



**Claremont Squirrels rule first place**

Only one team has managed to beat them this season — Unionville. The awesome Claremont squad includes, from bottom (left to right): Adam Young, Wayne Meredith, Darrell Vanderlight, Bobby Ferguson, Jeff Jocko, Tom Uzzell.

Top row (left to right): Kris Elson, Jason Underwood, Mike Feasby, coach John Vanderlight, Chris Hall, Bronson Lawrence, and David Jones. Absent from picture is teammate Matthew Davis.

## Claremont licking rivals

The Claremont squirts softball team bolstered their first place position Wednesday night by claiming Bradford as their 16th victim.

The Claremont boys sporting an impressive 16-1 win-loss record to date allowed only one hit in their demolition of the Holland marsh squad.

The final score was 16-1. Claremont's ace pitcher Mike Feasby allowed only one hit in the contest despite early appeals from Bradford that his wind-up "looked illegal."

The umpires over-ruled the claim and after the game, Claremont coach John Vanderlight remarked that Feasby's "jerky" style

of delivery (a slight arm-hook back before the spiral) was legal.

Claremont jumped ahead nine runs in the bottom of the second. Darrell Vanderlight started the rally early in



MIKE FEASBY

the game scoring on Bronson Lawrence's sacrifice RBI.

Claremont's progressive stealing (over 21 steals in total) coupled with Bradford's homeplate and over-throw errors furthered the point spread.

In the bottom of the third the visiting team shut down the Claremont batting machine on a three up-three down freeze.

Bradford finally got on the board in the fourth outting with pitcher Trevor Brown scoring on a dusty slider to home.

Claremont responded in the same inning with Chris Hall slugging a home-run to score Feasby for two. Minutes later two more run-

ners capitalized on a first-base overthrow error and a centre-field grounder.

Feasby tripled in the bottom of the fifth to score Vanderlight and Kingston and cap the win.

Claremont's impressive record to date includes two consecutive tournament victories.

The squirts "mercied" (beat the opposition by more than seven runs) Gravenhurst, Beamsville and Pickering in a Bracebridge tourney. They edged Scarborough 8-7 in the final.

In the Oshawa tournament Claremont upset Pickering, Port Perry, and eventually shut out Oshawa 14-0 in the final.

## Stingers double win means double-trouble for Pefferlaw

When the pressures on to win a "4-point" game against a hungry rival, Stouffville Stinger pitcher Liz Crittenden turns on the juices — especially when she's got a head-ache.

The intermediate girls slugged Pefferlaw 5-2 Thursday night to lock into a first place tie with their foe.

Prior to this triumph, the girls were in Mt. Albert last Tuesday for another big win. They out-hustled the home team 12-3.

In the latest contest against Pefferlaw, Crittenden faced only 24 batters (the minimum is 21) in seven innings. Despite a pounding head-ache she effectively frustrated Pefferlaw into fly-out situations. The visiting team had a difficult time

just grounding hits for singles.

The Stingers drew first blood when Lisa Blanchard tripled in the first to score Crittenden. Blanchard herself eventually came home to give her team a 2-0 lead.

Pefferlaw's Donna Hope provided just that — hope — when she blasted a home-run in the top of the second to narrow the gap.

The local infield impressively shut out the Pefferlaw offense in the third and fourth innings.

Crittenden's double in the bottom of the fourth scored Jannine Ferguson for what proved to be the winning run.

Allison Lowery also doubled in Dee Dee Keith. Blanchard's sacrifice single

brought home Crittenden for a three-run tally.

The Stinger outfield had a busy night hustling first and third base-line fouls for some great catches.

Sheila Fockler loaded the bases on a centre-field grounder in the sixth. However the team left three stranded on base in that outting.

Hope again tried to rally a Pefferlaw comeback with her second homer of the night in the final inning.

In the end it was too little, too late for the visiting squad. This win also clinched the Stingers' best-of-three season series with Pefferlaw.

In the Mt. Albert contest, the Stingers again found the win column.

Alternative pitcher Sheila Fockler successfully stranded rival runners on base with pop-out pitches.

With both teams tied at two runs apiece, Stouffville finally broke loose in its third outting with Keith and Ferguson coming home for a 4-2 lead.

Fockler and Lowery added two more in the fourth.

A double-error by Blanchard and Candy Brown in the bottom fourth gave Mt. Albert an easy run — also its' last of the game.

