



# The Tribune

Sports & Classified



Second Section

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, February 19, 1986

**A & S Raiders and Raiderettes slide to victory**

## Snow-pitch tourney

The A & S Raiders and Raiderettes beat out 'old man winter' and the Clippers to win the Snow-pitch championship on Sunday.

The 10-team softball tournament, played on Stouffville's snow-covered diamonds, was part of the town's winter carnival activities.

Polar bears excluded, the teams consisted of men and women who fought cold temperatures, a slippery infield, and awkward snowdrifts enroute to a \$300 first-prize.

The Raiders and Raiderettes won five games including the 7-4 championship showdown against the Clippers.

According to one of the Raider sluggers, sliding into bases wasn't always a deliberate strategy — it just happened. "It was hard to plant your feet in these conditions. Running the bases was difficult...you were always sliding."

Most slow-pitch teams tried to hit the orange ball on the ground so it would take unusual bounces

in the snow and zig-zag around the baffled infielders. Many hits, lobbed to the outfield, seemed to disappear in the white stuff.

The humorous event was also accompanied by ATC tricycle races.

The winning A & S Raiders and Raiderettes team included Doreen Ertl, Elaine Kerswill, Lynn Norton, Cathy Harding, Joy Coxworth, Sharon Burke, Colleen Harper, John Armstrong, Mike Rowe, Tom Lehman, Mark Fockler, Ron Middleton, Paul Baker and Paul Murray.



Stouffville Saint Eric Lehman keeps his eye on a snow-pitch

## Nervous Pee-wee Clippers unbeaten in Quebec action

The Stouffville Pee-wee Clippers overcame first period jitters to win their first two games in the Québec international hockey tournament this week.

The Clippers, sponsored by Stouffville District Credit Union, defeated two Québec clubs —

Pont-Rouge 10-4 last Thursday and Charlesbourg 6-4 Monday morning — to advance to Friday's quarter-final.

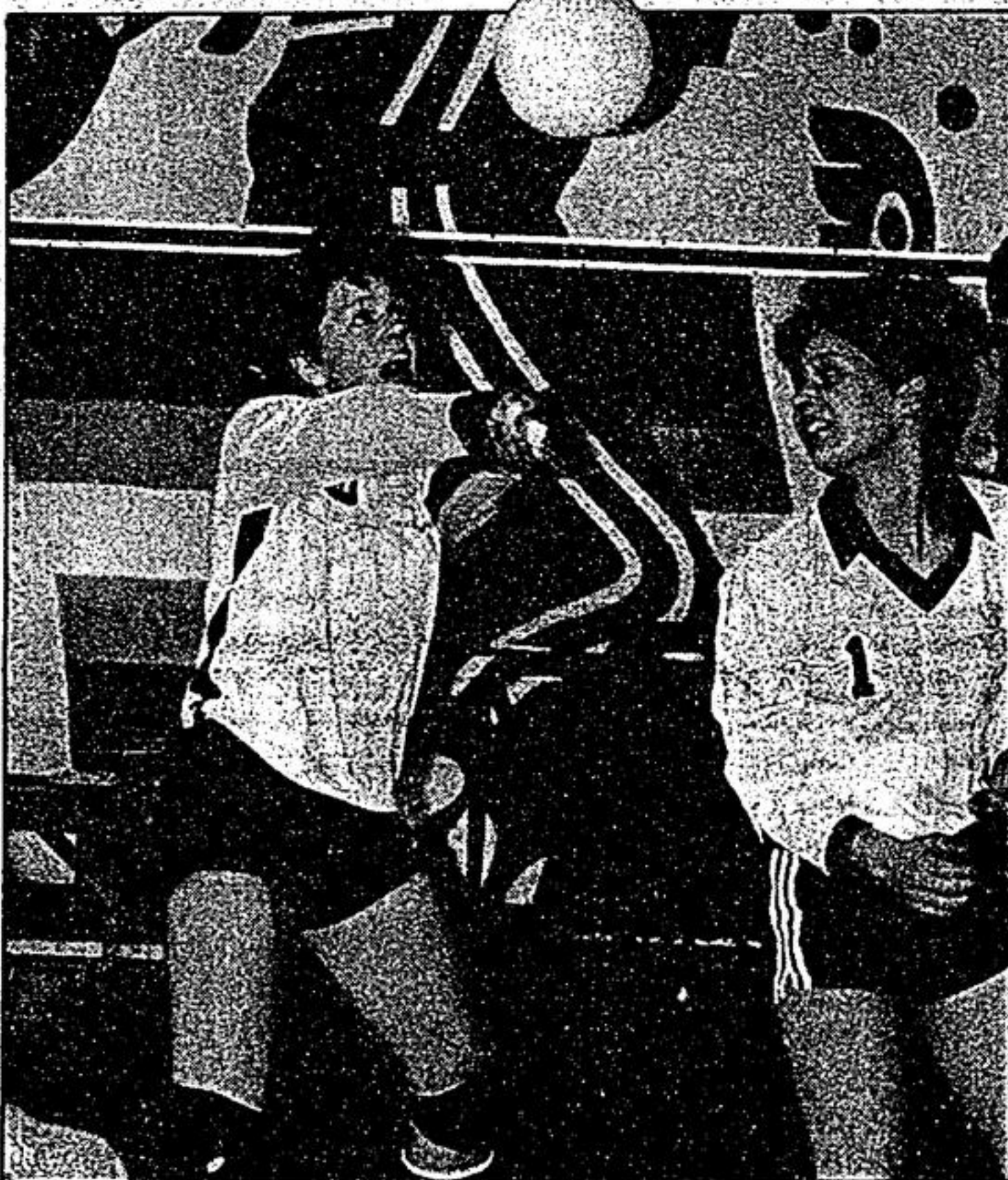
Scott McKinley blasted five goals and Jason Underwood scored four to pace Stouffville's first win. Underwood collected a

hattrick in game two, with singles going to McKinley, Biadi, and Maskery.

