

# Marvin Betz is no George Steinbrenner

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Marvin Betz sits in the executive office of the swimming pool operation bearing his name, exchanges a few good-natured insults with an employee wielding a paint brush, then starts talking about his pride and joy.

The Betz Pools Senior 'B' men's fastball team he brought into existence two years ago is hoping to get back on track this season after being hit with the old Sophomore jinx in 1988. Winners of the OASA Intermediate crown their first year out, the Pools platoon went up a notch to Senior 'B' their second season, only to have the wheels fall off the cart.

"We believe we have a shot at the Senior 'B' championship," he says, buoyed by the same pre-season optimism that turns grown men into excited little boys at spring training camps in Florida each spring.

"Last year, we were inconsistent, and had some personality problems. This year we hope to treat the fans to some exciting ball."

Marvin, as Stouffville's only



**Sport notes**  
**Bruce Stapley**

glamour team sponsor, naturally draws the occasional remark likening him to George Steinbrenner, the temperamental despot who runs the New York Yankees baseball team the same way the old slave drivers used to operate the plantations in the deep south.

And while he feels the comparison is more than a little bit unwarranted, he's not afraid to admit he is a hands-on type of investor.

"I don't mind being profiled," he says, "And no, I'm not just like any other sponsor. I'm involved with the team to a significant degree. I work with the guys, and we make decisions."

"I created this team. I love it. I want to win, to play hard, and go up against good competition. You

can be very competitive and have fun too."

And seeing as it's his money that is making the whole thing fly, he feels it's only natural he would want to make sure it's being spent to the greatest advantage, for both the team, and for his company.

"It's my advertising dollar. I want it to be a good team."

"I go to all the home games, and a lot of the away games."

And the bottom line is, he wants the whole thing to be an attraction that goes far beyond the more restricted fan appeal offered by the Town's minor softball program.

"I want to see the stands filled with people."

To that end, Marvin isn't above spending a few bucks on bells and whistles to add a little pizzazz to an already colorful event. The electronic scoreboard with the eight-tune repertoire will sport lights this season.

The 50-50 draw will continue to offer fans the chance to take home extra grocery money, as well as a lawn umbrella, sports

paraphernalia, or a case of pop.

While Marvin may be willing to open the purse to promote his team, he draws the line at dangling financial incentives to allure out-of-town hot shots to put on a Betz uniform. There are said to be teams, at least at the Senior 'A' level of ball, who lavish "honorariums," some as high as \$20,000 to entice star players.

Marvin insists, however, he doesn't go that route, though he will bring in players from other towns to strengthen his lineup. He wants to field a team made up of as many home grown ball players as he can find; guys who just want to play as a hobby.

"We're still trying to keep the local flavor, while supplementing it with guys from around the region."

And he has succeeded in landing hosting rights for the Ontario Amateur Softball Association Senior 'B' championship tournament, to be held at Memorial Park this coming Labor Day weekend.

Which guarantees both fan in-

terest, as well as a spot in the

tourney for the host Betz team. Add to that a hoped-for appearance in the province's Senior 'A' tournament, as well as the

new regular season alignment

that will see the Betz team interlock with a Richmond Hill loop, and it looks like a hot summer down at the old ball park.

## Benefit to aid injured athlete

Sports celebrities from hockey, track and field, gymnastics, curling, and horse racing have agreed to come out to aid injured athlete Kurt Gengenbach at Markham's Sports Celebrity Dinner and Silent Auction May 4.

Don Cherry, Eddie Shack, Syl Apps, Frank Mahovlich and Billy Harris will represent the hockey world. Elfie Schlegel, Paul Savage and Sandy Hawley will be among the sports stars from gymnastics, curling and horse racing. Over 20 celebrities in all will attend.

Markham resident Bill Crothers, an Olympic silver medallist in the 800-metre distance, has a particular reason for supporting Kurt's fund-raising dinner. Crothers was on hand to present Kurt with his trophy and medal for winning the 10-kilometre run at the Unionville

Festival in 1987. Gengenbach has been competing in Festival races since 1982, winning his age division almost every time.

A gifted athlete and student, Kurt dreamed of earning a hockey scholarship to university in the United States. A hockey accident in January has altered this dream. Kurt's spinal cord was damaged when he slid into the boards during a Midget game.

Gengenbach's friends and neighbors, as well as community groups and business leaders, have organized the sports celebrity dinner to raise \$150,000 towards Kurt's recuperation expenses.

