

Spartan skiers tackle Blue Mountain

By KELLY CONNELLY
Sports Editor
Stouffville District Secondary's Spartan ski team didn't break any records at the Stayner Invitational downhill ski race on Friday. But there is good news. They didn't break any legs either. Overall, Stouffville placed 18th out of 24 schools on a tricky Blue Mountain slalom course that inevitably deteriorated as the day progressed.

Although the Spartans, led by the talented Cathy Graham, showed much competitive spirit, they were no match for the slick speedsters that came off Eastview and Thornhill's assembly line. Some of the competitors were even decked out in Todd Brooker-like skin suits. But competitive garb aside, experience was the one vital ingredient lacking in Stouffville's assault down the hill.

For Spartan Wally Barbour, racing in 99th position didn't help matters. "There were a lot of ruts and grooves by the time I came down the hill," recalled the 15-year-old student. "I was kind of cold too, and my ski tip had been busted already (from an earlier run)...I just wish I knew how to use my (ski) edges more."

Carving was not a problem for Graham who saw more powder as an early starter than later racers. She was the 13th fastest female of the day. "There was not as much ice or ruts when I raced. The course was fast and it was windy on the flats. When I came out of the tuck I could really feel it," she noted. Barbour and his teammates, Guy Cowan, Graydon Card, Jeff Christensen and Lee Carney managed a 19th-place finish in the boys' afternoon heat. The Spartan

girls' squad which included Graham, Linda Hachee, Nancy Brownsberger and Leslie Stronach came 13th in the morning race. Cowan, who was lauded as Stouffville's best shot for a fast time, suffered a disappointing wipeout on his first run. It disqualified him from the competition. "I felt good coming out of the gate," explained the 15-year-old racer. "I was going around the

fourth gate and trying to stop to make the turn...and my left ski just slipped off. My binding wasn't tight enough." Markham District High won the girls' division, and Thornhill screamed to first spot in the boys' downhill chase. Eastview won the overall competition. NOTE: The Spartan ski team travels to Blue Mountain in Collingwood, Feb. 6, for the York Region finals.

MR. ORGANIZER
XMAS SHOPPERS
EVERYTHING
FOR GOLFERS AT
DISCOUNT PRICES
Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
Call: 478-4211 or toll free
1-800-263-3222
NEWMARKET GOLF & C. CLUB
(on Woodbine 1 1/2 M. N. of Davis)

The Tribune

Sports & Classified

The Town And Country Specialists
Town Living
Realty Limited
104 Main St. W.
Stouffville, Ont.
Toronto: 491-2223
Uxbridge: 473-3443

Second Section

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, January 15, 1986

1986 Softball Register kids now!

Calling all SOFTBALL players, aged 5 to 20, who are interested in registering for the '86 season. Mark these registration dates off on your calendar: Jan. 16 — 7 to 9 p.m.; Jan. 21 — 7 to 9 p.m.; and Jan. 25 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration will be held in the lobby of the new arena in Stouffville, and also at the Ballantrae Community Centre. The Vandorf Community Centre will take registrations Jan. 16 and 21 only.

Fees for '86 are \$30 per child which includes baseball sweater, hat, photo, and weekend wrap-up fun tournament. Family rate is \$75.

Representative (REP) players must also register now.

Diamond Allocation

All softball reps are invited to attend Community Ball's Diamond Allocation meeting on Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is at the old Recreation Hall.

Community Ball president is Cliff Dunkeld.

SIDELINE COMMENT

'The Stretcher'

By KELLY CONNELLY

A ski run carved for crazies? Every alpine resort has at least one ghastly hill for suicidal skiers. Mt. St. Louis/Moonstone in Barrie calls its most gruelling set of moguls 'The Stretcher' — in honor of its victims?

"The hill has a reasonable approach, then it drops off. If you're not an accomplished skier, you'll take a nose dive," warns the resort's owner. Dagmar Ski Resort, north of Clarendon, calls its most treacherous lump of moguls 'The Bomber'. The run is usually at its worst (which means best for the daredevils) in the spring when bumps have been built up by continuous snowfalls.

