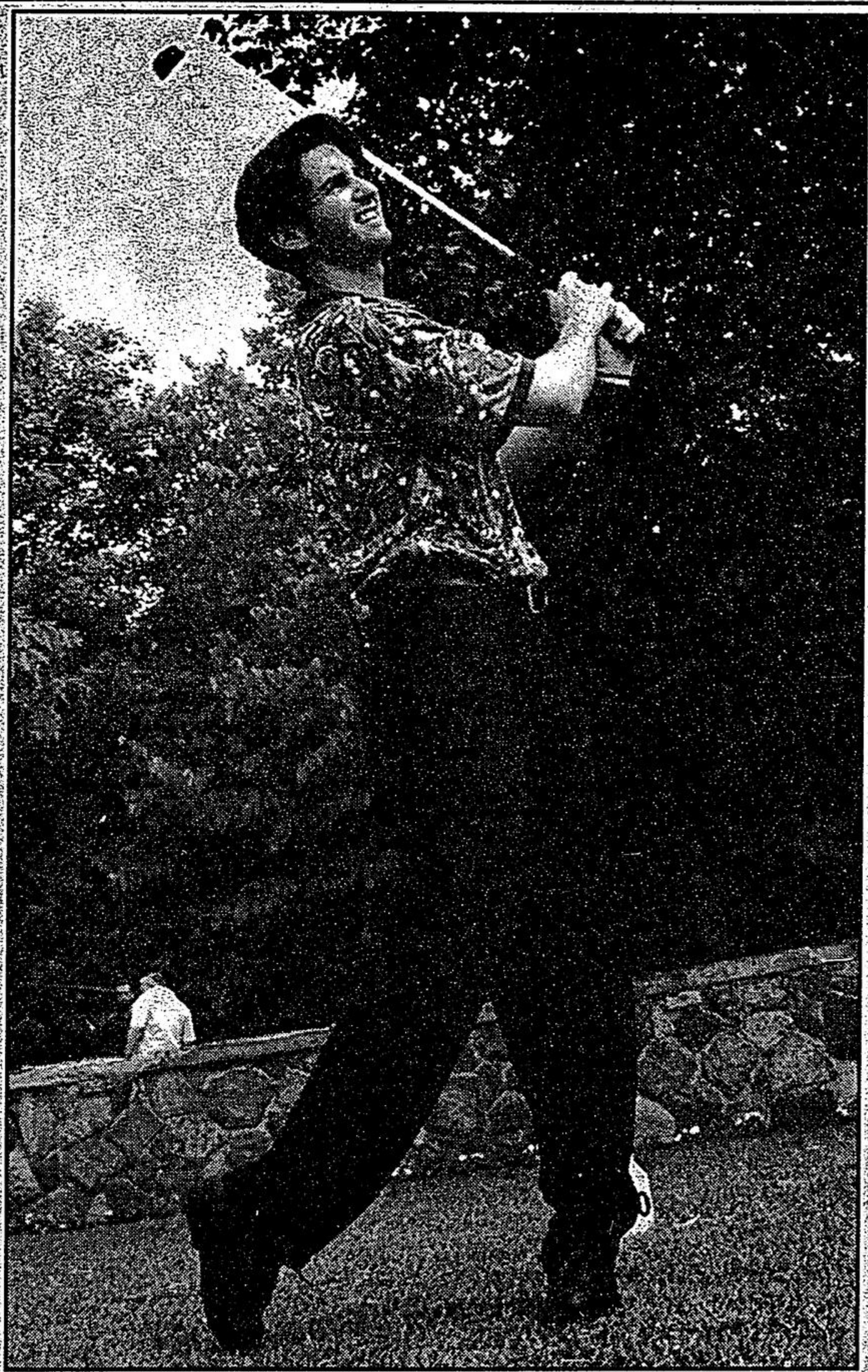


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IN THE SWING OF THINGS: Mike Godfrey intently watches the flight of his ball as it leaves the tee of the 10th hole during a round of golf at the 4 Seasons Country Club on Thursday.
Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Uxbridge Bruins name Underwood as coach

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Jason Underwood is coming home. The Stouffville native and former Uxbridge Bruins captain has been named the team's new head coach.

Underwood replaces Trevor Clark, who stepped down earlier this spring after three seasons at the helm.

The most veteran Bruin of them all, Underwood skated with the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League club for a record seven seasons ending with the 1994-95 campaign.

"We're really happy to go the alumni route once again," said Bruins general manager Ron Archibald. "We're confident Jason can step up here and keep us on the road to growth."

Underwood is to be assisted by another former Bruin, Paul MacEwen.

