

Big decision ahead for Boyd

Dave Boyd, whose Betz Pools midget boys' fastball team was that close to finishing first or second and advancing to the Canadian midget championships a few weekends back, finds himself caught on the horns of a dilemma as he ponders the immediate future of the game in this fastball hotbed.

On the one hand, this veteran rep level coach is surrounded by a minor ball system which has been producing provincial level players for decades. Dave assembled his midget squad last season with the lofty but realistic goal of taking the provincial title and contesting the national crown. The team fell short last summer, then ran up against a couple of stacked teams from Napanee and Hagersville and settled for third at this year's finals.

It would seem logical now for Dave to field a junior squad next year and try to reach the same lofty heights achieved by the two-time Ontario champion Stouffville Merchants earlier this decade.

"There are lots of people talking to me about putting together a junior team next year," he told me the other day. "There are four or five kids from my midget team who could form the nucleus of the team, plus those players (from Stouffville) who are playing elsewhere. The big pitcher from Napanee (this year's OASA midget silver medalists) would like to come and play here. I think it would be good."

With 18-year-old left-handed pitching ace Paul Koert - named best pitcher at this year's OASA midget championships - anchoring the pitching, and Dave's 19-year-old son Evan, who with Koert was selected to this year's Ontario Youth Fastball team, at short stop, the team would be strong where it counts for several years. The drawback, however, is money.

There are expenses related to bringing in players from out of town to round out your roster and give you the edge held by the gold and silver winning midget teams from Napanee and Hagersville. The talent-packed Merchants of the early 1990s were forced to raise funds for their trips to Quebec and Newfoundland to contest the national junior crown. If you're looking to go all the way, you've got to have the backing. Which means you've got to have the support of a town and its business community. Betz Pools, sponsors of Dave's midgets, have never been afraid to put money up front to support the town team concept. But they can't do it all.

Dave is also being pushed from a few other sides as he considers whether to go the junior route. "I've got three options as I see it. The first is my wife would be happy if I quit. The second is to go back to midget again (next year). And the third is to bring a junior team to Stouffville."

The one thing he knows is that there are few people out there who are willing to make the commitment he has had the past two years with the midgets.

Rebels on top in ball tournament

The Claremont Rebels recorded four wins and a tie to finish atop the standings in an eight-team, two-day exhibition fastball tournament in Port Perry.

Highlighting the Rebels' success was a 3-2 come-from-behind win over the touring New Zealand under-19 World Youth Team in their second game on Saturday.

Trailing 2-0 entering the bottom of the sixth, the Rebels tied the game on a two-run double by Dave Jones, and won it on a run-scoring hit by Tom Watson.

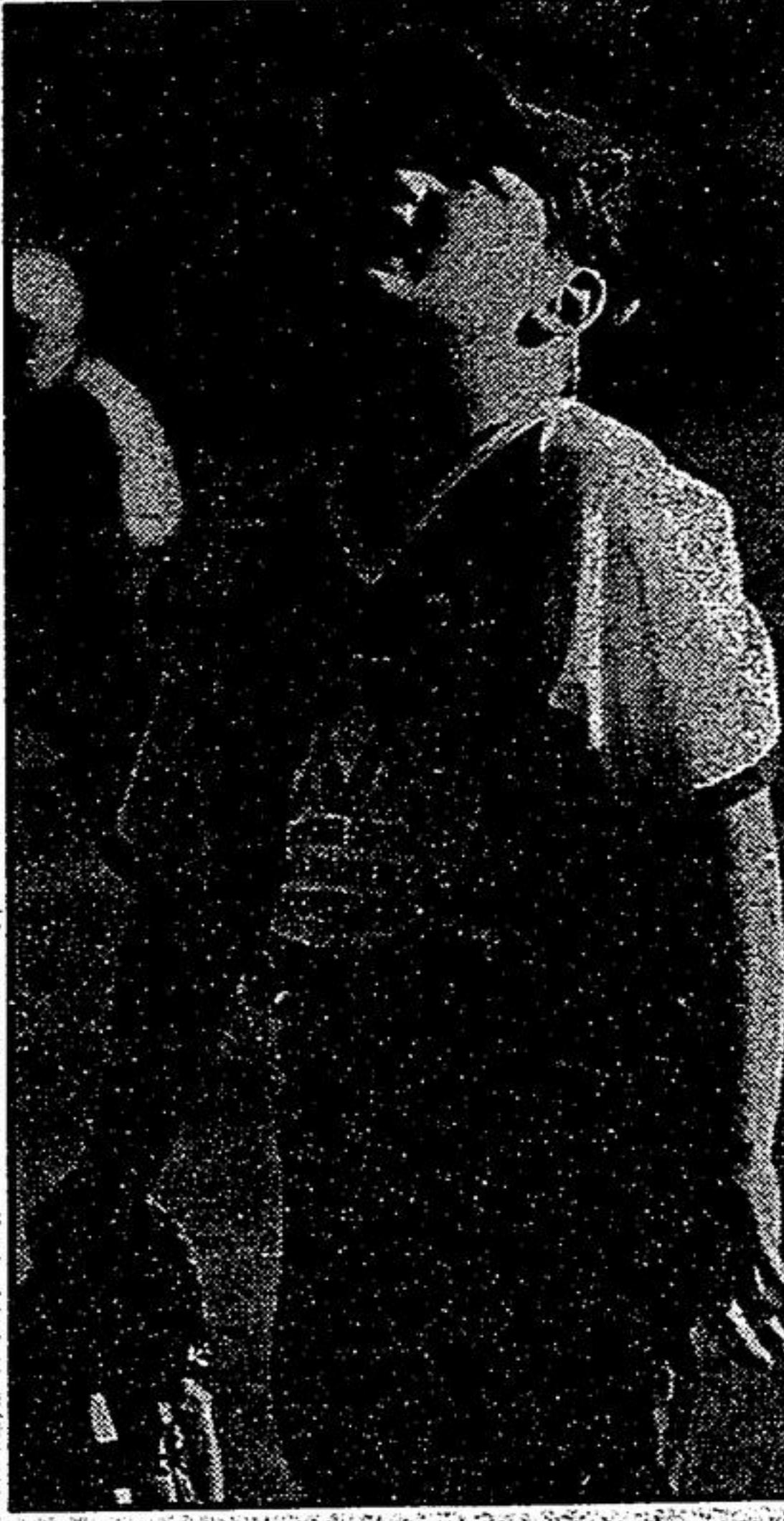
Byron Baranieski earned the win. The Rebels won their opening game over the Napanee midgets 6-3.

