

# Sports

## Little Knights

David Benzaquen  
Staff Writer

The Little Knights, a new Little League baseball team, will take the field this spring, thanks to the St. Andrews baseball team's Fun Nights and the Laurinburg Optimist Club.

The St. Andrews baseball team set up Fun Nights for kids in the community, held in the gym two Fridays of every month during the season. They charge \$10 per child and for larger families, after the first child every other one is half-price.

During these "Fun Nights" the baseball players play basketball and soccer with the kids and bring in Nintendo games for them. The players also set up other activities to entertain the kids, such as swimming, and a pizza party at ten o'clock each night.

The baseball players say they get a real kick out of babysitting a few nights. "It gives us a chance to act like kids again," said Josh Miller. He also said that it's helping them practice being fathers. "The baseball team is successfully giving something back to the community by giving the parents some free time," he said.

The baseball team uses the money for trips away and to enable them to stay on campus spring break to play scheduled games. The team had \$300 left over from their past trip to Florida and donated it to the Laurinburg Optimist Club. The Optimists used the money to sponsor the new little league team.



## LEMAY'S GOING PRO

GARY BRAZZELL  
STAFF WRITER

As Bob LeMay leaned back on the hard, wooden bleachers to watch his old St. Andrews teammates play their second home game of the season against Catawba, he appeared too placid to be a man living a dream.

But when he slid his newly re-laced baseball glove on his right hand and pounded his fist into it, a determined expression and a glaze over his eyes betrayed his cool demeanor. The same determination mixed with dreaminess showed in the faces of the blue-sleeved St. Andrews players on the field. Most of them want to achieve what LeMay accomplished on June 6, 1991 when he was asked to accept a draft from the Detroit Tigers.

Last season LeMay had his first taste of pro ball when he played on Detroit's short-season, A-ball team, the bottom tier of the Tigers' farm system. His minor-league Niagara Falls Rapids Team placed third in the New York Penn Lake League. He pitched 30 innings and finished with a 2.88 ERA.

The unshaven 22-year-old broke his long trek from Schaumburg, IL. to the Tigers 1992 spring training site in Florida by stopping at St. Andrews March 3 and 4 - his first visit since he left the college in 1991. "I miss the people, the teachers and the team a lot," he said.

While on campus LeMay pitched with friend Gary Wood and "lifted" in the Physical Education Building's training room for conditioning before the six-week practice season begins on March 6.

Looking back on

baseball at St. Andrews, LeMay said: "I really respect Gary (Coach Gary Swanson) for what he has done for the team and for me. Playing for Swanny really helped me because he taught me a lot of discipline.... Last year I called Gary 'coach' or 'sir'."

LeMay said professional baseball is "just like college ball" under Swanson. However he said the intense attitudes of the players all trying to earn their way to the major league makes a difference. "We're all trying to get noticed," he said. "It's a job, but it's a person's dream, too. You get paid to do something you love to do, something that boys just starting out dream of doing. Not too many people can say that."

In the 1992 season LeMay will play long-season A-ball with the Fayetteville Generals. The move from short to long season represents a small promotion in a climb which will have to take him from A-ball through AA and AAA-ball before he reaches the major-league level.

The forward-looking lefty keeps his head out of the clouds by setting a three-year limit on the time he will allow himself to play minor-league ball without significant promotion. He explained that he plans to continue his education at one of the many colleges in Illinois if he does not play in the major leagues. His contingency plan consists of earning a master's degree in accounting with further studies in law before he is 31.

Some say that professional baseball players are overgrown boys playing a boy's game. Bob LeMay is obviously not that. He is a man with his feet firmly planted on realistic ground but with a rare opportunity to live a boy's dream.

## CANADIAN BOY DOES WELL

GARY BRAZZELL  
STAFF WRITER

Pitching for Team Canada last summer in the 1991 Pan-American Tournament to qualify for the Olympic games in Barcelona has changed neither Dan Chlebus' team-first attitude nor his desire to work hard and improve.

Only three days before his first home game against Salem, St. Andrews Knights pitcher Chlebus went straight from practice to dinner at Belk and finally to Winston-Salem Hall. He and teammates Lee Gogol, Jeff Markosky, Dean Nowe and Brad Pederson sat in Chlebus' room playing Super Mario Brothers and waiting for their turns in the shower.

Burny Beckman, head scout for Canada, honored Dan Chlebus for the second time last summer by making him one of only forty invited to try out for Canada's Olympic baseball team. In 1990, Canada let him go in the final cut. "This time around I knew what was expected of me and went in with a tougher mental outlook...I wasn't going to be cut," he said to Dan Bellerose of Ontario's The Sault Star.

In 1991 he earned the privilege to relief pitch for Team Canada in exhibition tournaments in Tennessee and Holland and to play in the 15-day Pan-American Tournament in Havana, Cuba. The first four teams from that tournament go on to play in the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. The first four teams were Cuba, the United States, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Team Canada placed seventh

out of eleven teams.

Nevertheless, the boyish Canadian from Windsor, Ontario appreciated his summer experience. "Uppy (John Upham, Team Canada's pitching coach) motivated me and really helped me out. He found my weaknesses, and I learned a lot," he said. Chlebus mentioned bad food, great beaches, and an all-out brawl with Team Mexico in Havana as other noteworthy aspects of his tour.

The 21-year-old slinger expressed surprise when told that he is only seven saves away from breaking the 13-year-old National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes record for saves. Fred Morrone of Saint Xavier holds the current record of 18.

Pitchers are credited with saves when they pitch for one to three of the last innings and do not allow the opposing team to overcome a pre-existing lead of three or less. The six-foot-seven junior stopped to imagine how his record might stand if he had not been injured his freshman year.

However, Chlebus has not kept track of his rapid gain on Morrone's record. He wants to play more middle reliever even though doing so will hurt his chances to break and hold the NAIA saves record. Showing his strong team-first attitude, the 230-pound Knight said: "The saves record is not my concern right now. My concern is being able to hold the opposition. I hope to do a lot of middle reliever and closing this year. I'd rather have more of a presence on the team."

