

Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

CARTER SWINGS INTO ACTION

Toronto Raptors' superstar Vince Carter lets go with a drive on the 10th tee at the Angus Glen Golf Club's south course on Wednesday during his second annual Vince Carter Charity Golf Classic.

SPORTS DIGEST

Rugby club loses two of three to Toronto Irish

The Markham Rugby Club firsts suffered their second loss of the Ontario Rugby Union season last Saturday when they dropped a 45-25 road decision to the Toronto Irish.

Mario Listro, who was voted Markham's man of the match, scored two tries while Neil Doctorow booted two converts and a penalty goal and Ryan Addison added one try.

The loss dropped Markham's record to 5-2. In other league games, the Markham seconds eked out a 22-21 win over the Irish.

Gavin Robinson, Kevin Pullen and Jean Bresse each scored one try. James Bayes booted two converts and a penalty goal. Pullen was also named Markham's Man of the Match.

In the thirds match, Colin Maclean scored two tries in Markham's 28-21 loss to the Irish.

Trevor Karkulos added a try and Josh Singer made three converts. Maclean was named Markham's Man of the Match.

The Markham teams will return to the pitch on Aug. 17 when they face the York Yeomen on the road.

Pioneers in Windsor for elimination tournament

The Markham Pioneers men's baseball club will be vying for a berth in the national championships in Prince George, B.C. this weekend when they take to the ball diamond in the provincial elimination tournament in Windsor.

A total of 17 teams will take part in the four-day event. The nationals will run Aug. 17-24.



Angus Glen 'serves up' top honours

Unionville-based facility also rated as 18th best golf course in Canada

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Service with a smile. That's the unofficial motto the Angus Glen Golf Club staff have adhered to since the Unionville-based public course opened its fairways to the golfing public in 1995.

The smiles have not only rubbed off on the golfers who've played the south and north course, but a selection panel of golfing authorities from SCORE Golf Magazine, one of Canada's top golf publications, has also taken notice.

In its annual rating of golf courses across the country, SCORE Golf Magazine rated Angus Glen Golf Club the best public course in Canada in terms of its service.

The award won by Angus Glen isn't new.

Since the Canadian golf publication began issuing the award in 1996, Angus Glen has had a firm lock on it.

Even in winning this award for the seventh time in succession, it remains



KEVIN THISTLE: Angus Glen general manager takes pride in providing top-notch service to clients.

special to the Angus Glen Golf Club staff.

"Having the number one public course for service is monumental and there's a lot of courses that are vying for that title," said Kevin Thistle, Angus Glen general manager and director of golf operations, of the award bestowed upon them. "Anyone can spend as much as they want to build a course and there are a lot of great golf courses in Canada. What we place an emphasis

on is our service. People who come to your course come because they want to have fun and we want them to have fun.

"Our number one mandate is that we want to put out a good product, but at the same time we want to make sure people have a good time. If they're enjoying themselves that's the main thing," he said of their course's philosophy.

Not only did Angus Glen Golf Club earn the respect of SCORE Golf Magazine in terms of their service, but in its survey of public and private courses across Canada, Angus Glen's south course was ranked 18th overall among the top 100 courses.

As one of the 48 people on the SCORE Golf panel's selection committee who was unable to vote for his own course, Thistle was happy with the rating given to the club's original 18-hole course by his peers.

"There are some courses, like St. George's Golf and Country Club (of Toronto, which was voted number one) that have been around for years. Hopefully we're making a name for our establishment and with the Canadian Open coming this year we think we can go higher next year. Right now I think we're in good company."

Henderson was born to organize leagues

Former Markham resident played a key grassroots role with numerous sports groups

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

He will always be known as Markham's greatest softball builder.

And while Len Henderson departed the community 12 years ago, the current Thornhill resident is still the talk of the town.

For it was Henderson who walked the valleys when softball was at its lowest level. And stood atop the mountain when championship teams returned.

Between times, he kept the faith, holding every executive position conceivable to keep the sport alive.

