

Bantam team
vs. Aurora
July 31st

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Ballantrae resident Keith Brettell shows off his winning style. He was chosen first alternate on the Canadian team for the World Youth Games for the Physically Disabled.

—Cathy Carter

Ballantrae's Keith Brettell Wheelchair athlete aims for world meet

By CATHY CARTER
Ballantrae athlete Keith Brettell has a chance of a lifetime within his reach. Keith has been chosen as the first alternate to the Canadian team competing in the first World Youth Games for the Physically Disabled next month in Nottingham, England.

As an alternate, this 15-year-old will only make the trip if one of the other athletes can't attend.

It's a frustrating position, but Keith remains hopeful. "There's always next year," he said.

Keith competes in swimming, weightlifting, wheelchair racing, archery and some field events. The determined youth spends a great deal of time training, but it all pays off in the end.

From July 14th to 17th, Keith participated in a swimming workshop in Winnipeg with 15 others. The youths were trained by some of the national swimming coaches.

Although the workshop was good experience for him, the time he spent in the pool took away from the time available for Keith to train for a July 19-20 track and field competition.

"Spending so much time in the pool really softened up my hands," he says. So what's the problem? To race in a wheelchair, his hands must do all the work. Soft hands mean blisters.

Despite a less than ideal training period, Keith entered the National Capital Track and Field Meet. In the 1,500-metre wheelchair race, he bettered his personal record by 20 seconds. Although he came fourth in the race, Keith was very pleased and more determined than ever.

"I'm not up there with the big guys yet," he said. "But when I get my new chair, who knows?"

In a recent weightlifting competition in Windsor, Keith came second by lifting 200 pounds. His personal best is 205 pounds.

Keith has also entered several 10-kilometre wheelchair races. On June 7th, he placed second in the Variety Village competition and on May 25th he raised \$516 in the Easter Seals race.

Because there are not yet junior standards and classes in disabled athletics, Keith must compete against men much stronger and older than himself. Although it is a disadvan-

tage in many ways, it gives him something to strive for.

"I had a really good year at school," the soon-to-be grade 9 student said.

Keith won awards for public speaking during his grade 8 year at Ballantrae Public School. He also won an award of excellence in the Canada Fitness program.

"I'm not the only athlete in my family," he said. Jeff, 14, also won the award of excellence and received his athletic letter at Ballantrae. Jeff was also voted Athlete of the Year at school.

Keith enjoys working on the lawn at his family's home and looking after the plants. The brothers have started a small business (Brettell Landscaping) to earn some extra spending money.

"Future plans? 'I'd like to get into the recreation and fitness field when I finish school,'" said Keith.

"On Monday Keith leaves for two weeks at Camp Killcoo in Haliburton. As part of the camp program, he'll be going on canoeing, out-trips. "I'm not going without my fishing rod and my camera," Keith said enthusiastically.

Stockcar driver enjoys taking on the big boys

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Peter Gibbons likes his newfound role as an underdog stockcar driver challenging the "big boys" of U.S. auto racing.

This weekend at Cayuga Speedway, the 24-year-old Stouffville-area resident is looking to improve on a brief yet impressive stint on the highly-competitive American Stockcar Association (ASA) circuit.

Back on home turf after recent ASA races in Milwaukee (where he placed 12th) and Oswego, N.Y. (15th), Gibbons will be going head-to-head with the likes of 'Million Dollar' Bill Elliott in the Molson Export 300. Qualifying goes Saturday with the race set for Sunday (Aug. 3).

"Just to finish in the top 10 is good," the newcomer says of ASA racing, where superstars like Bobby Allison and Darrell Waltrip rocket around super speedways at 180 miles per hour. "They're 100 per cent better (than others I've raced against). There are probably 10 of these guys who

just do it for a living. All they do is race."

Though slowed down by some crashes earlier in the season, the young driver is apparently on track. He stayed near the front of the pack last weekend at Oswego until his car's oil line blew, costing him 45 laps.

Gibbons, who grew up at Musselman's Lake and now lives with his family on Conc. 2 in Uxbridge Twp., has been racing since 1982 when he was named top rookie stocker (amateur) at Sunset Speedway.

He's entering his \$145,000 Iroc Camaro in five ASA races — among other series events — this season, enabling him to retain his rookie status on the full 19-event ASA tour in 1987.

