

Unionville-Stouffville tie 12-12

By KELLY CONNELLY

With the season just about dry, the Stouffville Saints bantam 'A' girls proved they've got a little juice left for the play-offs.

The squad slugged its way to a 14-8 decision over Oshawa and a 12-12 tie with Unionville's Burl's Cartage in back-to-back games July 30 and 31.

A six-run Stouffville wave in the first inning dampened Oshawa's chances of winning this one.

Debra Surman, Catherine Dunkeld, Vicky Smith, Linda Belisle, Stacey Evans

and Leanna Boyd singled each other home for the tally.

Saints pitcher Belisle whiffed five batters and popped out six others to prevent an Oshawa "come-back" — a syndrome reminiscent of past Stouffville performances where the local girls have had trouble hanging on to leads.

Although she did not score, Saints Amanda Devlin belted some long hits to fuel her club's offensive effort.

Belisle gave Unionville seven free passes — just enough it seems for the visiting squad to trickle in eight runners in the last four innings for the tie.

But the local girls should have taken home two points in this contest too.

Dunkeld's grand slammer in the second inning off Unionville pitcher Karen Sellery gave the Saints an early five-run lead. Dunkeld had six RBI's for the night.

With batting performances like that and two runs apiece by Kim Harper, Boyd and Devlin — what happened?

What happened was Unionville came up with four runs in the second frame and two-run innings in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Sellery might have given up a grand slam, but she made up for that with two hits

of her own — including a two-run round-tripper. She ended up scoring twice and collecting five RBIs.

Chris Wozniak had two hits, while Nicole Volpe and Laura Panter picked up a pair of RBIs each. Becky Clarkson and Michelle Quesnelle, both brought up from the Unionville Novices, contributed a hit and an RBI apiece.

Stouffville coach Cliff Dunkeld sites pitching strategy as the fundamental villain. "We have to get (the ball) across the plate in tight situations; we can't keep trying to strike (the batter) out," he explained.

Weekender

Sports

Sports
294-2200
640-2100

Markham knocks off Unionville

Two softball games against each other left little doubt that Markham's R.E. Wilson Electric Peeewe boys are better than Unionville's North Markham Honda club. Markham took both games in a home-and-home series this week, grabbing an 8-1 decision in Unionville, then earned an easy 24-2 victory back home.

The first outing was definitely more interesting, as Unionville was able to keep the score close after a five-run first-inning for Markham.

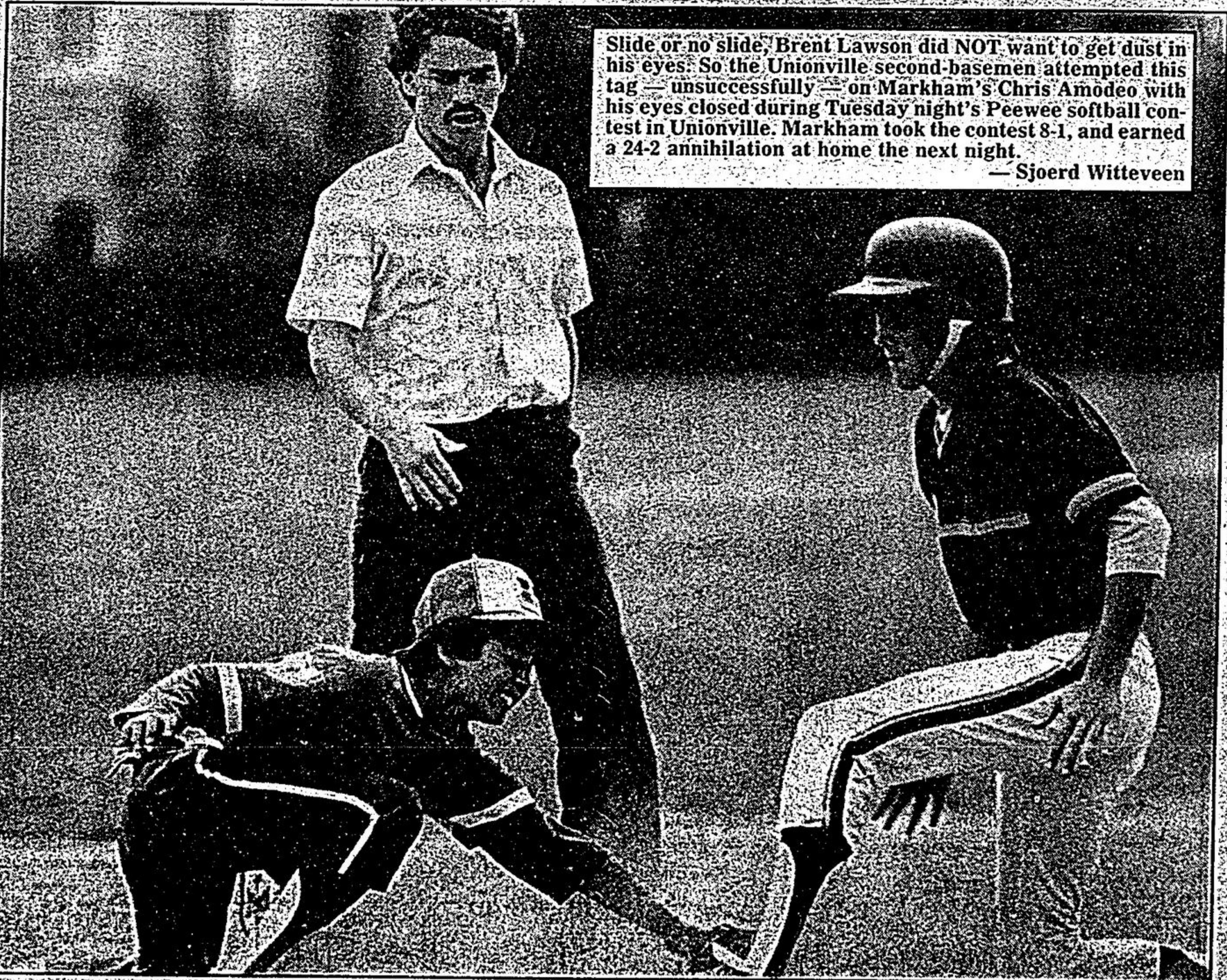
Unionville scored its lone run in that frame as well, while two Markham runners came home in the third and one more in the fourth.

