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Learning the ropes

Students at Stouffville District Secondary School and the new Unionville High School started learning the ins and outs of field hockey with an exhibition game Wednesday afternoon. Stouffville came out on the winning end of a 1-0 score. Here, Stouff-

ville's Lisa Zeck (left) and Unionville's Jane McIntyre battle for control of the ball, while Unionville's Karen Lyn-Cook and Stouffville's Linda Hachey (far right) look on.

— Kelly Connelly

Stouffville wins 3rd title

By KELLY CONNELLY
It was a season beyond belief. Having said that, Stouffville Stinger manager Ted Lowery closed his scorebook and his eyes for just a moment. He shook his head.

Lowery's intermediate softball

team had just won its third consecutive championship this year — an exploit even he can't entirely fathom.

The Stingers captured the South Lake Simcoe Ladies League title last weekend by overpowering arch-rival Pefferlaw in a double

knockout final. But that feat was mere icing — call it the decisive chapter in a triumphant triple binge.

The tenacious red and white machine already had two Cups in its bullpen. The Stingers buzzed into Barrie to win the Dr. Pepper Tourney back in

July — a convenient tune-up for the August 11 twilight-perseverance battle in Norwich.

There the squad orchestrated the most exciting ballpark coup in Stouffville's history. The girls won the 1985 Provincial Women's Grand

Sophomore Championship in a midnight duel.

The key to winning the league final, explained Lowery, was how his roster handled the pressure.

That's what saved us against Pefferlaw, we were more adept at handling the pressure because we had been through it so often in Barrie and Norwich," he explained.

And the cauldron was definitely boiling last weekend. Thanks to an Aug. 27 extra-innings victory over Pefferlaw, Stouffville was already one game up in the series and needed one more triumph to grab the Cup.

Stinger Dee Dee Keith was 4-for-4 in game two. She belted Pefferlaw's first pitch of the contest into the next county for a home run. However, the seasoned Pefferlaw club fought back to win the game 6-2 and force a sudden death final.

Stouffville's opponents took an early 2-0 lead. However the local girls rejuvenated some lost spirit to tie the game in the sixth inning. Allison Lowery RBI'd notorious base-stealer Janine Ferguson, and Louise Redshaw smacked home Lowery.

In the final outing, with three of Stouffville's most potent runners loading the bases, Sheila Fockler stole home on a wild pitch for the winning run.

"We built up a rivalry (with Pefferlaw) this season... so maybe it was that little bit of extra desire," coach Lowery explained. "When our backs are against the wall, that's when we play our best."

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Markham Seniors earn 5-3 triumph

A 5-3 victory over Orillia kept alive the O'Toole's Roadhouse Senior soccer men's hopes for a second-place league finish.

For the first half-hour of the contest Markham played a near-perfect game, not allowing a shot on netminder Andrew DePiero. During that time Kerry Attfield, Mike Riddell and Dave Thureson all scored.

Both teams received warnings from the referee as the play became rough late in the first half. But Markham regained its

composure in the second frame, with Riddell completing a hat trick on two tallies.

Markham held a commanding 5-0 lead, but a red-card ejection and an injury to Vince Bellomo left it two men short for the final 20 minutes of the game.

That's when Orillia scored all its goals to make the final score close. Markham now has to win its final game of the season (against league champion Woodbridge) by four goals to finish second overall.

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