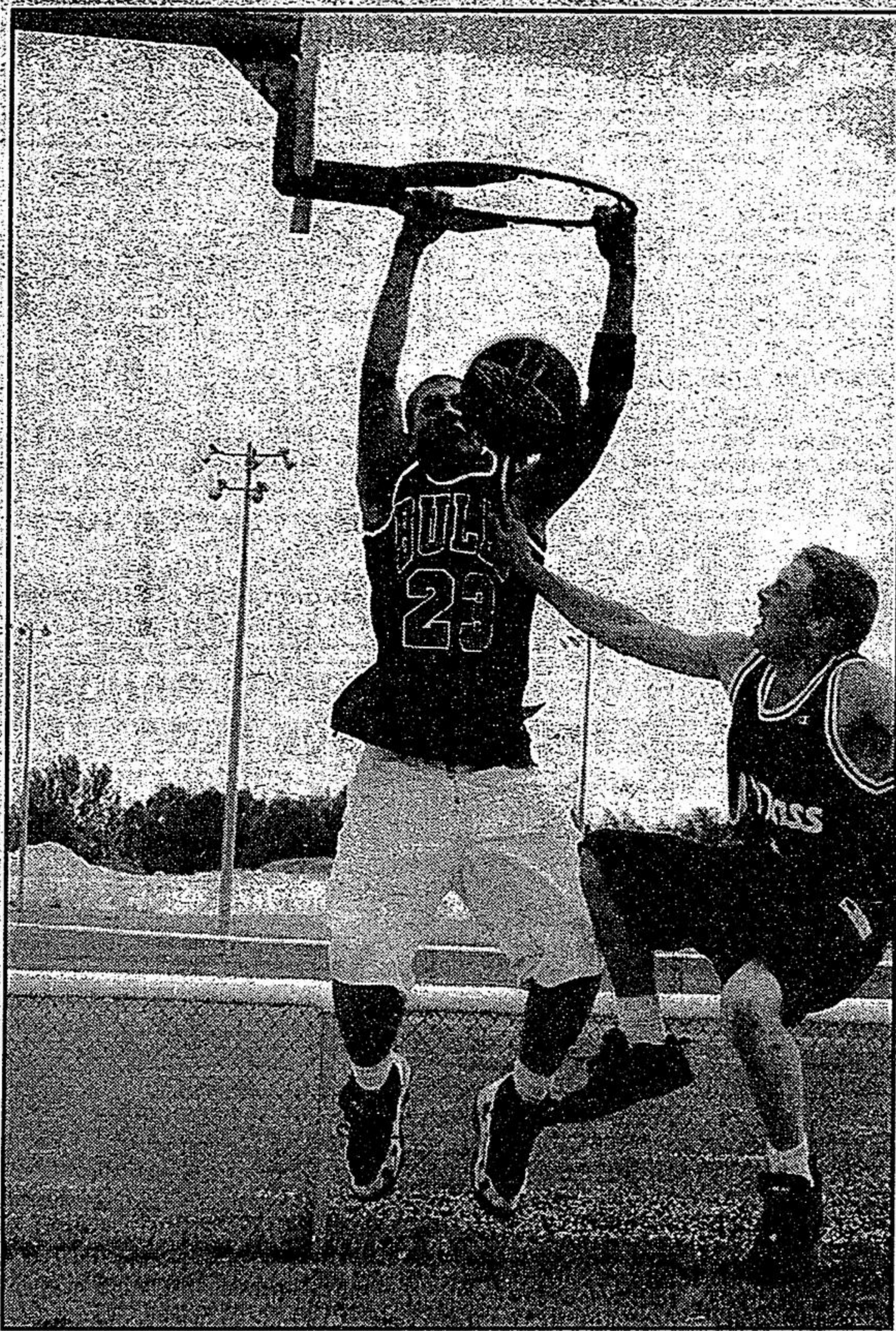


THE TRIBUNE

Sports & Leisure

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JAM TIME: Mike Masu (left), dunks this ball on Mike Vandervoort as the two took to the Town Park basketball court to play a little one-on-one Saturday.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

Midgets field bronze

Third in Thorold.

The Cable Tech Midget girls' rep softball team had to settle for the bronze despite outscoring their opponents 54-6 in five games in the Thorold tournament over the weekend.

The Cable Tech crew started off with a 12-0 victory over the host squad as pitcher Amanda Connolly tossed a three hitter with five strikeouts to her credit.

Amanda Crowder followed with a three hit, 10-2 victory over Waterloo, with the pitcher going on to throw five perfect innings in Cable Tech's 9-1 triumph over Scarborough. Crowder finished the game with a two hitter, striking out six.

The Stouffville squad suffered a tough 2-1 loss to the New York Breakers, an all star team from Buffalo, N.Y., in their fourth outing.

