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The Inside Pitch

Great defensive play in junior rookie ball

By Lee-Ann Brinovec
Junior rookie

Our Tile Source junior rookie (K1) team took to the field in Pottageville as hosts to Aurora's Mastermind in a game last week that was highlighted by great defence by both teams.

The usual array of big hitters were stifled by the incredible fielding efforts put forth by Aurora. But Kurtis Lewandowski, Lucas "Big Swing" Critelli and Jake Hansen each made clutch hits to ensure Cobra runners would not be stranded on base. Jake Hansen was impressive, connecting for a double and then a triple.

The Tile Source folks played a tight team defence

that included Critelli being a hot glove at second base. His focus was admirable. Ethan Fisher made a couple of great outs at first base, backed up by Gregory Long in the middle outfield. Later in the game, Lewandowski was on the mound and was an effective member of the infield team making accurate throws to his partner Hansen on first to get several outs. On the other side of the diamond, Jesse Becker held down third base admirably and Emily Brinovec offered her skills as back up in left field. When the last Aurora batter made solid contact and things were looking a little bleak for the King team, Nicholas Lauriola came

through at home, making the out as a very quick thinking catcher stopping the Aurora team in their tracks.

The player of the game for Tile Source was Jake Hansen for his solid batting and fielding on first base.

The Filebank Records (K3) junior rookie squad took on a slick-fielding Schomberg IGA (K2) team last Tuesday at Pottageville Park. IGA continues to dominate at the plate this season. Home runs by Tyler Radell, Mark Lago and Christian Leone helped tilt the score in their favor. Michael Saraceni celebrated his sixth birthday by helping out his team offensively, going three-for-three at the plate with a pair of singles

and a triple. The Filebank fielders did their best to cut down on the run production as Giselle Murphy made a couple of eye-catching plays for outs at first base, and Mackenzie Douglas, working behind the plate, picked up a loose ball at the backstop and hustled to the plate to record the final out of the first inning. Douglas led the Filebank attack with a couple of solid hits scoring two runs. Ben Brown chipped in with a pair of hits, and Ffion McKay, Jonathan Brunato and Justin Topp each had base hits and scored a run.

While the Filebank team hit the ball hard, the IGA infielders did their best to knock down everything that came their way, including five putouts at first base by Mark Lago at the pitcher position and Andrew Dinopoulos at first.

Player of the game for

Filebank was Mackenzie Douglas. Player of the game for IGA was Andrew Dinopoulos.

Senior rookie

The TVS Development Corp senior rookie (K1) team trounced their opposition from Beeton, 23-8 last week.

Zachary Long led the way as he belted out a double and a stand up triple. Daniel Pignataro showed his speed on the base paths as he stretched a double into a triple and Myles Cook followed his lead as he ran full out from first to cross home plate on a well-hit single by Adam Cipollone. The TVS squad was not only outstanding offensively. On defence, Scott Cameron made a nice play at third and held a runner at first on a fine throw from right field to first baseman Hunter Chantiam.

Rona Cashway, the senior rookie (K2) team, played two games this past week.

On a very hot night, and fielding only eight players, the team put forth a great effort against the Aurora Diggers. Kyle Venberg, Thomas Beckley, Cassidy Tomlinson and Rachel Price led their team offensively. Playing with a short handed team, meant that the fielders had much more ground to cover and they were grateful for the play of Kyle Venberg who made a great stop at short to keep an Aurora runner from advancing. And then in the fourth, he made an unassisted out at second, knocking down a hard-hit ground ball and beating the runner to the bag. Matthew Iannucci made a timely out at third and Thomas Beckley recorded the third out in the

See 'Pee wee' on page 15

King resident Ian Black trains Plate champ Mike Fox

By Bill Rea

Most agree last Sunday's Queen's Plate was a real thriller, and that was especially the case for King City area resident Ian Black.

Black, the former manager at Kinghaven Farms, is the trainer of Mike Fox, and he watched his colt come off the rail on the stretch, scoot by the favoured Jiggs Coz and spoil what had been shaping up as an easy win for Alezzandro.

Mike Fox took the Plate by half a length.

He is owned by Morgan Firestone, and he went off at 15-1 odds from the outside post position.

"I thought he had a chance," Black commented a couple of days later. "I thought he'd run well."

Alezzandro seemed in command of the race until jockey Emma-Jayne Wilson got her mount moving.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Black said. "It was a last-minute surge."

Mike Fox had seven

previous starts and three wins before the Plate.

The race was historic because it was the first time a woman jockey was in the winner's circle at the Plate.

"If I had the choice right now, I wouldn't switch with any horse in the race," she told TSN's Sandy Hawley before the start. "Ian's done a tremendous job getting him ready. I'm really happy about the position I'm in and just looking forward to see if we can get our nose in front."

Wilson later told TSN's Renee Kierans that things looked a little worrisome coming out of the final turn, but rider and horse were able to get things together.

"He wanted it just as bad as I did," she said. "I knew I had it. He was moving so strong coming to the wire."

"I just buried my head and kept on driving," she added. "He got down so deep and out of nowhere, I just knew we were flying."

"I'm just very honoured to be part of Emma's great

day," Black told TSN's Jeff Bratt, adding he was also happy that Firestone got a Plate win.

Councillor Linda Pabst praised the local effort at last Monday's council meeting.


"I had one of the most exciting Queen's Plates that I have ever been to," she told her colleagues.

She also commented that Firestone has been hoping for a Plate win for years. "It couldn't have gone to a more deserving owner," she remarked, stating Firestone has done much for the horse industry over the years.

"And I won money," Pabst happily declared.


Mike Fox paid \$32.40, \$13.10 and \$5.


Black said the horse is slated to run in the Price of Wales Stakes, the second leg of the Canadian Triple Crown, later this month. He was hopeful of his chances there, all being well with the horse. "You kind of take it one day at a time," he remarked.




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