

Betz Pools ball team loses ace Jim Chilvers

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Despite the fact ace hurler Jimmy Chilvers has gone off in search of loftier heights, the Betz Pools Senior 'B' men's fastball team is hopeful they can regain the magic that saw them capture the Intermediate provincial title in 1987.

Jim will throw his devastating assortment of dropballs, curves and changeups for the hi-tech, star-studded Scarborough Ambassadors this season, a big budget club which routinely sends a half dozen players to the Canadian national fastball team each year.

"We're going to miss Jimmy," admits sponsor Marvin Betz. "But I don't blame him. It's his shot at the big time. We're sorry

he's going, but we'll still field a good ball club. Everyone's committed to going for the Senior 'B' championships."

Taking Jim's spot in the lineup will be a 24-year-old Markham resident who made a lasting impression on the Betz squad when they faced him in the Bulova tournament two years ago.

Darryl Moxley, a right-handed flame thrower, beat the Betz boys 1-0 in extra innings in the tourney finals. Betz head coach Dave Webster, who, ironically, coached Darryl that season, claims the pitcher has the potential to be a super star.

"Darryl can be as effective as Jim," he says of the new recruit, who threw for a Buffalo team last season. "He could be one of the

best pitchers in Canada if he puts his mind to it. He throws hard. His ball goes down, a dive pitch."

Betz have also added a highly touted shortstop to the roster. Chris Jones, a 21-year-old who played for the Oshawa Juniors last year, is regarded as a ringer by Webster.

"We played against him several times last season. The kid's incredible. I just can't say enough about him."

Returning from last year's team will be the other two-thirds of the coaching triumvirate: Wayne Allen and Pete Sander-son, as well as Randy Grant, Steve Schell, George Burkholder, Mark Fockler, Doug MacMillan, Gary Vaughan, John Tait, and John Annis, the crafty veteran

right hander, that Marvin's so high on.

"He's a good guy. He's been around ball a long time, and has a lot of enthusiasm. He uses his head."

Bruce Beare and Steve Brooks will be missing, while Brad Vaughan and Gary Grant aren't committed.

The new season will bring with it a new arrangement whereby teams in the Oshawa and District league, where Betz played last season, will play an interlocking schedule with a six-team Richmond Hill loop.

"We were unhappy with last year's schedule," Marvin admits. "There were too few teams. This way, it will be more interesting for the players and the

fans. We'll be playing against York, Sundance, the reigning Senior 'B' champions. And we'll also be playing the Ambassadors in a challenge match once or twice."

The Betz unit will host this year's OASA Senior 'B' championship tournament, to be held at Memorial Park Labor Day weekend. Marvin says he likes this arrangement for a number of reasons.

"As host team, we are automatically in the tournament for the provincial championship. And it's much better to have the tourney on a long weekend, so that more of our players are in a position to make it. Last year, it was held on the weekend after Labor Day in Belleville, and five

of our regulars couldn't attend."

Marvin claims his team was asked to play in the same league as the Ambassadors, but decided against it because of extra travel.

Jim, he says, may still pitch some games for the Pools platoon during the regular season.

Marvin also wants to see his team enter the running for the province's Senior 'A' championship tournament, though he realizes it will probably be an also-ran.

"I don't expect to win. But we should make a good showing. That's the kind of team we hope to have."

The season begins in mid-May, with home games again on Wednesday nights.

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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, April 5, 1989

Dagmar closes after successful but mild winter

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Despite a winter that just couldn't make up its mind, the Dagmar Ski Resort managed to hold its own.

"It was a difficult season," concedes owner Gabor Martin. "But we came out okay."

According to Martin, the mild again, cold winter made it impossible for the facility to build any real momentum.

"We were saved by our snow-making equipment. In fact, many of our customers asked us how we did it. There would be no snow visible in town, yet we had a good base."

He claims 101 days of skiing at Dagmar this season, an increase from last year's total of 97. However, the overall number of skiers was down.

"I don't remember one day this year we were really crowded."

He says Good Friday was the busiest day of the season, due to the snowstorm of the previous week.

"It was sunny and cold that day, flawless conditions. But by the end of the weekend the temperature was 30 degrees."

However, his cross country skiing operation was all but wiped out.

"We were open only 12 days in total. We didn't make a cent. The busiest weekend was just before Easter."

Martin says the day is fast approaching when the Resort will be able to offer a year-round attraction.

"We've been talking about having something in the summer for

some time now. But it would take close to a million dollars to do it."