The Stingers' squad doubled its' lead in the final three innings to grab the win — an obvious warm-up for the Pefferlaw confrontation that followed.

## WHO WANTS TO BE AN UMP!

By Kelly Connelly

### PART I

UMPIRES are not in the softball business for the money.

You don't get rich calling "balls" and "strikes" behind a dusty homeplate. So it must be love of the sport that beckons these men and women to throw themselves to the spectator-lions!

And not too many people want to throw themselves in the lion's cage behind homeplate, or even first base.

Bob French is a senior umpire in the Stouffville-Whitechurch-Goodwood area. He's part of a rare breed of travelling-umps that almost obsessively find themselves in numerous ballparks across Ontario in the course of a week.

He said he loves the game, but admitted it can play havoc with his social life.

"I prefer umping in tournaments where you're

not known...in the local leagues, some spectators know you so there's this familiarity problem that you must deal with," he remarked.

French added there's a common trend among home-town spectators to praise the work of a "foreign" umpire and complain about the local officiating.

An umpire like French makes an average 300 to 400 calls in one fast-pitch game. Instantaneous yells of "ball", "strike", "safe", "out", and even the brash "you're outta this game" ejection call can take its toll.

"Sometimes the people forget we're only human," said the Goodwood resident. "We can make 99 good calls out of a 100...that's almost a perfect game, but the one bad call we make...that's the one everyone remembers!"

That element of stress or persistent spectator objections could explain why the



turnover rate of new young umpires is alarmingly low. According to 1985 Softball Ontario figures, 26 people have been carded (become official umpires) in Stouffville (14), Uxbridge (9), and Goodwood (3) to date.

French perceived that number as a very small fraction of the total applicant group that may have applied for cards. "More people have applied for cards this year, but they haven't been carded yet."

However, Softball Ontario spokesperson Laurie Chinick explained that some applicants attend the various one-day umpire and rules clinics, write the take-home exam

but never return it for marking.

French thinks the weak commitment response is in part a reaction from disillusioned teenagers. "The kid gets into a game...he gets yelled at, and then he says 'I don't need this.' Maybe the young umpire does have a gripe: Not everyone wants to be in that vulnerable position behind homeplate on a full-count call with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning in a championship tie game."

**NEXT WEEK:** Two umps tell how they handle irate fans, and the physical abuse that can sometimes accompany a controversial call.

August 7 - 25

## Masters Games: Locals go for it

By Kelly Connelly  
Sports Editor

The MASTERS GAMES — a massive world athletics endeavour — has enticed at least 25 Uxbridge and 19 Stouffville residents to enter into competition.

From August 7-25 Toronto will host this sports bonanza, (the first of its kind ever!). Recreational and competitive athletes from around the world, as well as some past Olympians will converge on the city.

They will participate in any of 22 different sports including athletics, swimming, water-skiing, ice hockey, equestrian, racquetball, diving, and cycling.

Uxbridge has entered two men's hockey teams. The squads will compete in the 35-45 age division.

Uxbridge defenseman John Davies said the teams were put together specifically for the August event.

"We're just out for the fun and experience," he added. His teammates are primarily amateurs with University and church league hockey experience.

A few NHL old-timers are rumoured to be entering the competition as well. "I wouldn't mind running into a Gordie Howe on the ice," chuckled Davies.

Stouffville has also entered a men's hockey team in the world tourney — the Stouffville Classics.

Team member Gary Williams was exuberant about the up-coming games and called it a great change of pace from the usual local team contests.

"My club plays Ajax and other local teams...this is a great opportunity to play against really good hockey players from places like Sweden, Denmark and who knows where!" the Giles Chevrolet-Oldsmobile parts manager exclaimed.

Organizers of the Masters Games have been very reluctant to draw comparisons to the Olympics.

Williams maintained that view. "This is not as commercialized or hyped-up as the Olympics are," he said. "This is not an Olympics...I'm not playing for my country, I'm playing for myself," echoed Davies.

Stouffville resident William Hutchinson, 40, will be competing in the Athletic events. The Toronto marathoner will run in the 400-800-1500-3000 heats, as well as the 10K road race.

Hutchinson coaches hockey in Stouffville and in 1981 led the bantams to the All-Ontario championship.

### 10,000 athletes

Games organizers are expecting 10,000 athletes.

Participants pay a \$60 register fee, and if the 10,000 prediction holds true the Masters Games could gross 6-million dollars.

