

Weekender Sports

Sports
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BBS captures Unionville title



Who says Men's house league slowpitch isn't competitive? Here, Neil Downs of Capricorn Pools has a determined look as he attempts a slide into third base during Tuesday's Unionville Men's Slowpitch League championships. BBS Electric third baseman Chris Sylvester might have made the out, but couldn't hang onto the ball. BBS took the title with a 19-10 triumph. — Sjoerd Witteveen

Not even the Toronto Blue Jays could overcome the sort of deficit that eventually doomed Capricorn Pools in Tuesday night's Unionville Men's Slowpitch League championships.

Capricorn found itself behind 10-1 after two innings and never caught up, dropping a 19-10 decision to BBS Electric. The contest took place at Crosby Park.

Barry McKean came home to put Capricorn — the visiting club — ahead 1-0 in the top of the first frame. But in the bottom of the inning Keith MacAllister, Gary Grant, Chris Sylvester, Bill Fleming, George Hassard and Ed Markson all crossed the plate for BBS, which moved it ahead 6-1.

Things went from bad to worse for Capricorn afterwards. MacAllister, Tom Edward, Dave Gilmore and Gary Hill all scored in the third, while Capricorn went down 1-2-3.

Sylvester scored in the third for BBS, then Hill and Bill Rodman came home in

the fourth. Meanwhile, after coming up with nothing in the third, Mike Avey, Neil Downs and Barry Townsend crossed the plate for Capricorn to close the gap to 11-4.

Capricorn retired the side in the fifth and scored once on its own (Garry Mulholland coming home). Barry McKean crossed the plate in the seventh, with eighth-inning runs coming from Bob Bell, Jim Spalla, Jimmy Guest and Sid Cucini.

But it was too little, too late. BBS had already put the contest out of reach, thanks to a five-run seventh inning. MacAllister and Hill (with their third runs of the game), Grant, Doug Carter and Gil Scott did the damage.

Also on the BBS roster is Al Burton. Others on the Capricorn squad include Bernie Anderson, Barry Hitchman and Al Clyne.

The league's consolation title went to George Minor Insurance, which knocked off Kemac Pools 14-3.

Stouffville gains 2 ties

Betz Pool Clipper Oldtimers opened their season last weekend with three games in the Epson Tournament in Scarborough.

The hockey squad tied two matches and lost the third, which eliminated the men from further play.

Stouffville evened the scoring with Pickering Pro Sports in the opener, 1-1. Bob McKinnon prevented the loss with a last-minute goal. Terry Weatherill earned the

assist and Keith Betz played a strong game between the pipes.

The Clippers tied St. Benedicts 1-1 in game two. McKinnon again slapped home Stouffville's lone marker, with Steve Ellis assisting.

A 2-1 loss to the Canada Transport Relics in round three eliminated Stouffville. McKinnon scored his third goal in as many games on a perfect pass from Bill "Pee Wee" Corner.

Markham man a racing buff

By FRANCIS KING
Sports Editor

You've just gotta envy Markham's Gary McArthur.

The 31-year-old McCowan Rd. resident has pulled off one of those ultimate job accomplishments: turning his 4x4 truck racing and exhibiting hobby into part of his duties at Markville Toyota.

But pulling this off didn't require a lot of cajoling or arm-twisting with McArthur's bosses. In fact, it was Dave Lalonde and Don Lloyd who convinced him to enter the sport two years ago.

"They're the instigators of it," said McArthur in a recent interview. "They got me involved with 4x4 truck racing and I've been on my way ever since."

Lalonde and Lloyd went out of their way to get him going, supplying a stock Toyota pickup (sponsored by Service Tire, Stu's Tire & Auto Center, A&R Collision and B.F. Goodrich) then encouraging McArthur to set up a local racing club.

So far such an organization has yet to be created.

"I'm very interested in setting it up," McArthur explained. "I've made a couple of attempts in our advertisements, but I haven't received much response. So maybe this article will help."

Meanwhile, he went ahead and organized the Markville Toyota Truck Show contest last month.

The event involved various classes of show competitions and "took a lot of preparation. We had to organize the food and entertainment, and get a hold of some celebrities. (But it) came off really, really well."

McArthur has also exhibited his truck and others in competitions at last year's Buttonville Airport "Air Fair", and at the Speedorama held at the Markham Fairgrounds. He also won the people's choice award at the '84 Canadian National Exhibition Speedorama.

And his final project is helping to organize a major York Region off-road race for next Fall. Things are still in the pre-

liminary planning stage, but McArthur says that a major manufacturer has already agreed to sponsor it.

When he first jumped into the 4x4 sports world, McArthur recalled that he "expected to be more-or-less there on a display basis, rather than racing."

It obviously hasn't worked out that way, but you won't hear him complaining. McArthur has participated in about 15 races, finishing no worse than third in any of them.

"It's exhilarating," he said, explaining the attraction. "Once you do it, the racing gets in your blood and you want to do it again and promote it."

McArthur's latest competition was during the Labor Day weekend, where he grabbed a pair of firsts. All this success has given him top spot — so far, anyway — in the Ontario Four-Wheel Drive Racer's Association Men's stock obstacle racing standings.

And since last season was more-or-less just a tester year, this campaign is his first in that category.

All these strong finishes "are probably from the support I get from the people I've met," McArthur explained. "And I guess I learn from trial-and-error, too."

But what about the danger factor? Is there a good chance of cracking one's skull open in a metal-twisting collision?

"Four-by-four racing is safer than driving in the street because of the way the vehicles are built," he replied. "I've never seen a guy hurt, even though they're driving more than 100 miles-per-hour over very rough terrain. But you really have to have your wits about you when you're racing."

"My truck is not built for wheel-to-wheel racing," he pointed out. "And in Canada there aren't enough drivers to fill that class. But if there were more vehicles, we could put together a race. And I'd eventually like to get into that, providing my employers can be talked into it. It's really good publicity."



Gary McArthur shows off his 4x4 stock racing truck after one of his recent competitions left it somewhat dirty. McArthur has been remarkably successful at the sport, despite being in it only two years. He's also won several exhibition awards. — Francis King