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Second Section

Wednesday, September 4, 1985

Double overtime fuels Royal win

No one would dare light a match near the Stouffville Royals last Tuesday night.

The minor bantam boys soccer squad (sponsored by Stouffville Real Estate) fought double overtime, inflamed lungs, and muscle

spasms to thwart an ardent Woodbridge club 2-1 in quarter final play-off action.

The mercury undoubtedly hit the fever numbers in this contest and for a good reason — both teams faced elimination.

But as the seconds ticked away and a scoreless first half dragged into another arduous second half, endurance and stamina, and maybe a little bit of luck decided Stouffville's fortune.

Momentum played the volatile creature with Woodbridge jumping on the Royal defenders early in the game. A couple near goals on Royal netminder Lindley Mussell provided ample warning for Stouffville to get its act together.

The local boys stifled Woodbridge's attack for the remainder of the first half. Stouffville's midfielders kept Woodbridge frustrated with some fine passing down the spine and long balls down the wings.

However, a rejuvenated Woodbridge machine came out screaming in the final half. The predominantly Italian club broke the stalemate with an extremely lucky goal 15 minutes into the half — and as the game matured, that goal promised to become more of a burden.

With five minutes remaining in regulation time the Stouffville squadron turned on the royal juices and striker Jimmy Murby drove home the equalizer.

And again the momentum shifted.

Two 10-minute overtime halves were called to break the 1-1 deadlock after 90 minutes of regular play could not decide a winner. Playing on borrowed time not to mention breath, both clubs looked exhausted but stubborn.

Neither side scored in the first 10 minutes. That the players just couldn't run anymore made the final 600 seconds even more tortuous with most plays consisting of long drives to the strikers.

With the game threatening to go into post-overtime penalty kicks the Royals decided to apply some second effort pressure. It worked. Jimmy Murby put home the winner to cap a four-on-one assault and end the agony.

In the latter 20 minutes of the regular game the other team was beat... even at halftime my boys knew it was just a matter of time before we would equalize the game," explained Royal coach Martin Johannessen.

"They (Woodbridge) were just dropping right back, their midfield was wide open, so we just kept pouring on the pressure."

NOTE: Special thanks to Royal player Jeff Carney for taking the time to write the post-game press releases.



Slidin' into the cowhide on a steal...

This Hans Motors slider gets a taste of the cowhide during Wednesday night's squirt boys championship tie breaker. Ballantrae Lions third baseman John Cowley displays the midas touch — also called the "tag" in ballpark jargon — during the minor softball contest. Ballantrae went on to win

the division championship edging Hans Motors 16-11. Team winners from all eight divisions will get their trophies during this weekend's end-of-the-season tournament.

—Kelly Connelly

Coaches' Comment: Do we strait-jacket our strikers in soccer?

Are Canadian soccer players tangled in a defensive mentality?

More specifically, do youth coaches strait-jacket their dribblers and cultivate their defenders — breeding an ancient attitude it is better to have a low scoring, disciplined game than a wild shoot out?

And how many coaches effectively control the length of leash they place on exceptionally talented players and strike that elusive balance between raw instinct and pull-back programming?

Very tough questions indeed!

However when Canadian soccer (exemplified by the recent low scoring Canada-Honduras clash) is criticized for its lack of STRIKER POWER, you can bet there will be some very tough answers.

And Stouffville's local soccer coaches have a lot to say:

"I believe the best method of defence is ATTACK! But it is true most coaches today are afraid to get beat because they might lose their job, you really see this fear at the international level...so the emphasis has been taken off the attacking game...coaches today look for big defenders first, the strikers are secondary. They say 'let's try and score one goal and defend it'...it's killed the game, it's boring to watch, and I've noticed the crowds are dropping off, not because of the riots, but because it's boring."

Tom Morton, President of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club

"I like the open game, but I think Canada is lacking in a proper soccer program...we have no professional teams either, so we must teach the kids the basics right from the beginning...and most coaches are very defensive minded."

Harry Davis, Coach of Fame International

"I don't like the defensive game myself. I play a more European style, like the U.K. I don't make 10 or 20 passes to move the ball down the field. My team makes only three passes and we move the ball from our 18 yard line to theirs...in Canadian soccer there is a constant build up of passes and passes...it's boring, just ask the referees who officiate these games, it's like watching ping-pong...but some of my guys can really motor, we use long passes and a lot of speed up front. My best method of defence is attack!...and I break the field into three areas, the defence clears the ball, the midfield sets up the play, and the attackers take every chance they get to put the ball in the net."

Martin Johannessen, Coach of the Royals

"Soccer has changed quite a lot...it's become a mathematical game where it can become quite boring. I too have a tendency not to let (my girls) take unnecessary chances with the ball, but if we're losing, well then I tell them to go for everything they can get...I think you have to go with what the players are. I have a lot of big girls, very strong in defence...but I think North American soccer has been a real failure at the professional level...there are few Canadians and the sport is still relatively new. There's not the same kind of enthusiasm as in baseball or hockey...parents don't seem to come out as much or understand the rules of the game."

Bill Burch, Coach of Junior Girls

Stingers win pair the hard way

The Stouffville Stingers are hooked on comeback hits.

The girls intermediate softball club ignited two remarkable come-from-behind play off victories last week in its hot pursuit of the 1985 league championship.

With a semi-final fever of 102 and a 7-0 deficit after two innings, the Stingers regrouped to dismantle Zephyr 8-7 in extra innings early last week. And if that wasn't enough to give Stouffville manager Ted Lowery near pulmonary arrest, his red and white machine upset arch-rival Pefferlaw Wednesday night 7-6 in the first of a double-knockout final.