"We hit well that night, but every time we hit it was right to a player, and almost everytime they hit it was to an open area," said Unionville coach Larry Herrington. "I guess that's as close as we'll get to beating Markham."

Rob Pashko and Mike Clausner (who scored once) slammed three singles apiece. Pitchers Chris Amodeo and Andy Sebo each scored twice on a hit and a walk. Ryan Robinson crossed the plate for Unionville.

The second outing was pretty much a blowout from the start. Markham sent 14 batters to the plate in the first inning, with eight of them scoring.

The club added three more runs in the second, put together six-run innings in the third and fourth, and finished up with a run in the fifth.



Slide or no slide, Brent Lawson did NOT want to get dust in his eyes. So the Unionville second-basemen attempted this tag — unsuccessfully — on Markham's Chris Amodeo with his eyes closed during Tuesday night's Peeewe softball contest in Unionville. Markham took the contest 8-1, and earned a 24-2 annihilation at home the next night.
— Sjoerd Witteveen

Football tourney

For all you football fanatics that can't get enough of the soaring pigskin, the amateur version of the last of the gladiators crunches into the Markham-Stouffville area for a one-day tournament Sunday, August 11.

Eight teams from the Central Ontario Senior Football League will converge on Fletcher's Fields for a first-ever four-game series — a pre-Season Kickoff Showcase.

The COSEL has been the stomping grounds of many CFL veterans, including wide receiver Dwight Edwards, now with the Calgary Stampeders, and Bill Hatanaka, a member of Ottawa's last Grey Cup team.

Two morning and two afternoon games are scheduled. Etobicoke takes on the awesome Mississauga Raiders at 10:50 a.m.; the Scarborough Vikings meet the Newmarket Steelers at 11:10 a.m.; East York Crimson Tide plays the Toronto Patriots at 1:50 p.m.; and the North York Canby clashes with the Northwestern Ghosts at 3:10 p.m.

Admission is free and there's plenty of parking. Food and beverages are available at Fletcher's Fields, located on Woodbine Ave. on 19th Ave. just north of Victoria Square.

Given earns freestyle gold

By KELLY CONNELLY

Stephanie Given knows all about tests — the kind that last only four minutes!

The 15-year-old Stouffville figure skater acquired her "gold" in freestyle last spring — a prestigious achievement marking the culmination of nine years of hard work.

Since the age of seven, Given has advanced through what she calls the "test stream" — passing her primaries, junior bronze, senior bronze, junior silver, senior silver and most recently the gold.

The degree of difficulty has inevitably magnified as she matures through the ranks. "For the gold I had to do a double axle — that was the hardest," she explained. "I also had to do a double flip, a double loop and some other compulsory movements."

Given, a member of the Unionville Figure Skating Club, hopes to compete at the national level some day. And competition is no stranger to this athlete. She has participated in some 30 contests spanning her career, including the Ontario Regionals.

But a veteran she is not. The challenges will only get tougher, said one of her coaches, former Polish National Champion Jerry Zawadski.

(Within the competitive stream) she is at the novice level right now. It's one of the toughest classes because there is such a



STEPHANIE GIVEN

large number of skaters. It's very easy to get lost in the shuffle," he remarked.

A critical hurdle for the young girl (outside of the persistent demand for more difficult moves) may in fact be peer pressure — a social syndrome that can make for

break a potential national champion, said Zawadski.

"At 15 or 16, there can be a lot of peer pressure from friends. If you don't do well within the next year or two, people give up," admitted the Markham coach.

But Zawadski said that like many talented skaters, Given displays the determination, diligence and desire to go far in this business of perfection on ice.

"I psyche myself up for a competition, but you have to be careful not to get too wound up... so I calm myself down," Given explained. "Part of it is practice... the more you do it, the more confident you are that you won't blow it."

The ex-Markham resident practises four and a half hours a day during the summer and almost doubles her ice time during the winter months. She also trains under the auspices of former triple gold medalist figure skater Kathy McCreadie.

Currently, Given is nearing completion of her seventh test in Figures. As well the gold in Dance may well be within her reach.

But it's the competition — the pressure of a four minute solo amidst the gaze of scrutinizing judges — that drives her on.

Originality, stamina and grace, coupled with that yearning for a perfect six makes Given's sport one of the most intense.