Possibilities include the installation of a huge water slide.

"It's an expensive idea," Martin admits. "You're looking at an investment of around \$450 thousand to purchase it, plus installation. But the places that have them are packed, such as Ontario Place and Wasaga Beach."

At present, the Resort hosts several weddings, along with various conventions, during the summer months, but he concedes it's simply something to keep them busy.

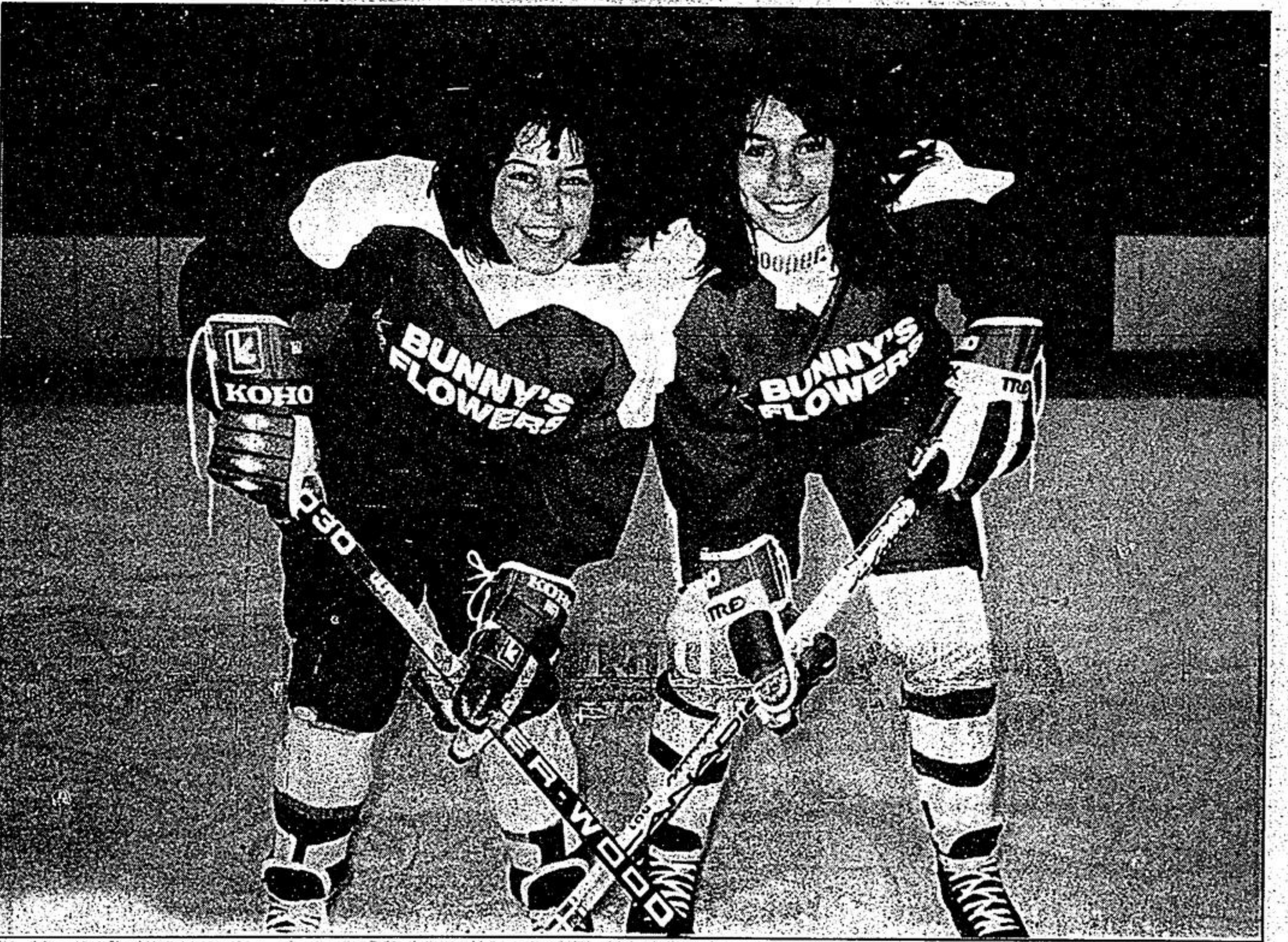
"You need to offer something for the people to do, like Pleasure Valley next door. I plan to take a good look at it this summer. I never do anything without doing a thorough study first."

