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# The Tribune

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# Betz team sweeps board in tournament

Although a late entry in the holiday weekend slowpitch tournament, Betz Pools battled their way to the top. Coming from behind in both semi and final rounds to win the tournament's championship prize of \$500.

The tournament, organized by the Stouffville Raiders club, attracted 24 teams for the three day event and provided exciting ball for both players and spectators - despite a prolonged downpour on Sunday which threatened to wash out the event.

Most disappointed team were Stouffville's Butter-makers, who after defeating the Playboys 12-2 and

Scorpions 3-0 lost out against the eventual finalist Calathumpians 10-5.

Betz had an uphill battle, despite winning their opening round 3-1 against Barrie East End Merchants and literally dumping the Stouffville Dumpers 24-0.

In the semi-final against Vachon, Betz showed their championship form in coming from behind to win 18-17.

Trailing 11-9 in the fifth innings, Steve Malcolm drove the ball over the fence for a grand slam, followed by an impressive homer by Brad Steel to put Betz ahead by three runs; Steel hit three homers for Betz in Monday's games.

Outfielder Paul Parsons

added to Betz phenomenal performance by making an impossible catch at the fence, followed by a throw that took out the Vachon base runner for an 18-17 win and a shot at the top prize.

In the championship round, the Calathumpians took an early 9-0 lead at the end of the second and looked close to invoking the mercy clause. However, a rally by Betz in the third kept them out of trouble, but from there on in they had to fight every inch of the way.

Tied 11-11 at the end of regular play the Calathumpians failed to score in the eighth. However, for Betz it was Doug Todd's homer that finally did it. Todd had

already bounced the ball off the fence several times during the tourney. This time it went all the way.

The home team win was a popular one with the big crowd. Starting as underdogs, Betz had to work hard for every run in the semi-finals and final, coming from behind on both occasions against what seemed impossible odds.

Team members are: Paul Parson, Dan Wendorf, Steve Malcolm, Brad Steel, Doug Todd, Cliff Lumley, Keith Betz, Dan Faber, Doug Feasby, Pete Fitzpatrick, Scott Connor Bob Wagg, Bill Milos, Campbell

Martin and coach Marvin Betz.

Thanks are due to the following individuals and firms who helped the Raiders organize the event: A & S Construction, Rennie Transport, Schell Lumber, Parks and Recreation department, Regal Restaurant, Murray Emmerson, and the teams and fans. Also members of the Community Centre Board who gave so freely of their time: Fran Sainsbury, Marg Bowes, Lloyd Jennings, Bill Murphy, Ken Cosgrove and Harry Schell.

Thanks to everyone for a great weekend.

## In my opinion

By Jim Holt  
 Sports Editor



## Losers are not winners

### Mediocrity

Have you ever wondered what the meaning of Consolation winners means? I have, many times. It means that you are the best of a bunch of losers.

What an indictment. Can you possibly imagine why anyone would want to be the best of a bunch of losers? I haven't.

It's a load of old rubbish really. It is the great North American syndrome of there being no losers - only winners.

Everyone's a winner. Don't upset them by telling them they have lost. Give them another chance. Perhaps they won't feel so bad.

But what about the team who finish as runners-up to the champions? They have gone the whole route, playing the best in the field, and proving that even if they are not of championship quality they are at least worthy of being in the same class.

In professional sporting circles there are no Consolation winners - only winners and losers. If you get knocked down in the fifth round of the heavyweight championship of the world you don't get a Consolation prize. You get, in most cases, consigned to the scrap heap.

Are there, then, Consolation winners in the Stanley Cup; Wimbledon finals; horse racing? Of course not. So, why do we perpetuate the myth that if you are not good enough to win fair and square against the best competition available, you are as good as they are because you won a trophy for being the best of a bad bunch? It really is a load of nonsense.

Yet, we continue to bombard our youngsters with bits of meaningless chrome and plastic that imply that they are winners - of sorts. Instead of relegating them along with the losers, en masse, to the also ran file.

Personally, I would like to see a more straightforward approach to competition, especially as far as youth is concerned. Rather than encourage mediocrity - God knows we have enough of that in both sport and government - put the emphasis on teams and individuals with championship potential. A runner-up is certainly worth recognition. In fact, even third and fourth place winners, be they teams or individuals, deserve more recognition than a Consolation winner.

So let us do away with this recognition of non-achievement. Insist that organizers of sporting events delete forever from their list the horrendous term Consolation winners. After all, all it does is encourage mediocrity.

What arena? An interesting little bit of information has come my way.

Eldred the Unready says - it's the truth - that Council have not yet decided as to whether they will go ahead with the arena-complex. Can you believe it? I can.

So there you are folks. Roll out the tumbrils. You can stick the guillotine opposite The Tribune office so we can get some good shots of the action.

Fine tourney I don't know about the rest of you, but I had a marvellous weekend - thanks to the Stouffville Raiders slowpitch club.

Thank you Raiders for a great tournament and for super organization. Do it again.

Nice to see Councillors Fran Sainsbury and Jim Sanders, also school trustee Harry Bowes and his charming wife, community board chairwoman Marg, out an about enjoying the ball games. Obviously, they have the same interest in community affairs as we do.



President of the York-Durham slowpitch league, Paul Murray (left), presents the top prize of \$500 to Betz team captain Brad Steel (centre) and owner-coach Marvin Betz. Brad also received the Most Valuable Player award in the final game.



Marg Bowes, chairwoman of the Stouffville Community Board, presents a cheque to tournament organizers Dave Stapleton and Frank Haylow (right) for the proposed arena-complex. The money, which would have been paid to hire staff for the tournament, was turned back into the fund by volunteer helpers.

## Spartans fail in York final

The Spartan junior rugby squad came close to getting a berth in the Georgian Bay championships last Wednesday. However, they were unfortunate in drawing Markham in the opening round of the York County meet and were blanked 4-0.

It was the Spartans best performance of the season, despite atrocious weather conditions they did everything right, winning the ball from the scrimmage and pinning down the marauding Markham running backs on their own line.

The Spartans failed to make the most of Markham's penalties, Bernie Schopf kicking wide of the uprights on two of them. Neither team managed to get close with their kicking attempts.

Markham seized their

chance when Chris Baggs hesitated just a second too long. Despite Lee Brown's fine flying tackle, the Markham forwards surged into the Spartan end, eventually to walk the ball over in the ruck for the only try of the game.

Markham went on to win the junior title by beating Thornhill 42-3. They also took the Midget title.

They were, however, denied the senior title for the first time in many years - that went to Thornhill, who eventually won 14-10 after four periods of overtime.

The two top teams in each division go on to the Georgian Bay championships later this week, giving Markham a chance of the triple crown. Thornhill will also have teams in the senior and junior divisions.

## Bantam schedule

Home schedule for the York-Durham softball league allstar Bantams starts tomorrow evening (Thursday) when they meet Goodwood at 8:30 on the main diamond.

Other home games this season are as follows: June

2 Port Perry; June 9 Uxbridge; June 16 Markham; June 23 Markham; June 30 Goodwood; July 7 Uxbridge; July 14 Port Perry.

Team manager is Bob Belisle. Coaches are Murray Pattenden and Jim Davis.