

Sports & Leisure

Rebels too hot for Heat

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Correspondent

The Stars were shining Thursday night as an assortment of Canada's top fastball players strutted their stuff in Oshawa.

But it was Scott Evans and the visiting Claremont Rebels who managed to eclipse an Oshawa Heat team which included the USA semi-pro ranked pitching duo of brothers Brad and Jamie Baker, as well as two members of the Canadian Senior Men's Fastball Team.

The Williamson G.M. sponsored-Rebels pushed across the game's only run in the top of the seventh and final inning to pull out a 1-0 win in an Oshawa City and District Fastball Association exhibition contest.

The game was the last one for the Heat before team members go their separate ways to contest national and international level fastball championships across the continent. Evans shut down the potent Heat offence on just four hits, striking out 12. The Rebels had four hits as well against the Baker brothers. Brad Baker is a member of the Illinois

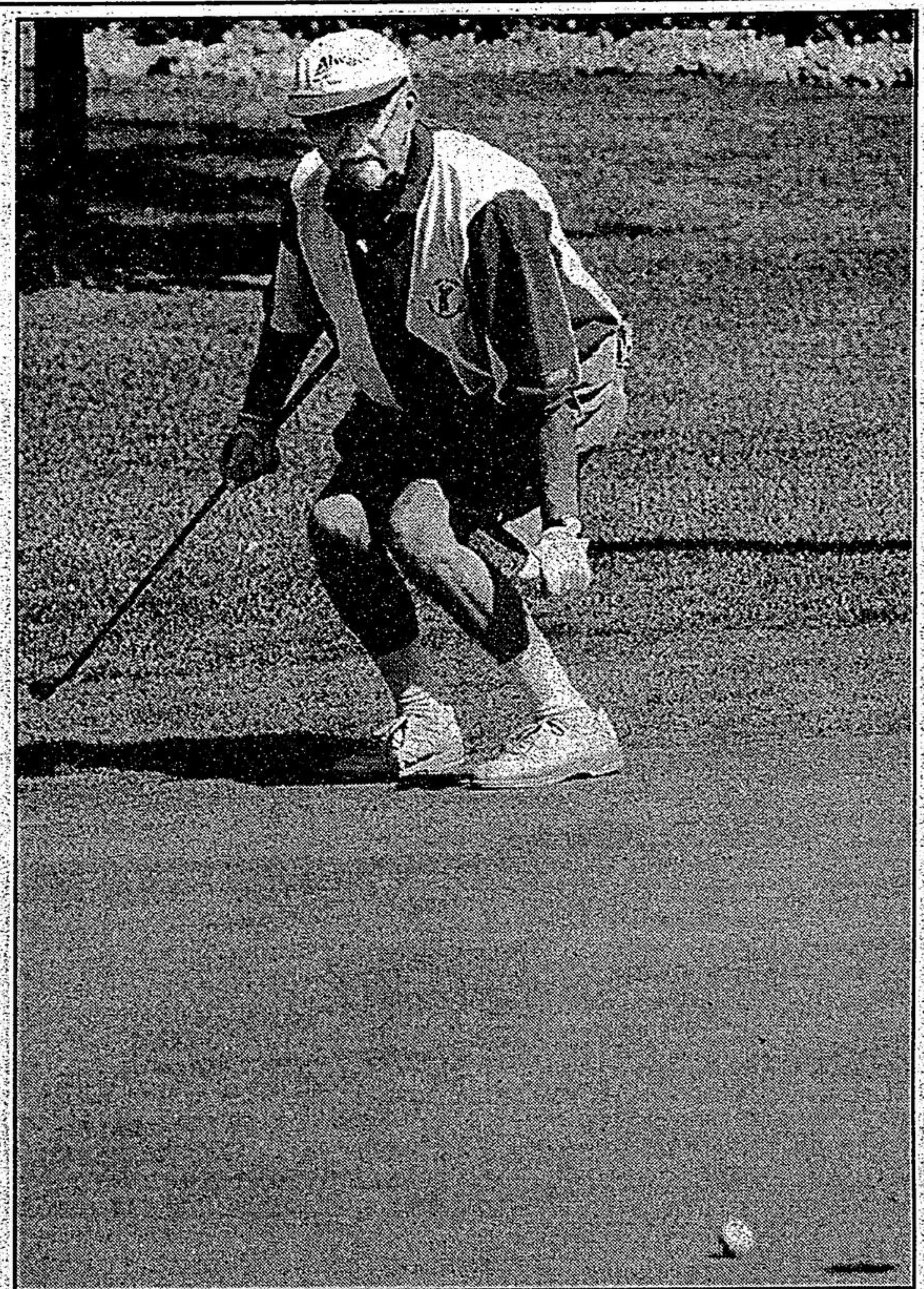
Farm, an American semi-pro fastball club. He is to play for Manitoba in the upcoming Canadian Senior Men's Championships. Jamie Baker is with a Green Bay (Wisconsin) club.

"It was just a fantastic game," enthused Rebels co-coach Frank Hendy. Hendy, who praised the work of fellow coach John Tait, said the match featured a classic pitching match up. "We had a couple of Canada's top pitchers playing against each other."

The Rebels finally broke through against the hard throwing Jamie Baker when Scott Evans led off the top of the seventh with a single, then gave away to pinch runner Tim Evans. Ray Kurhan and Jim Closs both walked to load the bases, with Brad Evans lofting a long sacrifice fly to win it.

Rebels right fielder Greg Horne came up with the defensive play of the game in the sixth inning. With an Oshawa runner on second base, Horne caught a fly ball then gunned down the runner as he tagged and headed for third to end the inning.

The Rebels, who host Port Perry on Wednesday, are in Stouffville Thursday night as part of a double-header involving the Team Ontario Youth Fastball Team.



A GAME OF INCHES: Ken Hunter uses a little body language to try and encourage his putt to get in the cup during his participation in the Canadian Spinal Research Organization Golf Tournament at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club on Thursday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JOEL THORNEY

Joel, 11, shot a hole in one in only his third week after taking up golf this summer. Joel managed the ace using a nine iron on the 125 yard fourth hole at the St. Andrew's Golf Club July 28.

Way to go, Joel. Look out Tiger Woods!

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hole, with the youngster threading the needle with a nine iron.

Joel, who took a one-week clinic at St. Andrew's earlier in the month, was golfing with two other junior golfers at the time. Jacqueline Thorney, Joel's grandmother, said the hole in one caused his father, Tom, an avid recreational golfer, to shake his head in disbelief.

"His dad's been golfing since he was 11 and he's never got the big one," said Mrs. Thorney.

Mrs. Thorney said her grandson didn't have the presence of mind to put the ball away for safekeeping after his big shot. "The people at the course asked him for the ball after he finished so they could use it to make up a trophy for him, but it turned out he lost it the very next hole."

Athletics come naturally to Joel, who will be 12 this month. He plays baseball at the peewee AAA level with the Ajax Spartans, with whom he is a pitcher/shortstop/first baseman. He also enjoys skiing, skate boarding, roller blading and plays guitar.