

Touch football is serious fun



Touch football
John Stevens mixes business suits with touch football as he leads Thornhill Colts to a hoped-for title this year.

By FRED SIMPSON
The Thornhill Colts aren't the most valuable football franchise in the country.
In fact, owner John Stevens paid just \$350 for the franchise last year. And he isn't plagued by player contractual disputes. They will be. They pay John from "\$35 to \$40" a year — just to play.
The Colts are a "fun team" and play in the 12-team Toronto Touch Football League.
"We're all an old group of ex-jocks who have gone on to other successful professions," said 27-year-old Stevens who played his high school football at Thornhill Secondary and was twice nominated as Georgian Bay conference all-star quarterback.
He's lived in Thornhill 12 years and is a sales representative.
"We're a mixed bag of

salesmen, lawyers, firemen, and corporation managers," he said, "but we all have one thing in common. We've never lost our love of football."
Enter touch football as opposed to the tackle variety.
"None of us can afford to risk injury in a body contact sport so touch football is our answer to that," said Stevens.
The touch football Colts play isn't that much different from the old schoolyard variety except that it's much more highly skilled.
"The league as a whole is liberally mixed with ex-CFL as well as university players who at 25 or 26 years of age have lost none of their old skills. It's a very competitive league."
The Colts, for example, have added two former University of Toronto footballers to the lineup this season.

They are quarterback Dave Langley and running half Mark Accles.
"Touch football runs generally on tackle principles as tackle football," said Stevens.
"We use a regulation field."
The teams operate a seven-man offensive against a like number of defensive squads with passing the name of the game.
"Each player on the offence is an eligible receiver," said Stevens.
"The strategy for scoring is a series of short passes which set up the long throw for the hoped-for touchdown."
Blocking is taboo and the rules have a player called the "counter" or "rusher" who stands five yards back from the offensive centre and rushes the quarterback when the ball is snapped.
The after-touchdown converts are passing

plays; there are no field goals; the ball is kicked only on third downs and opening kickoffs, and any fumble whistles an immediate whistle with the ball ruled dead.
The Colts have some homebrews in their lineup in the persons of:
Keith Fagg, who played his football at Thornhill Secondary, and was also adept at pole vaulting where he won a provincial championship at the CNE. He was also an all-star at basketball, track and field and hockey.
He attended the University of Toronto and is currently a teacher at Sutton.
Mike Burkart, who attended Brebeuf College and was an all-star football player. Burkart also played hockey with the Aurora Tiger juniors and attended the University of New Hampshire on a hockey scholarship.

Dave Kirkland attended Thornhill Secondary where he played football and basketball. He's a graduate of McMaster University and is currently specializing in a one year radio broadcasting course at Humber University.
Other members of the team include the aforementioned Langley who had a brief tryout with the Calgary Stampede and Hamilton Ticats. He's a sales representative.
Mark Edwards, ex-Queen's University law student and now a corporation lawyer; Dave Smith, tabbed as the "old man" of the team at 32 years; and a fireman by trade; Dave Hurst, once a top-seeded tennis player in Ontario at 16 years of age and now an industrial real estate salesman.
Other members of the team are Duncan McLeod, Steve Overgaard, Willie Wilson, Greg Ellis, Jim O'Keefe, Dave Clarke, Wayne Filmore, Doug Burnie,

optometrist, Chuck Brinley and Bob Ellement.
Coach Rae
Coach of the team is Glen Rae of Thornhill who is also a merchandising manager across Canada.
"They're all doing well in their professions," said Stevens, "and I feel it's a tribute to the game of football that they still take an active interest in being involved with it."
"There's a lot of camaraderie among the players in the league. We dinner, dances, a year-end holiday, and enjoy many other activities."
As for the popularity of touch football?
This year for the first time an All Canadian National finals will be held in Toronto Nov. 12 and 13 with teams flying in from Vancouver, Winnipeg, New Brunswick and Halifax.
That's popularity.

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Men's fastball

Video wins title

By DAVE BARBOUR
For Video Real Estate, formerly Joe's Garage, lightning does strike twice as they are once again grand champions of the Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League.
Video found themselves struggling earlier in the season and were only starting to move up at mid season; at seasons end they reached second place.
In the play-offs, Video were invincible as they swept Richmond Hill Auto Body in three straight for the championship and they swept their semi-final set against Barrow's Insurance as well.
In the first game with R. H. Auto it was Video 6-2. Gord Woolnough scored in the first as he singled, was sacrificed along by Don Campbell, and Steve Wood's single provided the RBI.
The Hillers knotted the count in the second as Glen Polhamus walked, advanced on Jim Clement's single and scored on a fielder's choice by Billy Hunter.

