

Williams earns silver with Team Canada

MOUNTAIN — Chris Williams made a brief stop here at his home on the first of the week.

An extremely short pause in his 1989 summer softball odyssey, following a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The 18 year old ball playing wizard had just flown home from Summerside P.E.I. where he had played first base for his country, on Team Canada, in the World Junior Softball Championships.

He was still trying to regroup and focus following a period of his life that has passed into history.

He said he couldn't explain it all, "It really hasn't sunk in yet."

"Playing for Canada was a great experience. Everyone played super ball. It was a chance of a lifetime," he said.

Team Canada, for a second straight time, came up as second best to the world champions from New Zealand losing 5-4 in the Saturday night showdown.

Williams said the only thing that would have improved the experience would have been that gold medal.

"The closing ceremonies Saturday night. There were between 6,000 and 7,000 people there. They raised the flags, sang the national anthems, just like the Olympics and made it very special."

Williams said he couldn't believe the press coverage the team and the sport received in P.E.I.

"There were five of us from Team Canada did a TV show. The interviews were 10 or 15 minutes long. There were always reporters asking questions after every game and people wanting autographs, it was unbelievable."

Chris' uncle Bill Williams (one of a large group of family to spend the better part of two weeks on P.E.I.) backed his nephew's observations.

"They (TV) covered every Canada game like they do the National or American League games. The cameras were right in the dugout, right in the players' faces. If they made a good play the commentators acknowledged it. The same if a player made a bad play, everyone knew about it."

"We only got to see Chris and the team for about 10 minutes after

each game. The people were there too, trying to see the players and then they were taken away to the players' village."

The elder Williams said in all of his years of playing, coaching and following softball, he has never seen such talent on one team. He said the speed of the game, the turning of double plays and extra effort put out by the players was simply amazing.

"It was certainly easy to see why they were all on the team."

He added that it was a shame to have the team disband after one competition. "That's it, those guys will never, probably, see each other again."

Bill Williams said he and Chris' relatives had no idea of the magnitude of the competition or the quality of the young men playing on Team Canada.

"There were some real characters, some guys we got to know real well, that part of it was great."

He said a couple of his strongest memories were the dinner with Team Canada and securing an autographed Canadian flag from the Team Japan coach who knew no English.

Chris Williams said playing in front of at least 5,000 very ap-

preciative fans every game, a bench clearing brawl with New Zealand and the attention he received as a member of Team Canada, were among his clearest memories.

On the field, Chris Williams played all but one game, a nothing game lost to the USA to leave Canada with a round robin record of 11 wins and a loss, at first base.

"I think I played pretty well. I hit around .285. I had a couple of bad days and against that pitching if you're not in the groove every at bat, all of a sudden you've gone 0-3. You have to have your head into every pitch to stay on top."

Williams stood third in tournament RBI production into Friday's final round robin games, with seven. He hit one homerun and had several potential shots pulled down at the wall.

This week the North Dundas graduate was heading to Napanee with the North Fredericksburg Juniors and the 1989 Ontario Junior Fastball Elimination tournament, featuring 31 teams.

In mid-August the Williams' softball odyssey will take the Mountain Ontario family to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and the 1989 Canada Summer Games where Chris and eight members of Team Canada will play for Team Ontario.



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Enjoyed reading sports editor Al's recent feature relating the success story of 18-year-old fastball ace **Chris Williams**. But doggone it Al, you failed to grasp the real impact of the thrilling tale. Oh sure, you sort of casually noted the lad's father (**Bob**) was once a better-than-average player, but nowhere in your exciting saga did you explain the source of the youthful athlete's sparkling talent. **Think it just has to be told!** Chris learned it all from his mother, and the training began at a very early age. There are those up Mountain way who claim, when Chris was six months old, his Mom used to 'fire' his bottle from the kitchen sink to the crib...and a little hand shot up and caught it. Who was his Mom? **Marilyn** of course. The same Mountain girls' championship team catcher Marilyn (Hyndman) Williams who 'picked off' more runners at second base than the illustrious Gary Carter. Chris, one might say, is a chip off the old blockette.

You might have noticed in the paper an "Appreciation Night" (on Nov. 16 at 6:30pm in the South Mountain Agricultural Hall) for Chris Williams and Dwayne Nichol. These people are: **Chris Williams** played international and national softball last summer; won silver medals in the Senior Softball Championships and a gold medal at the Summer Games on a team representing Ontario. **Dwayne Nichol**, who lost a leg in an accident, is being honored because he is the first handicapped individual to receive his black belt in Tai Kwon-Do. He presently teaches Tai Kwon-Do to the handicapped in Ottawa. These are two young men truly worthy of recognition.

Area tetrathletes among Canada's best

MOUNTAIN TWP. — When Jay Cull says he's a tetrathlete, he's used to a few puzzled looks.

The 17-year-old Mountain Township resident is one of the top regional competitors in the tetrathlon — a physically demanding and psychologically challenging sport involving riding, running, swimming and shooting components. However, outside equestrian circles, the tetrathlon tends to be a relatively obscure sport.

As a member of the Oxford Downs Pony Club — which is affiliated with the Canadian Pony Club — for almost a decade, Cull has competed in tetrathlon at international, national and regional levels.

"I joined the club nine years ago with my sister Julie, just for fun. We were still riding ponies, and it grew from there," says Cull, who also co-operates a riding stable with his sibling when not training for competitions.

"It does take away from your social life, what with time spent training and instructing, but it's worth it," states Cull.

"What I learn as a competitor, I can pass along as an instructor."

He says the object of tetrathlon competition is to encourage, promote and develop interest in horses and horsemanship by combining riding with other athletic activities. It also turns out a good, all-round athlete with a solid understanding of the importance of conditioning in relation to performance.



Tetrathlon times two
Meghan Noseworthy and Jay Cull

Along with Cull, they begin tetrathlon training on the shooting and swimming components as early as January and will start running and riding practice sessions as soon as spring weather permits.

The Canadian Boys team won the competition, downing the British team by only nine points. It's the first time the Canadians ever have won tetrathlon on the international stage.

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