

SOUTH SHORE SPORTS

Reid softball tourney brings \$7,500 for handicapped



Gazette, Richard Arless Jr.

A total of 26 teams participated in the ball tournament.

By JOHN MEAGHER
of The Gazette

Not even a disappointing finish to the second annual Greenfield Park Softball Tournament could take away from the event's ultimate goal — charity in the name of the late Mike Reid.

Reid, an avid softball fan who was well known in Greenfield Park sporting circles, died of muscular dystrophy in 1983 at the age of 20.

It is somewhat reassuring to know the only tally that will count in the eyes of the Reid family, countless volunteers and the teams that participated, was the money raised for handicapped children at the Mackay Centre in Montreal.

About \$7,500 was raised, surpassing last year's total of \$6,000.

But Sunday's final between Canada Drive-In Restaurant of Greenfield Park and a team of Brossard old-timers, wearing Ogilvy's uni-

forms and going by that name, almost overshadowed what otherwise had been a shining example of community spirit and sportsmanship enjoyed by all.

Ogilvy's forfeited the final to Canada Drive-In when the game, tied 2-2, got out of hand in the fourth inning.

Tossed out of game

It was rather ironic that a charity tournament dedicated to helping handicapped children nearly erupted into a donnybrook when a baserunner from Ogilvy's, Yves Tougas, bumped second-baseman Jeff Williams after he'd been tagged out.

First-base umpire Frank Reid, the father of Mike Reid whom the tourney is named after, immediately ejected the Ogilvy's player.

"It was a blatant cheap-shot, very bush-league," Reid said.

Bernie Brodeur, sponsor and first-baseman of Ogilvy's, saw the play

differently. He said it was a two-fisted tag that prompted Tougas to go after the second-baseman.

"I don't agree with what (Tougas) did but it must be understood that there was a lot of a tension during the game."

Events went from bad to worse after that.

Both benches emptied and players had to be restrained.

A melée followed and another other Ogilvy's player, Réjean Carrier, was ejected by third-base ump Danny Murphy.

When Ogilvy's failed to resume play, the game was forfeited to Canada Drive-In.

"It was a very unfortunate ending because the rest of the teams told us they enjoyed themselves tremendously," Reid said.

Indeed they did.

There were 26 teams participating, 16 more than at last year's inaugural tournament.

Reid said he wasn't going to let the final game tarnish the tournament's image.

"The tournament was created by friends of my son who wanted to let players enjoy some friendly softball and drink a few beers, all in the name of charity."

He said that Ogilvy's would not be invited back next year.

Pitcher 'too good'

Brodeur of Ogilvy's said part of his team's frustration stemmed from the fact that one of its pitchers was deemed "too good" to play by tournament organizers earlier in the day.

He said he deeply regretted how the final ended.

"We came here to help a worthwhile cause ... it's a shame what happened."

Fred's Texaco from Greenfield Park won the consolation final with a 4-0 win over the Goutillon team from the South Shore.