Martin admits it would be very logical to come up with a summer program for Dagmar in that the Resort has developed a big following. That, plus the problem of having to rehire employees each fall, have made the expansion a top priority.

"The place is well known. It would only take a few years to get it going. Now, we have to let most of our employees go at the end of each season. It would be good to be able to keep them year-round."

Knowing the way Martin operates, it should be just a matter of time before his Dagmar Ski Resort has solved the problem of what to do each summer.

"I'll never sit still, that's for sure," he insists.



Two of the reasons for the success of Bunny's Flowers Atom girls hockey team this year are the Comito sisters. Samantha, at left, and Julia Comito have led their team all season, and neither Stouffville girl wants to see the year end, especially with the success they have experienced. Father Damian Comito says the two are avid sports fans.

Samantha and Julia Comito

Hockey girls wish season would never end

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Ask Julia and Samantha Comito to pose for a photograph in their jockey togs and the smile on their faces says it all.

The dynamic duo are a good part of the reason why the Bunny's Flowers Atom girls house league team is sporting a healthy 14-1-5 record in league play. And the Comito girls are enjoying every minute of it.

"I wish it would go on forever," replies Julia when asked if she feels the season has gone on long enough already. Julia, at 11 years of age the senior of the siblings, has just registered her 23rd tally of the campaign, the game winner, scored with only 26 seconds left on the clock.

Julia is into her second year of hockey, having made her debut with the Mites house league last

year. And as well as leading her Bunny's team to the finals this year, she will also go to Brampton in mid-April with the Stouffville Atom girls team, that will compete for the provincial title.

Samantha, a 10-year-old first-year player, was happy to count six goals this year, but she is showing signs that she'll be right up there with her sister eventually.

"She's improved a lot," enthuses her father, Damian Comito. "She's very enthusiastic."

Both girls claim to be sports lovers, playing rep level softball in the summer and enjoying floor hockey at St. Mark's School, which they both attend. And when they are not playing hockey on ice, they are often found in the unfinished basement of their Stouffville home firing pucks against the wall. "Of course," insists Damian, "Once I finish the basement that will have to end."

Damian, who plays in both the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League and the Markham Men's Recreational Hockey League, is one of the battery of coaches who have done so much to promote the girls and their talent in the town's girls hockey program.

It was he who suggested to Julia that she get involved initially. "Julia just came to the arena one day and saw the girls playing," recalls Damian. "I asked her if she would like to play."

Damian reports that Julia's progress has been a delight to behold. "She's starting to stickhandle well and her shot is starting to rise. It's one of the best in the league. She's also starting to carry the puck better."

Damian notes that Julia's improvement has simply mirrored the overall talent increase in the

Co-ed Spartans bring home brass

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans co-ed volleyball team took its act on the road this weekend and wound up bringing home some of the hardware.

Playing two tournaments in two days, the Spartans captured the consolation round in Friday's competition put on by the University of Guelph. They took their first six games in Saturday's tournament, also in Guelph, but were edged by Galt in the quarter-final.

On Friday, the Spartans split games with Georgetown, Ancaster, Grand River and Port Dover to place third in their pool. They faced Markham for the consolation title and, after losing the first match 13-15, came back to edge them 15-12, 15-13 for the consolation win.

Karsten Henze was the big man for the Spartans, setting up and hitting with authority. Wallace Barbour, Don Clearwater and Colin McLean were also steady.

The female contingent of Leslie Snooks, Lisa Weatherill and Debbie Chilvers were particularly impressive, according to coach Jim Fletcher. "The girls really started to bump the ball as the day went on. They started to return hard shots that the boys on the other team were hitting."

On Saturday, the Spartans breezed past Clarkson, Elgin and Delhi, taking all six contests. But a pair of losses to Leamington left them second in their pool.

The Spartans then went down to defeat to Galt 13-15, 9-15 in the quarter-finals, though coach Fletcher was not disappointed. "Galt is a Triple A team and we are only Double A. They are a great team."



Skating success story

Stephanie Barclay has achieved what just one in 30,000 figure skaters will accomplish in their lifetime. The Stouffville Skating Club member successfully completed her third Gold Dance, the Viennese Dance, in a test day held on Saturday at the Stouffville Recreation Centre. The award is the highest that can be garnered by a figure skater at the local level, and few achieve the honor. Stephanie's mother, Jean, was also a prominent figure skater for Stouffville in her day, and later went on to instruct at the club. The family lives on Cemetery Lane in Stouffville.