Underwood, 24, spent the past season as an assistant coach to former Bruin Paul Sinclair with the Georgina Ice. Underwood, MacEwen and Sinclair com-

bined to coach the Stouffville Clippers minor bantams in the 1995/96 season. MacEwen, who played with the Bruins for over two seasons in the late 1980s, was head coach of the major bantam Clippers this past season.

Archibald said Underwood's long-time affiliation with the Bruins is a big plus.

"He's been what you would classify as a life-long Bruin. We feel his years of experience in the league, plus his being an assistant coach in Georgina last season, will be a big help as we rebuild next season."

Underwood was part of the 1990-91 Central League championship Bruins team. He led the team in total points in his second season with the club in 1989-90. A fixture on the Central League All Star Team, Underwood's number eight sweater was retired when he finished his career with the Bruins.

Archibald said Underwood and MacEwen will bring youth and enthusiasm to the team. "They have some definite ideas as to the type of team they want to assemble."

Soccer fanatic optimistic game will gain popularity

Alfons Rubbens would like to see Stouffville establish a link with the Lynx.

The charter president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club, who is currently busying himself as publisher of Inside Soccer, billed as "Ontario's Soccer Magazine", is singing the praises of the Toronto Lynx these days. The latest pro soccer team to call Toronto home got off to a fast start in A League play, winning seven of its first nine matches.

Alfons feels there are players in the Stouffville area who should be setting their sights on the Lynx. He coached the Lynx's Phil Caporrella when the player was on Woodbridge's under-18 National Soccer League team a decade or so back. The team also included the cream of the Stouffville crop of the day, players like Travis White, Frank Nardi, Ernie Sluga and Guy Biardi. "All of those boys played with Phil Caporrella, and they were as good as he was," insisted Alfons. He lamented the fact that while the local soccer club is thriving at the younger levels these days, with an ever increasing registration, there is nothing at the upper rep levels. "We've had a lot of competitive teams in the past, some York Region championship teams coached by people like Martin Johannessen, Steve Trentadue, Tom Morton and myself. But there's nothing now."

"The club is growing every year, and we're doing very well at the houseleague level," he continued. "But we need to introduce the players to a higher level now that pro soccer is back in Toronto. This would give them something to aim for." He said as it stands now, there are several Stouffville teens playing for under-15 competitive teams in Aurora and Markham. "The better kids are leaving town to play."

A few years back, Alfons would probably have taken things in his own hands to get the ball rolling. He had considerable success as a coach of teenaged players within the



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club, then went on to pilot the Stouffville Town Spurs men's team of the Newmarket and District Soccer League. But these days find him up to his eyeballs putting together his

magazine. With more than 6,000 copies circulating around the province every month, the publication enables him to push his favorite sport to people far and wide.

Alfons realizes pro soccer doesn't have the same appeal as big league hockey or baseball. However, the other side of that coin is that the chances of a local kid catching on with in the 24-team A League, a second division level league by United States standards but a first division loop in Canada, are more favorable. "It's realistic that a Stouffville kid could make it," he said.

Alfons advised all young soccer players, as well as upcoming and prospective high level coaches, to make the trip to Varsity Stadium some Sunday night to catch the Lynx in full stride. "If they want to see good soccer, go watch the Lynx."

ROLLER HOCKEY TEAMS WANTED

Roller hockey players looking to compete at the tournament level might want to check out The 3 on 3 Street and Roller Hockey Challenge. Run by Off-Ice Rinx Inc., the Challenge has been raising funds for minor hockey programs across Ontario since 1990.

This year, nine street and roller hockey events are planned throughout the summer, with tournaments taking place on parking lots of major shopping centres in Newmarket and Thornhill, among other sites.

Top overall teams from the competitive "A" division in each tournament advance to the All-Ontario Championships at the C.N.E. in late August. Divisions start at 8-9 years of age.

For more information call (416) 253-BALL, or (800) 945-RINX.

Over 600 teams are expected to register for the various events.

Weatherman plays havoc with Rebels

The weatherman is making sure Claremont Rebels coach Frank Hendy doesn't miss out on the action on the diamond while he's on vacation.

The Rebels were rained out in their scheduled road game with the Oshawa Blues Monday night, then saw their home date with Port Perry postponed due to wet conditions on Wednesday.

The cancellations left the Rebels' Oshawa City and District Fastball Association record intact at seven wins and two defeats.

The Rebels are hoping to take to the field for their first game in 13 days in Aurora on Tuesday night, with Hendy back at the helm.

They return home to face the Uxbridge Bandits in

Claremont on Wednesday.

The Rebels will hit the tournament trail for the first time this season when they travel to Harcourt the weekend of July 12.

The team will be bolstered by the addition of Bandits pitcher Byron Baranieski and third baseman Chris Burkholder, who will be on loan to the Rebels for the competition.