Tickets for the \$100-per-person dinner are still available from Fred Cox (477-2677), Glenn Crosby (477-0366) or Beth McDowell (477-4137).

## Bunny's continues to dominate Atom league

In Atom Division play, Bunny's Flowers continued their winning streak as goalie Cheryl Norton chalked up her second shutout in as many weeks.

Laura Winterstein notched both goals for Bunny's with Patricia Davis earning an assist.

Sheri Bearden stopped several good chances by the Bunny's to keep the score at 2-0.

Tavannah Herman, Krista Dudley, Millisa Dawson, Shyla Brennan, Jill Villeneuve and Kristi Ingram all played excellent hockey, but could not get MPH Earthmoving on the scoreboard. Lindsay Upton played a superb game on defence.

In the second Atom game, George Ross knocked over a short-handed Stouffville Bowling team by a score of 4-1.

In the first period, Jennifer Turner gave the Ross team a 1-0 lead, assisted by Stephanie Summerhill.

Early in period two Leandre Forsyth put Ross two up with Nicole Bardell assisting. Two minutes later Allison MacDonald made a good rush for the Bowling team to give her team its lone goal. Nicki Robinson drew an assist.

Late in the period Turner notched her second of the night to give the Ross team a commanding 3-1 lead, assisted by Kirsten Fraser.

Kim Maschke put the game away with a goal in the third period as she scored for the Ross team with Bardell assisting.

### At Conlin the



# QUALITY

## Shows!



**USED VEHICLES...**  
High quality,  
low prices



 <p><b>1987 CHEVROLET SPRINT 2 DR.</b> 5 sp., AM/FM cassette. Only 29,000 kms. Fun to drive coupled with great fuel economy. #174051A.</p> <p><b>\$6,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1984 CUTLASS SUPREME BRGHM. 4 DR.</b> Lots of room for the family. V8, air, auto, two-tone paint. Rally wheels &amp; more. #0933A.</p> <p><b>\$7,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1985 BUICK CENTURY LTD.</b> Luxury appointed &amp; a pleasure to drive including 6 cyl., auto, air and much, much more. #1373A.</p> <p><b>\$9,495</b></p>
 <p><b>1988 CHEVROLET BERETTA</b> 4 cyl., ps., pb., automatic, air cond., AM/FM stereo and more. Sporty economy wrapped in a champagne colour for class #3476A.</p> <p><b>\$9,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1988 PONTIAC GRAND AM 4DR</b> Automatic, air cond., AM/FM stereo cassette and only 13,000 km. Only one left. #3586A.</p> <p><b>\$12,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1986 HONDA PRELUDE</b> 5 sp., power sunroof, AM/FM stereo cassette and low mileage. Test drive it - you'll love it! #3518A.</p> <p><b>\$12,995</b></p>
 <p><b>1988 CUTLASS SUPREME SL.</b> 2.8L V6, automatic O/D, fully loaded with only 8,000 km. Don't pass this one. Buy it! #3481A.</p> <p><b>\$15,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1988 OLDSMOBILE GIERA BRGHM. 4DR.</b> Seeing is believing, come test drive this one. 2.8L V6, auto O.D., sport suspension, fully equipped. #3535A.</p> <p><b>\$15,995</b></p>	 <p><b>1988 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX</b> A sporty car with lots of toys. Equipped with 2.8L V6, auto O.D., air &amp; more. Only 9,000 kms. #3534A.</p> <p><b>\$15,995</b></p>

All cars certified & reconditioned  
And many more to choose from



**5336 Highway #7**  
Just East of McCowan Rd.  
Markham

**294-1440**

Chevrolet  
Oldsmobile



## GOLF INSTRUCTION

## GOLF TRAVEL

Up To  
**50% OFF**

## GOLF REPAIRS

## GOLF CLUBS

**19TH HOLE GOLF SHOPPE**  
471-GOLF (4653)  
190 Bullock Drive, Unit 10, Markham

---

### "REGISTRATION"

## UNIONVILLE'S MEN'S SLOW PITCH LEAGUE

(U.S.P.L.)

WED. APRIL 5th. 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
SAT. APRIL 8th. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**UNIONVILLE VET'S HALL**  
(Lower Level)  
MAIN ST. AT FRED VARLEY DR.

Markham Town Line

PROOF OF RESIDENCE  
REQUIRED

CNR Tracks

— AGE 25 BY JANUARY 1, 1989  
— FEE \$75.00

**OFFICIAL HOST OF 1988 O.V. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**