Hutchinson called it a "big money-maker." However, officials of this inaugural event maintain it is "non-profit." All proceeds are to cover administration and other expenses that have accrued during the last three years of its planning.

The equestrian competition will be held at the International Equestrian Centre on Davis Drive near Newmarket.

Spectators can buy Masters Games passes at their local Royal Bank branch. A

\$20-pass gets you into all 22 sport venues for the duration of the tournament, the opening and closing ceremonies, and the first ever World Sports Medicine Symposium.

There's also an international wine-tasting competition that anyone (with a hardy appetite for crushed grapes) can enter. It will be held at the Sutton Place Hotel (the games headquarters) in downtown Toronto.

Those interested in just a few events can obtain five-dollar individual day passes.

Other Stouffville residents in the games are Jules Beauregard, Gary Blacktopp, Larry Bobbett, David Boyd, Ronald Collins, Michael Gadd, Douglas Gornall, John Hall, Harold Hodgson, Wayne Jackson, Gordon Minton, Arthur Nicholson, David Stronach, Peter Turner, James Wagg, Richard Hughes, and John Willis.

Uxbridge participants include Ron Lehman, Donald Mason, Michael Morrison, James Paradine, Ronald Pollard, John Pritchard, Jim Rushlow, David Smith, Vern Thomson, Vernon Willis, Vincent Winder, Rodney Anderson, William Ballinger, David Brunne, Terry Bryon, Nelson Cheung, Peter Cochran, Brian Dawes, Larry Elliot, Timothy Harshaw, Ronald Hunter, David Jackson, Lorne Jackson, and George Leask.

## THANKS FOR THE FENCE

The York Durham Men's Slo-pitch League would like to thank the Progress Club and the Betz Pools Oldtimers' hockey team for their financial support towards the purchase of the new fence in right field near the new diamond (number three). Without their help it would have been difficult to pursue this venture.

We would also like to thank Village Pools and Peter Turner for unselfishly donating their time to construct the new fence.

Sincerely,  
Paul Murray  
President YDMSHL

## Saints' get-mad strategy effective

Some defensive base juggling may have remedied the Stouffville Saints' mid-season slump as they split a pair of games against West Hill and Unionville.

West Hill downed the bantam A girls Wednesday night 20-12. The Saints responded Thursday night with a 14-9 victory against Unionville.

In the earlier contest the local girls, trailing 7-2 in the third, staged a 4-run rally to close the gap on West Hill.

Capitalizing on their opponent's overthrow errors, Amanda Devlin jogged all the way home and Karen Lanning belted her first of two homers to score Vicki Smith on what should have been a technical single.

Saints pitcher Lynda Belisle touched home as well on another wild West Hill overthrow.

However, just when the Saints squad thought it was riding a permanent momentum train to the winner's box, they too fell victim to errors.

A line-drive to third base in the top of the fourth was missed to score a West Hill runner. Belisle, not having one of her better nights on the mound, loaded the bases twice on walks. West Hill came away with three runs



KAREN LANNING

in that mess. The Saints most threatening surge came in the bottom of the fourth when they took the lead away from West Hill.

Catherine Dunkeld started the move scoring Kim Harper on a single. Dunkeld eventually came home too.

Karen Lanning blasted her second home-run off West Hill pitcher Patsy Rodgers to score Smith for two. Kelly Watling, RBI'd Belisle for the go-ahead run.

The Saints front-seat view didn't last long though. West Hill's Juliet Sighri ripped a three-run homer to ignite a 10-run blitz in the fifth to secure the win.

In a stubborn effort to end

its slump, Stouffville came back the following night with a big victory.

Thursday night's win against Unionville saw positional switches on second and third base prove effective.

Saints coach Cliff Dunkeld parked Shawn Morrison at third and Lisa Weatherill at second to reinforce the offense.

In the fourth inning a double-play by Belisle held Unionville to only one run and a 5-5 tie.

Stouffville's nine-run attack in the last outting overwhelmed the home team. The entire batting order (except for Morrison) tasted home-plate on that devastating drive.

Harper came in for her fourth run of the game (her second of that inning) to cap the win.

Coach Dunkeld was pleased with Morrison's solid performance at bat and on her new base. He added his team has to get mad sometimes to pull off a win.

Two or three umpire calls went against us...and that got the girls mad enough to want to win this game.

The Saints enter the provincial play-offs in three weeks.