After a rapid four-year progression up the racing ladder, he can't wait to reach what most experts view as the pinnacle of professional stockcar racing — the Grand Nationals.

"I just want to go there as soon as possible," Gibbons noted, even

though "I'll always be running on a tighter budget than some of the other Grand National racers... Money is the name of the game there."

Corporate sponsorship, according to his Whitchurch-Stouffville manager, Ed Hakonson, will play a key role in the driver's future. "We're negotiating with a major sponsor and, in order to satisfy (that sponsor), we have to run with a number one car," he explained. "And a number one car costs \$45,000."

Added Hakonson: "We can compete on the super speedways better with this car and that's why Peter decided to make the move."

The Gibbons Racing Team is presently relying on several smaller backers, like Fulton Enterprises, to help meet weekly costs exceeding \$1,000.

A full-time move to the ASA next year will require a cash outlay of at least \$100,000, said Gibbons, including a new car and engine.



Stouffville-area stockcar driver Peter Gibbons (right) and his 1986 Iroc Camaro will challenge auto racing greats like Bill Elliott this weekend at Cayuga Speedway near Hamilton. His pit crew for the Molson

Export 300 includes (from left) father George Gibbons, Jason Hopkins, newly-appointed crew chief, Dom Faria, Tony Cabral and team manager Ed Hakonson. —Chris Shanahan

New track plan in works

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
A new motor speedway proposal is in the works for the Stouffville area, The Tribune has learned.

A group of three businessmen — two of whom are from Whitchurch-Stouffville — is investigating the possibility of developing a full-scale motor park including a racing oval, dragstrip, off-road course and motorcycle roadracing track.

A potential 300-acre site has been located on the border between Stouffville and Uxbridge Twp., according to one of the proponents.

Plans are still in the early stages and a more detailed proposal is expected to be finalized in the next couple of months, he said.

The Stouffville-based project rivals another track project initiated by Stouffville Motor Speedways Developments.

Following Council's rejection of one Whitchurch-Stouffville site

(Hwy. 48 and Bloomington Road) earlier this year, that company is now seeking another speedway location somewhere north-east of Metro Toronto.

Both groups feel the area is ready for such a venture in light of the highly successful Molson Indy auto race held recently in Toronto.

Team leader

Blair Steel, centrefield rover for the Stouffville 'Legion' Bantams, cracked two singles and drove in three runs, leading his team to a 5-2 victory over Port Perry, Thursday night.

The contest was a preview of an upcoming zone playoff between the two clubs. The winner will advance to a round-robin OASA playdowns at Wingham on the Labor Day weekend.

The free-standing outfielder singled in team-mate Scott Evans in the third inning, then scored Chris Burkholder and Evans again with a solid single in the third. He was left stranded on the sacks both times.

Steel also enjoyed a fine defensive contest. His best grab of the night came on a drive by Port Perry's Keith Roberge. The one-handed catch brought cheers from the crowd.

Chris Burkholder wielded Stouffville's other hot bat. He clouted a one-run double in the sixth and a single in the third. Rob Parcels continued his recent torrid pace at the plate with a hit in two trips. Evans collected Stouffville's other safety, also a single.

Evans scattered five hits over the seven innings. He retired the Port Perry side in order in the fourth.

Brad Bricknell went the distance on the visitors' hill.

Third-sacker Jim Vernon touched Evans for Port Perry's only extra-base blow, a one-run triple in the sixth. He was left stranded when the next two batters were retired, Darrell Leath-erdale via the strike-out route and John Rankin, pitcher to first.

Port Perry committed several costly errors, five in total. Two of

the miscues occurred in the fourth but no runners scored.

In spite of the heat, Evans was in top form on the Stouffville mound. He walked only two batters. Only in the 6th did he appear to weaken. He came back strongly, however, in the seventh. Jason Yashida completed the battery.

The Legion squad had an excellent opportunity to pad their lead when they loaded up the sacks in the sixth with only one out. Three runners were left stranded.

Next Thursday, (July 31), Aurora comes to Stouffville for an 8:30 game. The following Thursday, (Aug. 7), Port Perry is back in town for the second game of the zone playoffs.

Ladies' Fun League

Stouffville Ladies' Fun League softball scores, July 22: Canadian Tire beat Magna Concord 20-17. Homeruns for Doreen Ertl of Magna; Joan Robson and Leslie Broadford of Canadian Tire.