After edging the New Zealand squad, the Rebels routed Port Perry 5-1.

The Rebels then earned a 4-4 tie against the Betz Pools midgets and closed out the event with a 7-0 mercy-shortened victory over the Oshawa Blues.

Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley



TAKING AIM: Metro Waste Recovery pitcher Bradley Raybould winds up and delivers this offering to a Sleek Craft batter during action in this Whitchurch-Stouffville Baseball Association squirt boys' houseleague contest Tuesday. Judging by Raybould's final reaction, it appears as if he induced the batter to hit a fly ball.

Photos by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Bellissimo, Ferguson off to Fredericton to play ball in eastern championships

It's off to Fredericton, N.B. for a pair of Stouffville teens. Stouffville peewee rep fastball teammates Ben Bellissimo and Jonathan Ferguson will be on opposite sides of the diamond when they head east for the Eastern Canadian Championships later this summer.

The 14-year-olds were picked up by the two teams who will represent Ontario at the competition, which takes place Aug. 22-24.

Bellissimo, centre fielder, was one of two additions taken to bolster the team from Willowdale.

Ferguson, a short stop/catcher, was added to the Napanee roster.

The two squads finished first and second at the recent Ontario Softball Association Peewee Eliminations in Chepstow.

Ferguson and Bellissimo helped

the Stouffville peewees to a record of four wins and two losses, good for fifth-place finish at the 23-team Ontario finals.

Ferguson had three home runs, a triple, two doubles and three singles.

Bellissimo socked three homers, two doubles and three singles.

Angus Glen Golf Academy
Instructor: Perry Curiston

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| Dates: | Friday July 25 | 8:30 - 12:30 |
| | Saturday July 26 | 8:30 - 12:30 |
| | Saturday August 2 | 8:30 - 12:30 |
| | Monday August 4 | 8:30 - 12:30 |

Book early to avoid disappointment!





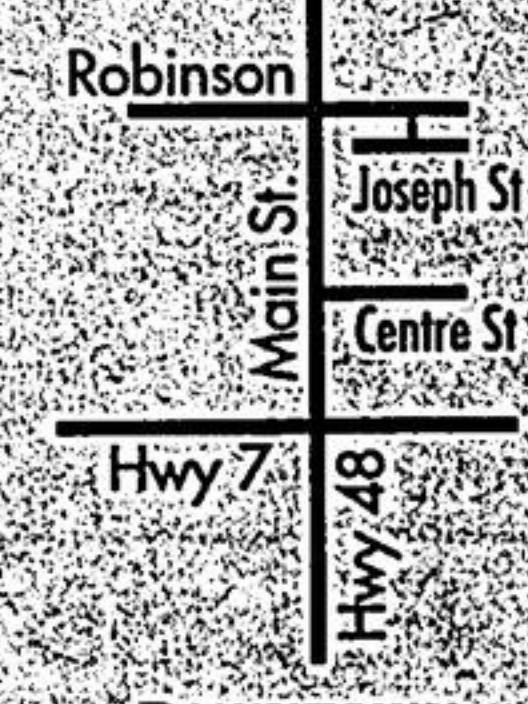
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Notice of Liquor Licence Application



The following establishment has applied to the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

Application for a Sale Licence

Sushi Hut Japanese Restaurant

3636 Steeles Avenue East Units 123 - 123A, Markham. Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than August 16, 1997. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Board, please identify the designated contact person.

Note:

The LLBO gives the applicant details of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:

Licensing and Permits Branch
Liquor Licence Board of Ontario
55 Lake Shore Blvd. E., Toronto ON M5E 1A4
Fax: (416) 326-5555
E-mail at licensing@llbo.on.ca