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Squirts are giants in their division

When the Claremont squirts are in the ballpark, one name rolls off the tongues of opposing coaches — Mike Feasby.

Claremont's ace pitcher once again lived up to his awesome reputation Wednesday night when his team defeated the Stouffville

District Credit Union squirts 11-1.

The right-hander faced 28 batters and struck out 13 of them in six innings. The rest he either popped out or grounded out to first.

Although Stouffville effectively connected on some of Feasby's smokes, it managed only one run.

In the top of the first Claremont scored Darrell Vanderligt on an overthrow error.

Stouffville almost tied the game in the second. However, with a runner on second base, Claremont's Darrell Vanderligt smelled the potential steal and picked off the slider at third.

Claremont responded in the bottom of the same inning with four more runs. Chris Hall and Kris Elson scored on singles. Tom Uzzell scored on an error at homeplate, and Vanderligt capped the rally.

Feasby came home in the third on a sacrifice fly.

Stouffville broke Claremont's shut-out bid in the fourth to score Jeff Cowley on a wild throw that bypassed second base to the next county.

Claremont's David Jones responded in the fourth outting with a visit to home on a sacrifice single.

Hall's three-run homer in the fifth and Elson's single added four more to the point spread.

The stubborn Stouffville squad came back to tag Bobby Ferguson on a rundown between third and home.

Stouffville centre-fielder Jay Scaife made a great catch in the bottom of the sixth, and third baseman Clint Boland put the tag on a Claremont runner to end the inning.

Claremont attempts to extend its winning streak next Wednesday night when it hosts Newmarket.



A face full of dust and you're out!

"Get down!" yelled the Stouffville third-base coach. But Claremont Squirts Darrell Vanderligt was there for the tag on Stouffville slider Jody Bound. When the dust cleared Claremont slugged an 11-1 victory over the Stouffville Dis-

trict Credit Union squirts Wednesday night. Into the final stretch of its season, Claremont remains unchallenged in first place — Kelly Connelly



Key save on penalty shot

Stouffville Royal goalie Lindley Mussell makes a devastating punch-save off a Newmarket penalty kick. The minor bantam Royals (sponsored by Stouffville Real Estate) were leading 1-0 in the early second-half when Newmarket was awarded the penalty shot. Mussell's diving effort prevented a tie-game and the local boys went on to win 3-0. — Kelly Connelly

American college soccer players teach local boys

From the sidelines he looked like rock singer Rod Stewart conducting a soccer clinic instead of a jam session.

Ken Marshall, bearing a close resemblance to the scottish musician as well as ex-Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant, was in Stouffville to run his summer soccer school.

About 25 local boys participate in the week long session every year.

Marshall, a summer resident of Cedar Valley (north of Ballantrae), started the clinic last summer. He uses the field beside Stouffville District Secondary School.

Both men also run a three-week soccer camp in Florida. They sight fundamental differences in soccer technique spanning the globe.

Following the demise of the North American Soccer League and the Toronto Blizzard, Hayes and Marshall remain optimistic about Canada's soccer future.

"It hasn't really caught on in the States," said Hayes, whose father played for Birmingham City and Aston Villa. "There's a lot more of an English influence over here (in Canada)."

The recent Robbie International Soccer Tourna-

ment added an adverse twist to Hayes' observation since some outstanding girls and boy's teams from the States have won world championships in their respective divisions.

The roots to a stable, nationally acclaimed soccer team said Marshall were grounded in sharpening local talent and not relying on foreign imports to bolster public enthusiasm. "People want to see their own people play," he said.

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KEN MARSHALL U.S. player

The 23-year-old instructor has played four years of American soccer for Rollins College in Florida — one of the top five nationally ranked colleges.

Marshall was recruited south of the border after playing some outstanding ball with Wexford (Ontario). However, he remarked his days as a player may be numbered, after he tore some ligaments in his knee last year.

