

Tire problems plague Gibbons in CASCAR race

Peter Gibbons might have a recurring nightmare about last weekend's trip to Montmagny, Quebec to compete in the CASCAR Super Series Snap on Tools 200 race.

Qualifying 12th for Sunday's feature race, the Stouffville resident manoeuvred his Canadian Tire Chevrolet to the front of the pack by lap 139 and maintained his advantage for the following 30 laps before faced with a decision.

"When you are leading with only 30 laps to go, and the car is like a rocket, should you pit for tires?" Gibbons asked himself.

On lap 169 Gibbons slid back to second, handing the lead to eventual winner Dave Whitlock, and found himself fighting the car to get it to turn.

With 17 laps remaining the caution flag came out again and he brought his vehicle down pit road to try and rectify the problem.

The crew changed a right front tire and sent him back out.

Gibbons would eventually finish eighth.

Looking back, Gibbons thought he had run a race that should have earned him the checkered flag.

Unfortunately, his tires gave way at an inopportune time.

"We had them covered. I was half a track ahead and just cruising and then the tires went away.

"The way the track was coming apart we must have picked something up," he remarked.

"I thought we had this one wrapped up. I guess we will have to wait until next week to visit the winners circle," he lamented.

Gibbons' next race on the CASCAR Super Series circuit is Sunday at Kawartha Downs Speedway in Peterborough.



PETER GIBBONS
Stouffville driver held the lead for 30 laps.

Fastball could use some flair

I attended an Oshawa and District Fastball League game at Memorial Park last week.

Although the hometown Mennos lost to Mount Albert, it was a well-played contest that, until the middle innings, could have gone either way.

But something was missing, an ingredient once so much a part of this great Canadian pastime.

Call it colour. Call it excitement. Call it passion. Call it what you like, it wasn't there.

Not on the field and not in the stands.

The razzmatazz, once so much a part of this sport, was strangely absent.

The scene resembled a cemetery and nine tombstones. The silence was deafening.

Spectators, of which I was one, cheered lustily when a Mennos, outfielder completed a dazzling running catch.

But his mates showed no emotion.

Spectators roared approval when Mennos manager Howie Burkholder turned in a sparkling double play. But his mates reacted placidly.

There was vigorous applause when Mennos, hurler Byron Baranieski fired three straight strikes past a Mount Albert cleanup slugger. But his mates responded inaudibly.

This, I say, is what's wrong with fast-ball today.

It's being played in a voiceless vacuum much like tennis, golf and chess.

Remember the game when Stouffville's Bob Hassard poled a pitch from Port Perry's Bill Harper that exited the park and landed in the (old) arena



Jim Thomas

parking lot?

I do. His mates, to a man, lined up at the plate to greet their conquering hero.

Remember the night when Stouffville's Stan Miller belted a ball over the right-centrefield fence that ended up near the outdoor pool?

I do. Fans' cheers were audible on Main Street.

Remember the game when Neil Smith challenged a 60-foot elm tree in left-centre and drove a blast above its branches?

I don't. But a published report says "the crowd went wild".

That was then. This is now. The game hasn't changed. Performers are just as skilled.

But the razzle-dazzle's gone. It's Chinese checkers on an infield cut out.

Players have no one to blame but themselves. They're the focus. They're the hub.

They're the heart. What they do — or don't do — reflects on the fans.

Spectators react as much to what they hear as what they see. It's contagious.

Other additives are also needed. For example, the main diamond requires a scoreboard.

Can you imagine exiting a hockey game and not knowing the result?

As in "the good old days", a public address system could also be utilized, with some John Phillip Sousa music before each contest starts.

Import umpires with a little flare like the Wilf Morley's, the Swifty Todd's and the Al Piette's of yesteryears.

When a ball is a ball and a strike is a strike, lets hear it! Spectators are just as interested as the pitcher and catcher. Maybe more so.

Take up a collection. Any game worth its salt, warrants an "offering."

And a backstop screen cap is required.

While the town has done a sparkling diamond fencing job, a roof section is obviously missing.

But these are extras. All easily corrected.

More important is the performance of actors on the field.

If they're playing for themselves, keep it subdued, keep it quiet, keep it to themselves.

If they're playing for the fans, then toss some theatrics into the equation.

It'll pay big dividends. Like a full house every night.

I say, let the backroom boys tear out their hair seeking solutions to a fast disappearing sport.

They'll not find it there.

The answers are where the action is. In small town Ontario.

And let it begin in Stouffville.

Stouffville Area Churches Welcome You

Wideman Mennonite Church

Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
10:30 am Worship Service
Speaker: Sue Fallon
Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Fellowship Church
6273 Main Street
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
Missionary Sunday
Worship Service - 11:00am with Doug, Linda & the boys
"The Ferrett Five" all day.
Evening Service - 6:30pm
Refreshments after.
Please join us for a very special day.
August 25th - Rev. Robert Gatto
"Your life either sheds a light or casts a shadow"
For information call 905-640-2911
All Welcome - God Bless - We Care

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Robert A. Shields
(905) 640-1461
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
13th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Choral Eucharist
Church School and Nursery provided
& Everyone Welcome
e-mail: christchurch.stouffville@sympatico.ca
web site: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville

To advertise in this section please call Gail Reeves 905-640-2612

Welcome to...
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, Aug 18th, 2002
Worship at 10:30 am
Nursery Provided
Speaker: Rev. Don Muir
If you don't already have a church home, we invite you to explore faith, hope & love here.
Sharing God's Love
Everyone always welcome.
6432 Main St. Stouffville 640-3151
st.james.stouffville@sympatico.ca

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line
(905) 642-4414
Sunday, Aug 18th, 2002
Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
(South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
Sunday School will resume Sept. 8th
10:30 am Worship Service
"But I'm Indispensable!" 1Kings 19:19-21
Evening Service will resume Sept. 8th
Everyone Welcome

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Associate Pastor: Jay Sandiford
Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
9:45 a.m.
"Facing the giants in your life"
Pastor Bob Flemming
Nursery Provided &

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South, Stouffville
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
Dr. John Moore - Evangelist

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
6853 Main St., Stouffville (905) 640-5696
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
10:00 am Morning Worship
6:00 pm Evening Celebration
Call Church for more information

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
473-3543
Pastor: Robert Okum
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
Holding forth the doctrines of grace
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
Everyone is Welcome

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
Sunday Aug 18th, 2002
10:30 am Worship Service
Baby Fold available upon request
Everyone Welcome &