



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

SLIDING INTO SAFETY

Dr. J.M. Denison third baseman Melanie Quinn (left), is late in applying a tag on Markville Secondary School base runner Andrea Kurahashi, who slides safely into the bag, during Tuesday's YRAA girls' semi-final softball contest at Centennial Park. The Markville Mavericks won the game 12-11 in two extra innings and advance to Monday's final where they will face Newmarket High School at Ray Twinney Park at 1 p.m.

Markham firsts rule scrum in home opener

The Markham Rugby Club firsts won its home-opening Ontario Rugby Union contest Sunday at Austin Park with a 31-27 win over Fergus.

Jim Leech, Scott Larmer and Chris Dahlgren each scored one try. Kevin Pullen booted two converts and four penalties.

In other games that day, the Toronto Irish defeated the Markham seconds 17-0.

The Markham thirds won its game over the Toronto Irish 10-5. Dan North had one try for Markham.

Soccer men earn tie

Dan Deganutti and Peter Firebrace scored unanswered goals with just under 10 minutes remaining in regulation time to enable the Markham Soccer Club mens team to earn a 4-4 tie with CSC Velebit (Oakville) in Ontario Soccer League action Wednesday at Mount Joy Field.

After Velebit took a 1-0 lead in the first half, the Markham team got two goals from Bart Ostaszewski to take a 2-1 half-



SPORTS DIGEST

time lead

But Velebit, the three-time defending OSU champions, roared back with three unanswered goals to take a 4-2 lead within the first 10 minutes of the second half.

Now 1-1 on the season, the Markham men resume league play June 16 when they host Woodbridge Azzurri at 8:45 p.m.

Bowling up a storm

The Markham Lawn Bowling Club's team of Jay Wyllie, John VanNetten and Verna Rowat captured the club's Garland Tournament last Wednesday.

The trio accumulated 32 points and were three points better than the club's runner-up trio of Jack Quinn, Bruce Medland and Joyce Hunter.

The club played host to other entries from Toronto, Willowdale, Whitby, Agincourt and Aurora.



Kane hopes to make amends on the links at Nations Cup

Team Canada hopes to even score against U.S. in second annual Chrysler Nations Cup

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Lorie Kane will be out to do a little flag waving while upping her personal level of play at the Emerald Hills Golf Club early next month.

The Prince Edward Island resident and five-year Ladies Professional Golf Association veteran is a member of the five-woman Canadian team returning to the Stouffville course to seek revenge against the Americans at the second annual Chrysler Nations Cup July 2-4.

Kane made it clear during a teleconference interview Tuesday that her performance at last year's inaugural Nations Cup, which saw Team USA rout the Canadians, was sub par.

"I wasn't impressed with my game at the first tournament," said Kane. "I'm looking forward to a chance to redeem myself."

She said the fact she's playing for her country adds extra incentive to do better this time.

"I'm looking forward to coming back to Emerald Hills to fly the Canadian flag high and put my best foot forward so we can take home the Nations Cup."

Kane said it's a tough adjustment going from the LPGA tour to the match play format of the Nations Cup.

"There are two mind sets in golf, stroke play and match play. I didn't put myself in the match play mind set last year."

She said she and teammates Dawn Coe-Jones, A.J. Eathorne, Gail Graham and Nancy Harvey should be that much better equipped to come to grips with the match play concept this time around.

"We're better prepared because we know what to expect now."

Kane was fifth in the LPGA money list in 1999, winning \$757,844. She has slipped to 10th this year with a total of \$231,000 in prize money to date. She suggested her game has suffered a little from a lack of patience.



LORIE KANE
Team Canada member ready for Nations Cup event

"It's been a little bit of a struggle. I came out this year just wanting to win right away. I just have to be a little more patient and relax. When you relax your mind is clear."

Team USA's Nancy Scranton said she's looking forward to playing in Canada again.

"Whenever I play in Canada there are always top-notch golf courses, and we're always treated with such respect," said Scranton, a two-time LPGA champion and former du Maurier Classic champion.

Scranton said she welcomes the opportunity to engage in match play.

"I was very honoured to be asked to play. It's very different for us. Other than the Solheim Cup there is no chance to play for your country."

Scranton is excited about anything that supports women's golf in Canada.

"The Nations Cup is a great showcase and there's lots of interest."

RETHINK FORMAT

A Florida resident who has been on the tour since 1984, Scranton said that while the American team is sporting an entirely different roster than the one that captured the inaugural Nations Cup, they would still be competitive.

"The US team is strong. It's a good mix of veterans and younger players."

Other members of this year's U.S. team are Sherri Steinhauer, Brandie Burton, Kelli Keuhne and Wendy Ward.

Kane said she would like to see the Nations Cup eventually involve countries other than Canada and the U.S.A.

Nations Cup organizers say they will rethink the format after the 2001 Nations Cup.

"You've got to walk before you run. It was originally planned for three years," said Michael Merrill, senior vice-president and managing director of the IMG Group which helps organize the competition. "After that we'll step back and see what we learned."

Merrill said organizers were delighted with the success of last year's initial event.

"The ratings were as high or higher than we've seen for women's golf. And we were very pleased with ticket sales."

There are nine points up for grabs in the Nations Cup format. The first day involves a best ball competition in the morning and an alternate shot event in the afternoon. The players go head to head on day two.

Tickets for the Nations Cup are available at Ticketmaster. The event will be given prime time television coverage on the CBC.

Pioneers win consolation title

The Markham Pioneers senior baseball team captured the consolation title and \$600 prize money at recent Tillsonburg tournament after defeating Wyoming 9-2 in a mercy-shortened consolation final.

Catcher Mark Petrou, led Pioneers' assault when he swatted two homers in the first two innings and drove in five runs.

Matt Wagner had two hits, scored two runs

and drove in two runs while Shelby Nelson had two hits, scored two runs and drove in one run. Ian Ellis and Steve Marshall contributed one hit apiece.

Paul Hadfield was the winning pitcher. After losing its first game to the York Diamond 13-11, the Pioneers rallied to post wins over Creemore 8-2 and Ajax 5-4.

Mark Cheeseman was the winning pitcher for the Pioneers in its game against Creemore and Steve Marshall picked up the win in relief of Steve Lester against Ajax.



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