Gary Hayes, a 21-year-old native of Birmingham England and Marshall's team-

"North American soccer is hard and aggressive, somewhat like hockey. European soccer is a lot different because they have this finesse or soft-touch style of play," explained Marshall who carries a dual-citizenship in Britain and Canada.



Junior Champion

Mary Clarkson of Pine Toff Farm in Loretto was Junior Champion at the 5th Annual Ballantrae & District Lions Club horse show Sunday. The equestrienne stands beside her horse "Flight Warning" and displays her first-place trophy for the Handy Working Hunter competition — one of many events she entered and won.

Cathi Hargrave Senior Champ at horse show

On Sunday the Ballantrae & District Lions Club 5th Annual Horse Show exhibited some fine equestrian talent. Here are the winners: Beginners Walk/Trot — 1st. Erin Sweeney/Vital Signs (Markham), 2nd. Amanda Konzelman/Chelsea (Stouffville), 3rd. Linda Blackburn/Hearest (Stouffville), 4th. Kathy Krasnick/Cindy, 5th. Ronja Brooks/Enough of a Lady. Novice Equitation — 1st. Erin Sweeney, 2nd. Melinda Donnelly/Skittles (Claremont), 3rd. Linda Valleau/Easy Jay (Cedar Valley), 4th. Bronson Kingston/Findelvin Zing (Claremont), 5th. Kathy Krasnick. Junior Equitation — 1st. Mary Clarkson/Flight Warning, 2nd. Laura Johnson/Sheza Kitten, 3rd. Erin Sweeney, 4th. Melinda Donnelly, 5th. Bronson Kingston. Ballantrae Lions Club Medal Class — 1st. Gwen Lehar/Echo's Secret, 2nd. Cindy Kennedy/Escape Artist (Stouffville), 3rd. Cathi Hargrave/Vital Signs (Ballantrae), 4th. Mary Clarkson, 5th. Melinda Donnelly. Local Hack — 1st. Vital Signs, 2nd. Escape Artist, 3rd. Easy Jay, 4th. Suzanne Plewes/Bronco (Stouffville), 5th. Jim March/Rodeo Trick. Pleasure Hack — 1st. Vital Signs, 2nd. Megan Lindsay/Miller Tyne, 3rd. Escape Artist, 4th. Valerie Royce/Fair Bethany, 5th. Jackie Graham/First Priority. Junior Working Hunter Under Saddle — 1st. Vital Signs, 2nd. Skittles, 3rd. Flight Warning, 4th. Sheza Kitten, 5th. Andrea Wollner/Popper Doc. Open Working Hunter Under Saddle — 1st. Echo's Secret, 2nd. Vital Signs, 3rd. Fair Bethany, 4th. Escape Artist, 5th. Flight Warning. Open Hunter Hack — 1st. Echo's Secret, 2nd. Vital Signs, 3rd. Escape Artist, 4th. Fair Bethany, 5th. Sheza Kitten. Equitation Over Fences — 1st. Cindy Kennedy, 2nd. Mary Clarkson, 3rd. Megan Lindsay, 4th. Cathi Hargrave, 5th. Cynthia Bourne/Comishay. Junior Working Hunter — 1st. Flight Warning, 2nd. Leah Von Zuben/Another Step (Ballantrae), 3rd. Nicole Dözell/Country Grand, 4th. Jane White/Sterling Road, 5th. Bronco. Junior Working Hunter Stake — 1st. Another Step, 2nd. Flight Warning, 3rd. Sterling Road, 4th. Bronco, 5th. Findelvin Zing. Handy Working Hunter — 1st. Flight Warning, 2nd. Vital Signs, 3rd. Another Step, 4th. Kelly Plitt/Dial A Dream, 5th. Laurie Wright/Lasu Huran. Working Hunter Stake — 1st. Vital Signs, 2nd. Another Step, 3rd. Country Grand, 4th. Comishay, 5th. Flight Warning. Junior Champion was Mary Clarkson riding Flight Warning. Mary lives at Pine Toff Farm in Loretto. Senior Champion was Cathi Hargrave riding her horse Vital Signs. Cathi is a local equestrienne from Cashin Glen Farms in Ballantrae.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

