear the right equipment, and to ski with people who are properly trained."

The 'right equipment' is basically a special protective suit with a price tag that starts at \$300. The sport also requires a boat with enough power to haul a skier along at about 35 mph.

With Ken's talents (he was the youngest skier in the Barefoot Challenge), the teen has set up some lofty ambitions.

"I'm going to try and go to the Canadian Nationals," he began. "If I finish in the top 10 there, I can go to the world championships with the Canadian team."

Meanwhile, there's the more immediate goal of gaining more expertise in the sport through another session in Florida.

"All I want him to do is have fun," said Jim, who used the same philosophy in coaching Unionville select hockey teams. "My approach is not to push Ken. If he wants to progress, he'll progress."

And progress he will especially with the goals he's set and is seriously pursuing.



Unionville's Ken Harper creates a blast of white water as he barefoot waterskis behind his parents' boat. Harper hopes to eventually compete in both the Canadian and World championships.

Susan Armstrong

Uxbridge Jr. C tryouts

Uxbridge's Junior C Bruins hockey team begins try-outs for the 1985-86 campaign on Monday, Sept. 9.

Registration starts at 8 p.m. in Uxbridge Arena, Centre Road. Players are eligible up to age 20.

The Bruins will compete in the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League along

with clubs from Bowmanville, Little Britain, Port Perry, Port Hope, Lindsay, Lakefield and Cobourg.

Uxbridge's season opens Oct. 18 with a contest against defending league champion Bowmanville Eagles.

For more information contact coach Randy Hall at 852-7404.