Then there's 'Mogul Alley' at Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Friday's Stayner Invitational downhill ski race took place right beside this ankle-twisting piece of mountain.

High schools from the region south of Barrie, including Stouffville District Secondary (SDSS), competed in the day-long slalom challenge. SDSS fielded a girls' and boys' squad.

Being an avid downhiller with a strange proclivity for watching wipeouts, I parked myself a quarter of the way down the run where a serious rut after Gate 4 promised a few casualties.

The cold wind played havoc with my camera's aperture control, however, the excitement of standing a mere 20 feet away from out-of-control racers on laminated daggers kept my mind off camera difficulties. A couple times I thought I was minced meat, but sure enough the teenage Todd Brooker would regain his balance.

I thought 'Mogul Alley' looked pretty tame compared to 'The Stretcher'. Notice I said *looked* — and not felt. My legs are an invaluable part of my job. There's no way I was going to try it.

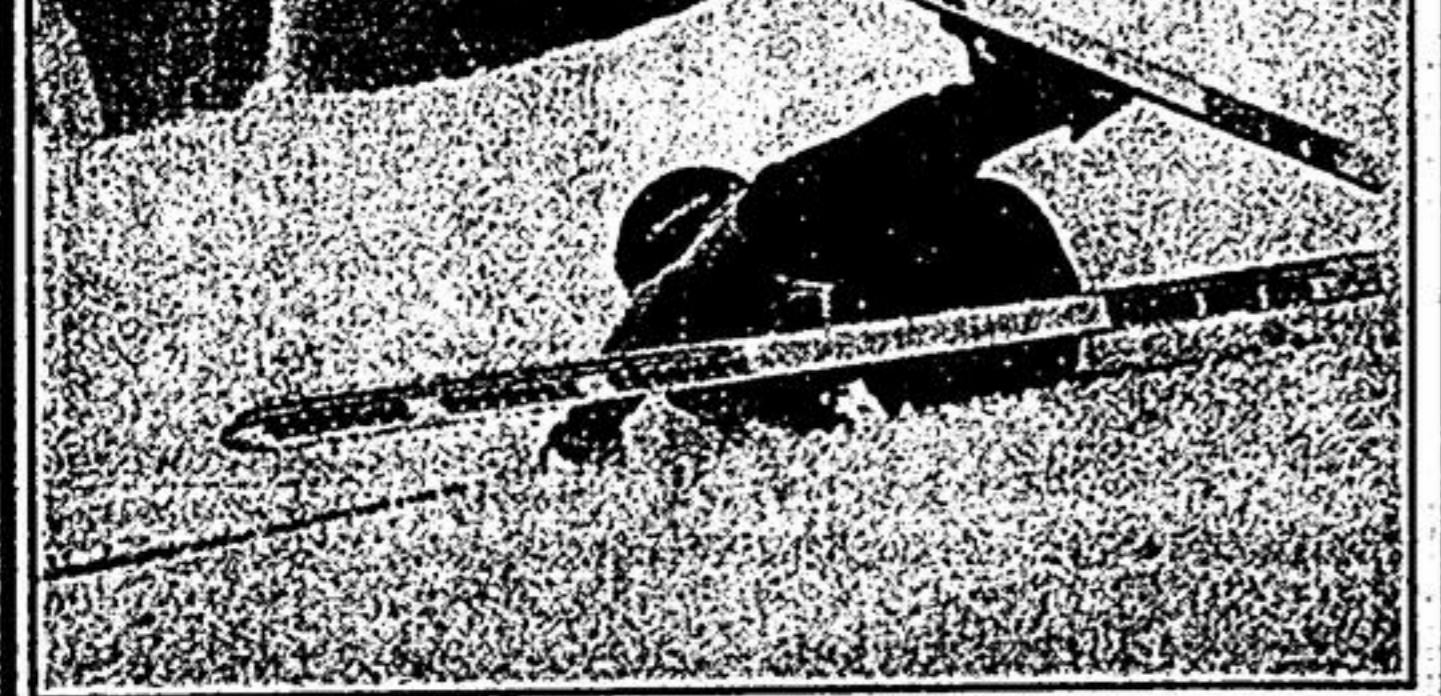
MY APOLOGIES
I take back everything I said about tooth-pick skiers of the cross country persuasion. My encounter with the thinner boards last Wednesday at Seneca College Nordic Ski Centre (King City) was anything but boring. Although I'm not an overnight convert whose cast aside her downhill rockets for the alternative nordic religion on snow, I now approach cross country skiing with an open mind.