The Stouffville Stingers Intermediate girls are in Norwich, Ontario for a tournament (under 19) August 9-11. The Shadow Creek School of Equitation runs its fourth school show August 4. Take McCowan Road five miles north of Hwy. 7 — 1 mile south of Stouffville Road to get there. The Stouffville Figure Skating Club presents Power Skating for boys and girls starting September 23. The Stouffville Sunday Morning Men's Amateur Hockey League will instruct and the cost is \$45 for 10 one-hour sessions. Sixteen teams will converge on Goodwood this weekend (July 26-28) for a Men's Fastball Tournament. Organized by the Goodwood-Uxbridge Auto Wreckers ball club, the tourney has attracted teams from Oshawa, Scarborough, Port Perry, Claremont and Greenwood.

WHO WANTS TO BE AN UMP?

By Kelly Connelly

PART II

Last week Stouffville umpire Bob French told of the absence of young umpires in today's game. Spectators, especially those that call themselves "umpires" while they sit 100 feet away in the bleachers, are a precarious group that play a critical role in the deterrence of young umpires. "I have been verbally abused in games, but there's a type of psychology to be used in handling mad players and coaches. I try not to stand face to face with them when they're yelling at me... that might promote some physical contact. I usually turn sideways to the person and listen to what they have to say," explained French. However, some umpires are not so compromising. Cliff Bass has been umpiring for 21 years. He remained steadfast in his handling of an upset coach or spectator. "I'll stand toe-to-toe with them... and if the arguing persists I'll walk away," remarked the 37-year-old Claremont resident. Bass, a geography and phys-ed teacher in North York, took a different approach to the scarcity of new umpires. He reasoned that teens are more interested in playing softball than umping. He also maintained that a "sense of humour" is indispensable in such a tense position. "You can't take the game too seriously; you have to laugh a lot." After some games though, I have said to myself, "that's it... never

again," but I come back... you have to have fairly thick skin, patience and good judgement," he added. Bass recalled a game he worked 15 years ago in Pickering where his "patience and good judgement" was tested by an inadvertent spectator. The "drunken fan" physically attacked him but fortunately no one was injured in the skirmish.

So why does Bass continue to park himself behind homeplate in what appears to be a thankless job? "It's a great way to spend my summers off as a teacher. The game needs umpires, and then there's the camaraderie you get with the ball players... it's a good feeling." Cliff Dunkeld, a Stouffville resident and umpire for 25 years, knows all about that "good feeling". He's been on both sides of the fence — coach of various hockey and softball teams and an umpire. Dunkeld believes there's more stress in coaching than umpiring. "As a coach I can second-guess myself... well maybe I should have done this or that... an umpire makes the call and he has no opportunity to question his decision, worry about it or change it," said Dunkeld. Umpires today operate under a mandatory law that they must carry one-million dollar liability insurance. Umpires are liable the moment they shout "play ball," remarked Rich Piette, a junior umpire who lives in Stouffville. Rich, the son of local umpire and chief Al Piette,

remembered a fragile situation in a men's slo-pitch tournament last year. "It was pouring rain right up to the start of the tournament... the field was full of puddles... we didn't like the look of it, so we made the teams sign waivers which cleared myself and the other umpire of liability," explained Piette. Umpires don't like to take chances when Murphy's Law looms over the ballpark diamond. If a runner tripped on his way to a base and broke his neck or even sprained his ankle in some freak accident, that runner, warned Piette, could sue the township, sue the umpire's association or sue the umpire himself. The plaintiff's premise for the suit might be an "unfit diamond," he said. Threatening fans, threatening law suits (although rare), and split-second decision-making appear insidious agents of a stressful job. Maybe the all-important question is not why the ump's do it, but HOW they cope.

French, Dunkeld, Bass and Piette unanimously agreed on four innate ingredients that evidence a good ump: strike-zone consistency, credibility, confidence and the acute ability to tune out noisy parents!

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NORMAN EWING

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