In the third, Video moved in front to stay as Campbell singled and Wood's homer scored two. In the fourth, Bobby Howard doubled, Pete Hanam got a life on an error and both scored on Clyde Dimmell's single.
Dimmell poked Howard in the sixth, for added insurance.
The Hiller's final run came in the last inning as Rob Forget, who got on on an error, was singled home by Glen Green-slade. Bill Fox was the winning hurler while Jim Clement suffered the loss.
VIDEO TIME
In the second go, it was Video all the way 4-0. They jumped on Clement's pitching early as Dave Berseth singled, Bob Ritchie singled, Howard singled scoring Berseth, Jim Anderson singled in Ritchie, and finally Dimmell doubled driving in Anderson, as Howard was put out earlier.
This all took place in the second. In the fourth, Howard singled and scored on Hanam's single. Dave Herseth tossed the shutout. It was

Clement all the way for the losers.
GHOSTVILLE
Richmond Hill Auto Body gave the ghost in the third meeting 5-1. Here, in the first, Mike Thompson singled, and was singled in by winning hurler Dave Berseth. Woolnough doubled in the third and Berseth singled in the winning run. In the fourth, Val Steffan homered accounting for the Hiller's lone run, and Anderson was knocked in by Woolnough for Video.
The champs added two more runs in the fifth, Berseth singled first on an error, Ritchie, Howard singled home Berseth and Ritchie scored on Hanam's sacrifice fly. Clement was the losing pitcher with relief from Val Steffan.
President Paul Ortiz was on hand to reward the winners with the championship trophy.
DANCE
The formal trophy presentation will be made at the league's annual dance Oct. 28, (a Friday). At this occasion, Joe's Garage Juniors will

receive the league championship trophy. Also, the most valuable player and the most sportsman-like player will be announced and trophies presented to each. Ronald's Federated or Jenkin's Garden Supplies will be presented with the President's trophy as consolation play-off winners.
CONSOLATION SERIES.
In their best of five series Ronald's Federated won its second straight contest over Jenkin's Garden Supplies 6-0 as big Tom Drennan tossed the shutout and was the victors big gun. Jenkin's errors added to the Ronald's score as well. Brian Madeley took the loss.
Jenkins spent the next two games catching up with a 2-1 score in each contest, the latter in extra innings. Their big hurler Madeley was the whole story for the gardeners in the third game as he homered, in the first inning, with Nelson Lund on with a single. Ronald's lone run came in the fifth as Mike Daggett was singled home by Frank Kernohan. Madeley

bested Drennan in this pitcher's duel; Madeley had 9 strike-outs and Drennan recorded 7.
In another pitcher's duel between the same pair, Madeley again homered to open the scoring in the fourth. Drennan scored the tying run in the final frame as he got a life on an error and was sacrificed along by Bill Robson and singled home by Wes Berseth. This set the stage for the first extra inning play-off game.
Madeley crossed the plate with the winning run as he singled and scored from second base on Bruce Samspon's shot to the left field fence which ended the game in the ninth.
The final game in this series, and the Men's league season, was set for Monday of this week, at the Town Park, weather permitting. If this game had not been played on Monday, it would be rescheduled for tonight at Crosby (Wednesday), where all further ball action will take place as the Town Park facilities are being renovated.

Hill, Thornhill teams in Old-timer's tourney

To be an old-timer in Thornhill next weekend is to be beautiful.
That's when the first annual old-timers hockey tournament will take place at Thornhill Community Centre next Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
The tournament will embrace hockey teams from all over the province as well as Quebec, 32 teams in all.
Especially represented will be area hockey teams from Thornhill and Richmond Hill.
The line-up of 32 teams includes former NHL star, Dick Duff, who will be playing for his native Kirkland Lake team.
Admission for the entire three days will be \$1. All ticket sales will be donated to the Thornhill Hockey League and the Thornhill Figure Skating Club.
Entrance fees will cover expenses for the tournament which will be sponsored by Carling O'Keefe.
The tournament will use both ice surfaces at the centre from Friday at 9 a.m. to Sunday afternoon.
Members of the hockey and figure skating club are now selling tickets. They may also be obtained at the door.
Richmond Hill's entry (a spin-off from the original Sunday Sudsers) will find Jim Michin; defence, Doug McInnis,

Eric McKee, Mike Muirhead. Missing will be regular Al Pegelo who is out with a broken leg.
Forwards, Merv Dunnett, Jim Barry, Mike, Frankie and Charlie Mashinter, Paul Carruthers, Gary Pallethorpe, Matt Kinari, Guy Olmstead, and

Julian Cengrgar. Three of the Richmond Hill regulars will be lining up with the Thornhill Old-timers entry for this occasion only.
They are Vince Demarco, Dave Hopper and Ken Stevens.
Also participating will be the Thornhill Antiques.

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