Connolly pitched another strong game for the Cable Tech unit, while her team mates were baffled by the 10 strikeout pitching of her New York counterpart.

Stouffville laid claim to the bronze with a 22-1 mercy-shortened triumph over Thorold.

Midgets coach Dave Miller was thrilled with his team's performance at the tourney.

"It was just a remarkable weekend of play by everybody," said Miller.

"Great pitching, clutch hitting and good defence, three double plays, four outfield outs on runners advancing."

Miller said it was disappointing not to make the finals after such a performance.

"The loss to New York was a heart breaker. But giving up only three earned runs over five games showed how well the girls played."

RBI leaders for Stouffville were Connolly, 10, Jenn Sheppard and Danielle Timms, eight each, Melissa Gilroy and Tammy Craigie, six each, Jackie Thorne, five, Angie Burke, Shannon Timms and Tia Saley, three each, and Amanda Crowder, two.

In recent league play, Connolly had seven whiffs in an 18-5 Stouffville win over East Gwillimbury.

Shannon Timms had four RBIs with Danielle Timms and Connolly each knocking in three runs.

Saley had four RBIs to lead the way to a 13-6 win over Scarborough. Crowder struck out six while driving in three runs. Shannon Timms also had three ribbies.

Connolly threw a one hitter and added 13 strikeouts as the Cable Tech outfit blanked Pickering 6-0. Gilroy socked a pair of triples for three RBIs, with Jessica Smith, Thorne and Craigie each knocking in a run.

Golf school pays off for Byer

Pat Byer's 'Been there, done that' mastery of the game of golf could be taken as a tweak of the nose to those of us with a long established love-hate relationship with the sport sometimes referred to as a nice walk spoiled.



Sports
Notes

Bruce Stapley

what had been until then just another laid back Monday evening on the course.

"We were just enjoying ourselves having a nice relaxing time," said Pat, as if to rub it in for those of us who have been smacking golf balls with a

vengeance for decades and never experienced the ultimate golfer's euphoria.

Pat credits Woods and his able assistants for giving her what she needed just to be able to get the ball anywhere near the hole in such a situation.

"He's terrific. We're really enjoying the lessons." It would appear that Woods and co. have come up with the perfect approach for the novice golfer - don't try to build Rome in a day.

"He just gives you enough so you can hit the ball, just one or two pointers to get you started," said Pat.

Woods signed her scorecard after her big triumph, along with her two golf partners.

"I said to Dave all I had wanted was to be able to hit the ball," she said. "He replied, 'Well you hit it!'"

Upon her arrival home, the nursery school teacher kidded husband Glen about having graduated her entry level course.

"I said, 'That's it. I've finished golf.'"

But she concedes that, like most who have taken up the game before her, she'll be back for more.

"I love it, I'm hooked."

Like so many other women who are taking up the game, she suggests the ladies have finally discovered what their brothers have known for so long.

"The men have been doing this for years. Now it's our turn to get out there and have some fun."

But unlike some men, Pat won't allow the game to become an obsession.

The hole in one was a kick, she offered.

But it's really not that big a deal, she insisted.

"I wasn't that excited. When you haven't golfed a lot, it just doesn't mean that much."

In the olden days they burned such heretics at the stake!

Gibbons on track after inking major stock car sponsorship

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

A sponsorship agreement with a major automotive supply retailer has put local stock car racer Peter Gibbons on track for the 1997 CASCAR series.

The 35-year-old Goodwood resident was at Toronto's First Canadian Place on Tuesday to officially kick off his hook up with Canadian Tire Corporation, with whom he signed a sponsorship deal back in February.

A 17-year veteran of the CASCAR and NASCAR circuits, Gibbons will work with Canadian Tire to promote his race team as the 1997 CASCAR series heats up.

While he's currently fourth in the CASCAR series after falling just short in several races this season, Gibbons is confident his tie with Canadian Tire will signal the start of a productive run.

"It's very good for us," said Gibbons. "Things are starting to happen. I've got the shows and the people

in position now."

Gibbons said this is the first time Canadian Tire has been involved in racing.

"We went to Canadian Tire and bang, things started to happen. They started in a slow way but it's growing now."

Gibbons noted his was one of 37 teams looking to line up sponsorship from the Canadian retailing giant. The Gibbons team is currently displaying a super truck up and two show cars at the First Canadian Place in an attempt to attract sponsorship for its NASCAR series operations in South Carolina. Gibbons plans to compete in three Busch Grand Nationals series events in the U.S. this summer.

However, he said appearances on the U.S. circuit will be restricted this season. "We'll run limited shows with NASCAR. Our top priority now is running the Canadian Tire shows."

Gibbons, who will take time out from showing to race in Peterborough this weekend, finished fifth at last weekend's Good Wrench 200 at the Cayuga Speedway after leading for 165 laps.