Although Wednesday's lesson wasn't my first encounter on nordic skis, it sure felt like it. Myself, Tribune reporter Chris Shanahan, and Toronto Sun writer Perry Lefko (who is a thin looking Al Pacino) embarked on a one-hour crash course with a very patient instructor Rob Henderson.

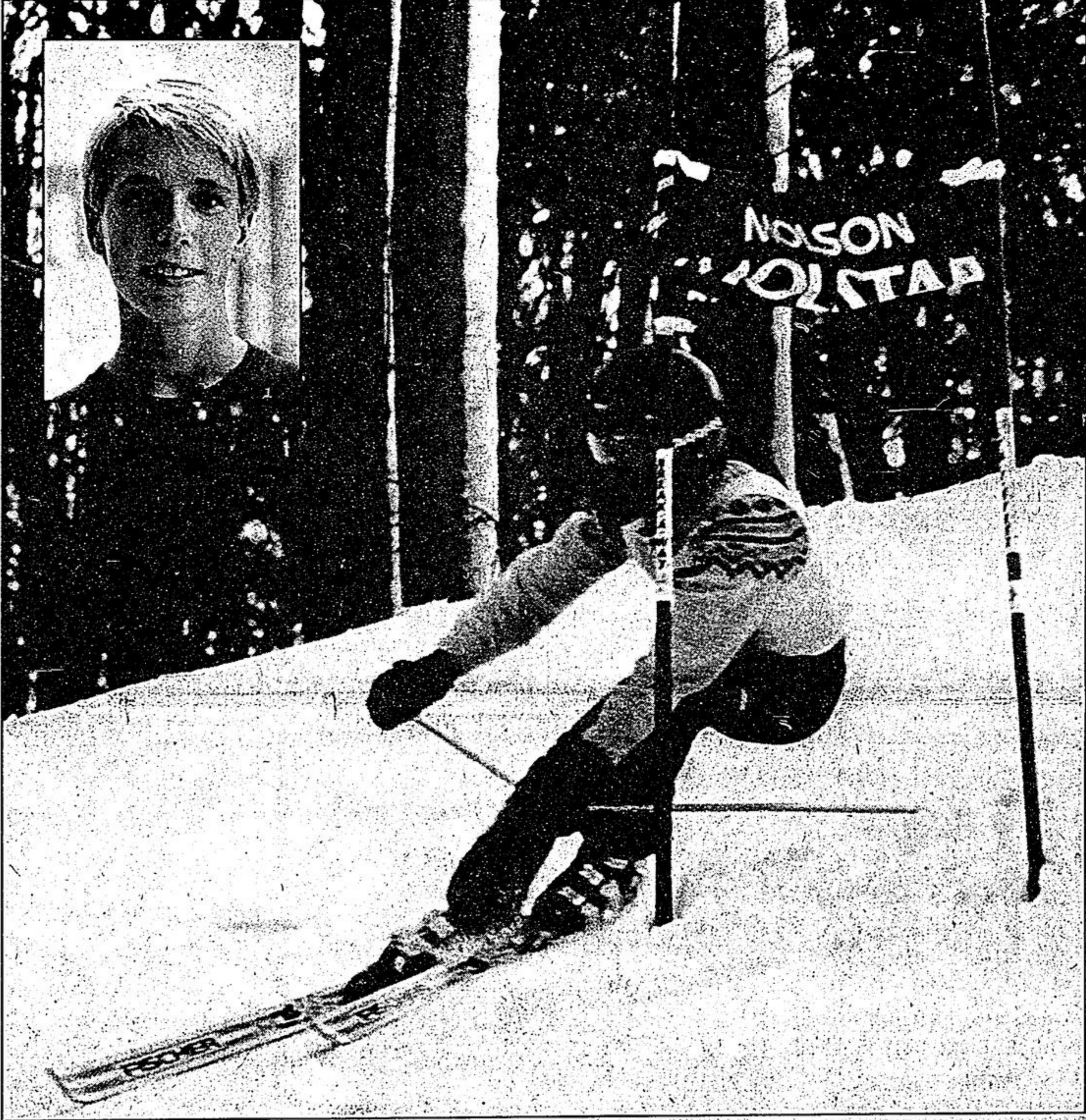
Apart from looking a touch timid on our laminated rentals, we gave Seneca's emergency patrollers the afternoon off. However, Henderson may have suffered acute hoarseness of the throat — the result of yelling continuous instructions at our tangled legs.