Fletcher defeated The Greens 22-20. For the Greens, homeruns by Lynne Huskisson and Irene VanVliet; for Fletcher's, homers by Ann Spice, Sue McDowell, Kathleen Ortlieb, Robin Arenburg(2), and Jan Blacktopp with three, including the winning run.

McNeil Pharmaceutical narrowly topped Lee Sand and Gravel 21-20. Homeruns by Barb Coxworth, Laurie Rugelis and Brenda Hollands for Lee Sand. McNeil homers by Laura Duguid and Pauline Miller. Six RBIs, two doubles and one triple by Bev Yates.

Golf update

Attention participants in the second annual Markham Stouffville Hospital golf tournament: If you don't want to walk Stouffville's 5,800-yard Sleepy Hollow course, then phone ahead now about reserving an electric cart.

The number is 640-2426, and the cart rental fee is \$21.40 (tax included). So far more than 100 of the \$100 tickets have been sold and paid for. Another 20 have been vouchered for, leaving a few still for sale.

Those interested in golfing in the Aug. 15 tourney, or in buying \$40 dinner tickets, should contact Francis King or Bruce Anan at 294-2200.

Toronto fastball club Bandits' latest victim

Toronto's Armour Sports is the River Valley Bandits' latest victim in men's fastball play.

The Uxbridge-based club — which also features players from Goodwood and Claremont — downed Armour 5-2 Sunday to defend the championship of its own 15-team weekend tournament.

Claremont-Markham Blues edged Bell Canada Angels 3-2 in the consolation final.

The strong pitching arms of Dave Jackson, Russ Hyde and

Daryl Norton paced the Bandits to an undefeated tourney record and a \$485 prize.

Hyde tossed the final win, with the save going to Norton, while Jackson was a tower of power on the mound in his club's first two triumphs.

After enjoying an opening round bye, River Valley sprung into action Saturday afternoon and blanked Udora Shamrocks 4-0.

On Sunday morning, the tour-

ney hosts disposed of an Aurora entry enroute to the final.

The Bandits, known in past seasons as Goodwood-Uxbridge Auto Wreckers, are a 1986 front-runner in the North Durham Men's Fastball League.

Other team members are George Harris (captain), Ron McDonald, Brian Miller, Jamie Miller, Mike Kelland, Randy Hall, Adam Young, Don Ferguson, Butch Metterall (coach) and Steve Yake (manager).

Claremont peewees know how to win

The team that won't be beat, can't be beat.

The Claremont Peewee club obviously live by this rule. They proved it last week.

Trailing Port Perry 7-0 after 1 1/2 innings in Zone Playoffs, John Vanderligt's boys came off the ropes to edge the Scugog Twp. visitors 11-10.

Mike McKenzie romped home with the game-winner on a bunt single by catcher Brett Yoshida. Two successive infield errors allowed McKenzie to reach first safely and later score.

The Claremont victory along

with an earlier 18-8 win in the series' opener, knocked Port Perry out of contention. Claremont now advances against Unionville.

The contest was a nail-biter for Claremont fans who saw their favorites fall seven runs behind, then rally with 4 in the second; 1 in the third; 2 in the fourth; 3 in the sixth and 1 in the seventh.

David Jones, batting eighth in the Claremont order, tore the cover off the ball with two singles and a triple. He counted two of his team's 11 tallies.

Yoshida also wielded a big bat

with three hits, all singles. Jason Underwood belted a two-run triple in the sixth and a single in the fourth. Mike McKenzie powered a two-run homer against the left-field fence. Chris Hall and Darrell Vanderligt were the other single-sackers.

McKenzie started on the Claremont mound with Mike Feasby throwing in relief. McKenzie was clipped for ten hits in four innings. Feasby fired a stingy one-hitter in three.

Claremont's chances looked grim when Port Perry collected

four runs in the first and added three more in the second. Coach Vanderligt made a smart defensive move when he sent Feasby to the hill in the fifth Claremont trailing 10-7. The windmill right-hander shut down the opposition with a superb performance. Only one batsman reached third base.

It was Underwood's triple in the sixth that pulled Claremont to within one. The Claremont shortstop later scored the tying tally on an infield RBI by Feasby. This set the stage for McKenzie to complete the circuit on two errors and Yoshida's bunt single.