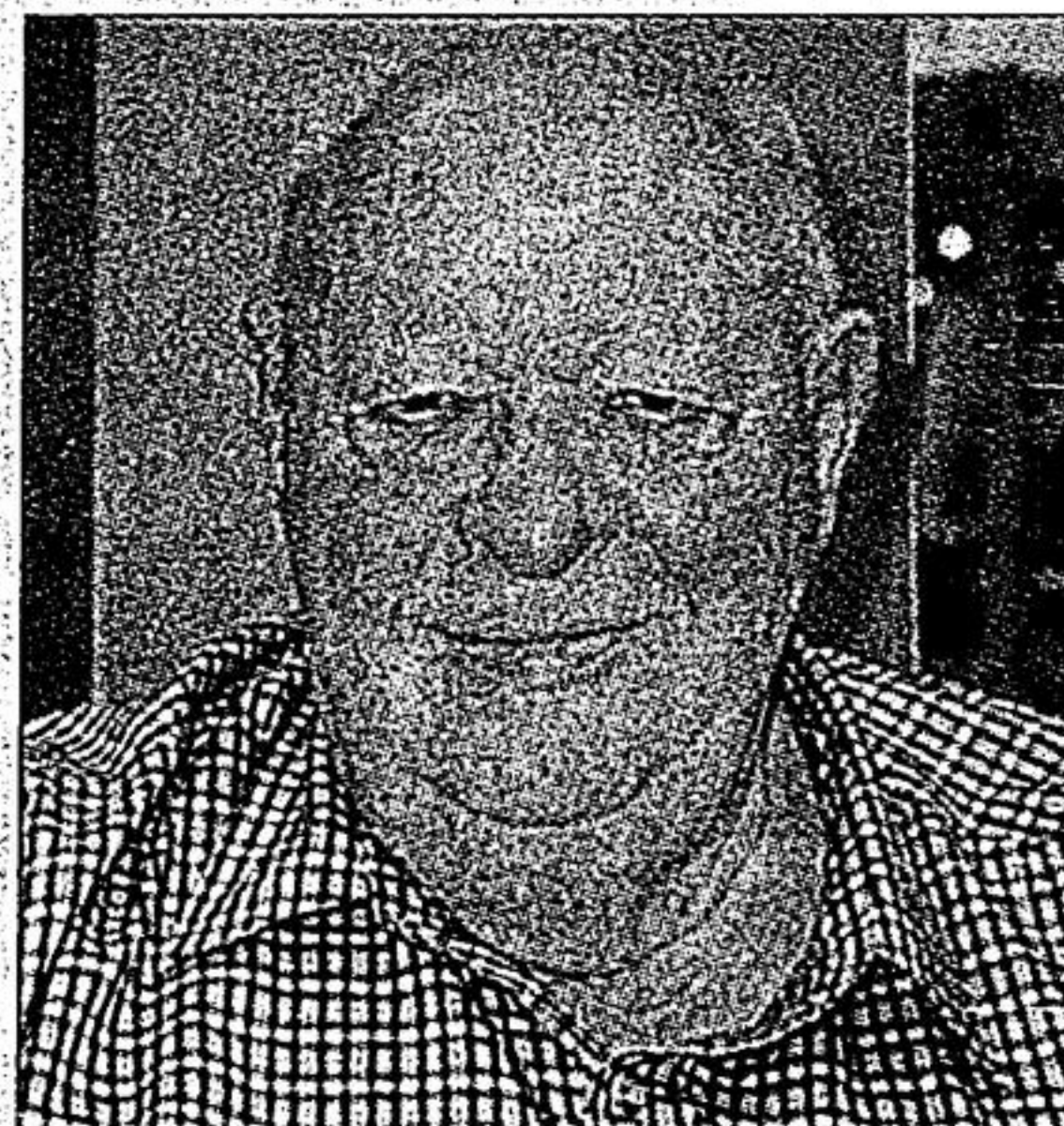
In minor hockey as well.

Born in Palmerston, Henderson, now 70, moved first to Alliston, then to Markham in 1941. He was a Grade 6 student at Franklin Street Public School where Duard Rose, one of the finest catchers ever to backstop a Markham team, was then the principal.

While softball was his strength, Henderson was first involved in hockey, initially as a player in juvenile ranks and later, a bantam house league convenor.

Later, Henderson served as president of the Markham Minor Hockey Association for two years.

While Henderson played "a bit of ball," it was in an executive role that his skills really shone. He was elected treasurer of the Markham Aces, an intermediate entry in the Ontario Amateur Softball Association. It was in this



LEN HENDERSON: Was actively involved in softball and minor hockey in an executive capacity.

capacity he came to know "Peg" O'Neill, a pitcher he places on a par with the great Pete Landers.

"Pound for pound he was the best," Henderson claims, using a deceptive rise ball to strike out as many as 15 batters a game.

Henderson remembers Englehart playing off with Markham for the Intermediate championship.

"Because of his size, they thought he (O'Neill), was just a kid. But they were badly mistaken. Markham swept the series and O'Neill pitched all three games. He was all we had."

Henderson was also involved in the formation of the Markham Township Softball League that included Buttonville, Unionville, Peach's and two teams from Markham.

"It was a great organization," he remembers, "none of the teams had to drive more than six miles to play."

Just as well since none of the parks

had floodlights.

Henderson later turned his interests towards Claremont and, with the help of Cliff Dunkeld and Ted Geoff, organized a league there. The Markham Hawks played teams from Altona, Greenwood, Brougham, Goodwood, Peach's, Mt. Zion, Pine Grove, Claremont and Frenchman's Bay.

Following a stint as president of the York-Simcoe Softball League, Henderson organized the Markham Softball Association, holding weekly bingos to raise funds. Within four years, enough money was raised to provide uniforms for every house league player.

He also served as chairman of the Markham Parks Department; chairman of the Markham Recreation Committee; and, chairman of the Markham Arena Board.

Modest concerning his own achievements, Henderson claims Markham would never have been a force in hockey or softball if it hadn't been for Doug "Jesse" James.

"He umpired, refereed, coached and managed. He did everything," he claims.

In 1964, Henderson was made an OASA convenor and later elected president in 1983, serving two years.

A highlight of his softball career was receiving an OASA life membership in 1995. He also holds a life membership in the Markham Softball Association. He's been a director with the Masters Softball Tournament; a member of the Softball Vision Committee; the Junior Elimination Softball Tournament; Softball Association for the Deaf; and, the Canadian Softball Championships.

Yes, Len Henderson has done it all. And still maintains a keen interest in the game.