When we weren't playing tag — a great way to learn co-ordination and balance on skis — we were practising the art of walking, and gliding on trackset snow. Henderson even threw in some hopping, and callisthenics to make sure we wouldn't leave Seneca College without a few sore muscles.

The theme of the lesson was an exposure to Motion on Skis. It was part of Seneca's pre-warmup to National Ski Week which starts Jan. 18 at resorts across Canada.



High school racer hits gate 4 ruts at Blue Mountain



Breezin' down Blue Mountain

Stouffville District Secondary skier Guy Cowan screams around an early gate, seconds before his big tumble. The 15-year-old racer hit the infamous ruts near gate 4 during Friday's Stayner Invitational downhill challenge in Collingwood. Cowan and nine other teammates placed 18th overall out of 24 schools.

—Kelly Connelly

White Shadow comes home recruits two Uxbridge Tigers

By KELLY CONNELLY
Sports Editor
Uxbridge Secondary had its Tiger cage rattled by a former White Shadow.

The high school's senior basketball squads were subject to a two-day workout (Jan. 2-3) under the coaching auspices of '84 Olympian and ex-Uxbridge resident Andrea Blackwell.

It was during the mid '70s that the 6'1" centre — a little shorter than — hooped baskets for Webb Public School, Joseph Gould, and the Tigers.

Ten years later, she's come home sporting impressive credentials for a 23-year-old. Blackwell's completed an outstanding five-year career with Bishop's University in Quebec's Eastern Townships. She led the Gaiters to two national basketball championships, and represented Canada at the Los Angeles summer Olympics two years ago.

The acclamations don't stop there. Blackwell now coaches the Gaiters — she is the youngest woman in Canada to call the shots for a university basketball team. She replaced Wayne Hussey who moved up to head honcho for the women's national squad.

But back to the Tiger zoo. Her visit to Uxbridge Secondary was a combination scouting and nostalgic mission. Accompanied by Morgan Quinn who assists Bishop's male contingent, the two instructors put the senior girls' and boys' teams through their paces.



Andrea Blackwell, left, sizes up Audra Goeree

When it was over, two of the zoo's most promising players — Audra Goeree and Dawn Stewart — were handed prestigious invites to Bishop's training camp next season.

The Gaiter coach assessed the young recruits. "I think Dawn will be a support player for us in the guard position. However, she's still got to work on her ball handling."

"Audra is a girl with a lot of potential. She could be a national team member at some point, but she'd have to make a many sacrifices and put in a lot of time."

Blackwell noted the disadvantage of playing high school basketball in a small town like Uxbridge is the lack of competition. Players aren't pushed and challenged enough to better their skills.

"These (high school) kids lack experience, and the opportunity to play in better calibre situations," agreed Quinn. "Before we can teach them offence and defence strategies, they have to know basic fundamentals on how to play the game."

Goeree, a Grade 12 student, is still undecided if she will complete her Grade 13 in Uxbridge next year or accept Bishop's offer. Stewart, however, seems more than eager to hop aboard the Gaiter Express.

And what does Tiger coach Jim Schwan — whose run the most successful high school basketball program in Uxbridge's history — have to say about his two senior stars and the Bishop's proposition?

Gaiter uniforms are a little bigger than Tiger suits, figured Schwan. "Audra and Dawn will have to go on a weight program and gain about 15 lbs each," he said with a Tiger grin.

"I knew about Dawn and Audra three years ago," said Blackwell. "What I'm looking for are kids with height, athletic ability, coachability, and if they can get along with 12 other people on a team."