After giving up a couple runs against Zephyr early in the game, Stinger pitcher Liz Crittenden got the showier signal and Candy Brown came in for relief.

The pitcher change up effectively frustrated Zephyr's swingers and the Stingers started their eight run blitz.

Jannine Ferguson, Sheila Fockler and Allison Lowery did most of the local dam-

age. Lowery's home run in the fifth coupled with a double RBI in the seventh closed the gap. Brown doubled to score, Debbie Gold for the tying run. Terri Piette came home for the winner.

The Stingers found themselves atop a Stouffville fire engine Wednesday evening prior to the Pefferlaw encounter. The girls were given a post Provincial Championship victory ride around town after winning

the Ontario Sophomore final August 11.

And Pefferlaw certainly could have used a couple hoses later that night to cool down Stouffville.

Trailing 6-3 in the bottom of the seventh against a seasoned team like Pefferlaw looked like a definite loss for the Stingers. However, the club quickly replenished its provincial reputation with a four run blast in the dying moments.

Ferguson singled home

Brown to spark the comeback. Lowery belted a double RBI to bring home Ferguson and Keith. Gold drove home Lowery for the winner.

The Stingers hope to decrown the '84 league champs sometime this week in game two of the final. With the Dr. Pepper and Provincial championships locked up, there is a very strong possibility Stouffville could take home "Triple Crown" honors.

SPORTS AROUND TOWN

MINOR SOFTBALL

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Softball League winds up its season with a tournament running Thursday night to Sunday. Trophy presentations for the league's divisional winners takes place between 4 and 5 p.m. Saturday at Stouffville's diamond 1.

YOUTH BOWLING LEAGUE

Registration for the Youth Bowling League will take place on Saturday September 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. There are three divisions this year: Bantams (11 years and under) bowl Tuesday and Saturday, Juniors (12 to 14 years) also bowl Tuesday and Saturday, and Seniors (15 to 18 years) bowl Sunday evening. Registration fee is \$3. Call Eunice Flewell at 640-3224 or the local bowling centre for more information.

1950's DANCE REVIVAL

Betz Pools Clippers Oldtimers is hosting its second annual 50's Rock N' Roll Revival dance Saturday night at 8 p.m. The event takes place at the old Stouffville arena. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from any member of the Clipper Oldtimers or at the door.

The B-52 Bombers provide cement sensation



The bladeless champions...

The Foolloose B-52 Bombers never played ball hockey before. However the cement sensation went on to win the East Gwillimbury Ladies Ball Hockey League up setting last year's champs Newmarket Optical 3-2 in the final August 20. Top row (left to right) Cheryl Foster, Ann Marie Lacourriere, Dawn Stewart, Debbie Coxworth, Karen Brodie, Nicole Bird and Michele Coppins. Bottom row (from left) Barb Goudie, Julie Thompson, Bonnie Hollingworth, Gloria Miltz and Kathy Keeley.

By KELLY CONNELLY
Sports Editor

They never played the game without blades! They never even practised. And worse, the Foolloose B-52 Bombers didn't want a coach.

The team name was intimidating enough to scare away any prospective Scotty Bowmans. Yet however anti-mainstream the Stouffville girls' ball hockey squad appeared, it certainly didn't inhibit the one goal that counted most — the league championship August 20.

With their Micron-less and Bauer-less feet planted firmly on concrete, the 12-woman club upset the 1984 champions — Newmarket Optical — in a 3-2 nail-biter. None of these girls had ever played ball hockey before. Of course they played ice hockey, baseball and soccer, but I guess they wanted a change, explained Barry England, the self-professed PR man for the Bombers.

But any team that lacks the number one rival in the season opener, and prefers to wear shorts instead of the usual hockey garb doesn't win eccentricity alone. The team was rich in ice hockey veterans from Stouffville's senior and championship intermediate team — the A & M Records All Stars.

But the odds of Stouffville even fielding a team for the East Gwillimbury Ladies Ball Hockey League were slim and none.

The girls weren't lacking in alternative sports opportunities and most could have easily tracked the Stouffville Stingers' softball roster. However, the teasing unfamiliarity of a sport they had never played became more than just a key call.

off. Bomber Debbie Coxworth bolstered her goal scoring habit — a talent quite unusual for a winter hockey goaltender. Her four-point blitz in the semi-final match gave a stunned Newmarket All-Pro Sports its walking papers.

The B-52 squadron continued its victory crusade with a two game sweep of Newmarket Optical August 13 and 20 for the crown.

Stouffville scored all three of its championship goals in the first period. Dawn Stewart slapped home a pair and teammate Barb Goudie netted what proved to be the winner. The Bombers stayed off a final two-goal assault by Newmarket to clinch the upset.

And despite the tough synonym the Bomber shirt might unconsciously conjure up, the club received few penalties all season.

The girls went into the sport not knowing the rules, they took a few high sticking penalties early in the season because they didn't know that if you raise your stick above your shoulder to slap down the ball, you're automatically penalized, but they learned fast.

There was some pushing and shoving in the last two games, but this is a high pressure, excellent team, you get the odd temper, but not a fight, nobody dropped the gloves, said England.

Even the most effeminate critic might question whether the B-52 Bomber dynasty is and will be simply a one shot deal that has run its course. That pretention can only be decided by the group of girls who created the most unlikely fusion in a fit of telephone talk one late night.

When the ice melts, again next Spring, it probably wouldn't surprise this community if the same group of females traded their stainless steel razor edges for some rollers.

Come to think of it, Stouffville could use a Roller Derby team.