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KoVac Mazda



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LIVE JAZZ

this

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

at

MARTINA RESTAURANT

Our four piece combo will play sweet sounds by the fireplace.

Dinner from 5:30

Music from 7:00

Martina Restaurant

205 Main Street, Unionville

(905) 470-1791



Reservations Suggested

Softballers back home



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

For Bob Ferguson, Brent Bonner and Bill Pride, four months spent playing hooky in a small Australian island state of Tasmania afforded them a taste of triumphs, as the winter just past was a fantasy come true.

It all started when the trio of accomplished Uxbridge/Stouffville athletes decided to forgo their first year of post-secondary education for a chance to play softball down under last fall. Upon their arrival in Tasmania, they immediately found themselves in a world where there were no limits, either to their acceptance by the locals or their opportunities to shine.

Playing for a club ball team in Launceston, around twice the size of Newmarket, the Canadian trio was instrumental in leading the squad to an undefeated season. The team won the league and state championships, with the highly heralded imports compiling personal statistics considered astronomical back home. Bob, Brent and Bill struck out a grand total of once, which Bob chucked, cost the victim a case of beer. Bob, who had never pitched in his life, was asked to give it a whirl. He immediately found himself dazzling opposition hitters with his previously untried stuff. He threw a no-hitter, while pitching in half his team's games.

The threesome was chosen to play on the state team which was to compete in the Australian championships. Unfortunately, the money ran out and it was time to get back home before they could see it through to the end.

Bob recalls that when a teammate asked him to come out and give cricket a go, he hit for 72 runs, a league record, in his very first try! Bob even managed to adapt his windmill style of softball pitching so that he became unhittable for opposition cricket batsmen.

Off the ball field, the three visitors were in demand at local elementary schools. They were paid to come and teach sports-related subjects and hold softball clinics. The Tasmanian students, who had never seen snow, were fascinated by pictures of snowmobiles whizzing over snow-covered trails, Christmas trees and other Canadian winter traditions.

Bob said he and his sidekicks gave out hundreds of autographs during their stay and they were constantly pursued as dinner guests by the people they met. On days when they weren't working at a car wash owned by their coach, who also put them up in his house during their stay, they were taken for driving tours around the island by people who took a fancy to them.

The three were even treated to a fishing expedition at sea which saw them return with a catch of squid, baby shark and other delights.

A party held to celebrate Bob's 20th birthday saw no less than 100 well-wishers show up to see him out of his teens in style.

For Bob, Brent and Bill, reality has set in again now that they are home. But it will be a long time before they forget the winter of 1995.

Here's What's Happening at
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The Easter Bunny Visits
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Sat. Apr. 15 - Noon - 3 p.m.



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