Chris Jones is a chip off the old block

Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

Chris Jones, the highly-touted shortstop picked up by Stouffville Betz Pools mens Senior 'B' fastball team this spring, says he's simply picking up where Dad left off.

The 22-year old Oshawa native worked his way up through his town's minor ball program, then played the past five seasons with the Oshawa Juniors.

And while he credits his coaches and his five years playing against the men as a teen with much of his development, he prefers to look to his dad as his role model.

"Dad played softball in Oshawa at the Senior 'B' and Intermediate level," says Chris. "He was an infielder and a slap-hitter just like me. He was a big influence on me, and I styled myself after him."

Chris' slick fielding with the Oshawa Juniors didn't go unnoticed by the Betz brain trust, as the Pools platoon competed in the same league last season.

"They (Betz) showed interest in me last year," claims Chris. "I came out to their camp in the spring, and was impressed with what a first class organization they were. They have a good, competitive team."

A highly competitive individual, Chris feels he'll have the chance to win with Betz.

"When you play this calibre of ball, you want to win. I've enjoyed it so far."

Chris' fielding has already excited Stouffville fans, and Betz head coach Dave Webster has stated he thinks the agressive newcomer could become the best Senior B shortstop in Ontario.

As for his hitting, Chris sees himself as a contact hitter who will get his share of singles and doubles.

Three two-baggers and a single in his first two home games would seem to verify his personal assessment.

"I hope I'm here for a while," enthuses Chris.

Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

Chris Jones, a rookie with the Betz Pools fastball team, is making his presence felt early in the 1989 season. The Oshawa native has modelled his playing style after his father's, who played Intermediate and Senior ball in the past. Jones hit three doubles and a single in his first two home games this year.

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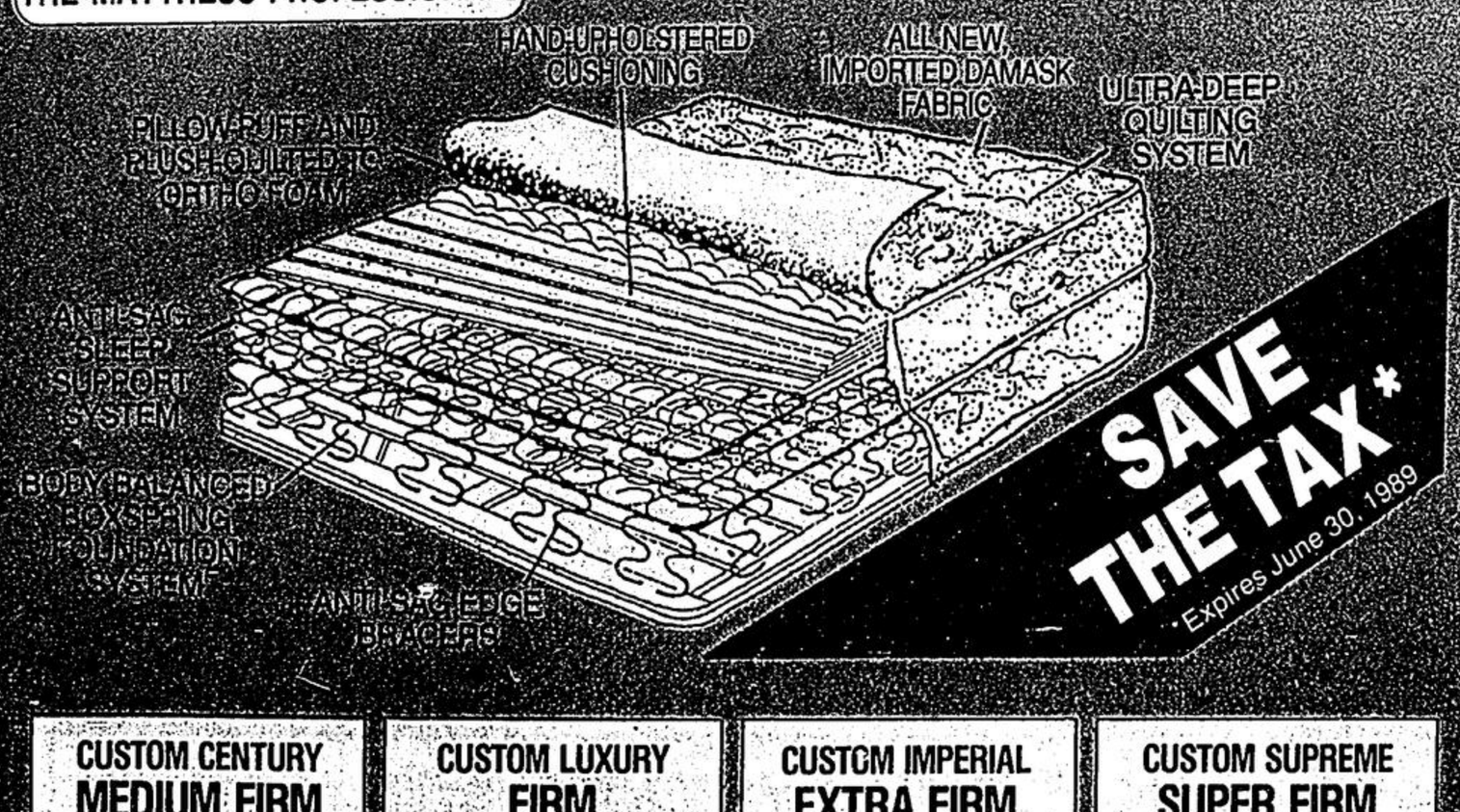

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