In the latter contest, the Clippers appeared sluggish in the opening period, and found themselves trailing Charlesbourg 4-2 late in the second frame. However, the local boys picked up the tempo in the final period to score four goals. Biadi drove home the winner.

Coach Glenn Whitebread and his team can't afford to lose one game from here on. According to a spokeswoman, the Clippers have yet to settle down and play their style of hockey. A few intermittent exhibition contests should help ease the nervousness before Friday's encounter.

If Stouffville wins its next game, it will advance to Saturday's semi-final. The CC tourney championship goes Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



## Stouffville skaters advance to finals

Two Stouffville figure skaters have advanced to the prestigious Central Ontario Section Inter-Club Championships (COSIC) to be held in Barrie, March 7-9.

Lee-Anna Hamilton and Melissa Gornik captured first place, and the COSIC ticket in the Junior Bronze Ladies Similar Dance at the Richmond Hill Inter-Club competition last weekend. The pair's exceptional performance was accompanied by other strong efforts from Stouffville Figure Skating Club cohorts.

Here are the results from Richmond Hill:

- PRE-JUVENILE LADIES: Melissa Gornik (4th), Lee-Anna Hamilton (10th)
- PRE-NOVICE LADIES: Nicole Vautier (7th), Susan Anderson (8th)
- JUNIOR LADIES: Stephanie Barclay (2nd)

- JR. BRONZE LADIES SIMILAR DANCE: Lee-Anna Hamilton, Melissa Gornik (1st)
- JUNIOR SILVER SOLO DANCE: Brenda Hachey (3rd)
- SENIOR SILVER SOLO DANCE: Stephanie Barclay (3rd)
- PRELIMINARY INTERPRETIVE: Leslie Penny (2nd), Michelle Olszewski (7th)
- LADIES BRONZE INTERPRETIVE: Michelle Barker (7th), Lee-Anna Hamilton (9th)
- LADIES SILVER INTERPRETIVE: Brenda Hachey (3rd), Nicole Vautier (7th)
- LADIES GOLD INTERPRETIVE: Stephanie Barclay (1st)

## Senior Spartans unbeaten

Senior Spartan Kelly Cowan bumps ball over the net during recent volleyball action. Teammate Sherry Walker looks on. The strong Stouffville Secondary squad concluded an unblemished 13-0 season on Monday. Securing first place, it competes in the York North championships tomorrow. —Kelly Connelly

## Sideline Comment

### Oldtimers speak out

By KELLY CONNELLY

Remember the days when you could send away for a picture of your favorite NHL player by mailing in the Bee Hive corn syrup label. Bob Hassard of Hassard-Birkett Insurance Brokers Ltd., in Stouffville, remembers them well. He still has the Bee Hive picture of himself and is mighty proud of it.

Hassard played for the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1950-51 when Stanley Cups were not allergic to Toronto. He also did time on the Marlboro Seniors (1949-50 Allan Cup Champions), and the Pittsburgh Hornets (1951-52 Calder Cup Champions).

His hockey tenure reads like a history book — the Chicago Blackhawks, Hershey Bears, Buffalo Bisons, Whitby Dunlops.

I asked him if he regrets not making the lucrative salary his fellow NHL'er makes today?

"Salary wasn't really discussed in the American or National Hockey League in those days. I'd play for whatever they'd give me. It was a better job than anything else at the time," he recalled. "But if you didn't produce one night, you were gone the next day."

Hassard remembered being "scared to death" when Rocket Richard blew past him. "He was the best player from the blueline in... you never saw what happened once he got by you," he chuckled.

The insurance salesman suggested the comradeship between reporter and hockey player has deteriorated over the years. "Writers today don't know the game like the writers 30 years ago," he contended. "The mutual trust between player and journalist isn't as strong as it used to be."

I partially agreed with that statement, but then hockey wasn't a business-racket like it is today. Few guys were signing six-figure contracts and affording Allan Eaglesons.

With the salaries present professionals command, it's no surprise journalists will scrutinize their talents with a vengeance. Are these rookies worth their paycheques? There's bound to be hard feelings between scribe and skater.

The league has also tripled in size which means more writers — and critics — covering a lot more players. The turnover rate of new writers and athletes just heightens the unfamiliarity in the hallways.

I was invited into the NHL Oldtimer dressing room by Stouffville resident and ex-European hockey player Bob McNeil two weekends ago. Apparently Harold Ballard wasn't in the vicinity to outlaw my presence.

I asked former Maple Leaf Pete Conacher what he thought about today's younger and much faster NHL boys. Glancing across the room at some of his old mates, he bowed his head and thought hard.

"Some of the guys in this room played a style of hockey for 40 years. They see mistakes the young guys make today, but they don't always recognize the good plays and there are lots of them," he reasoned unselfishly.

I told Conacher his picture was in the Globe & Mail's 'Where are they now?' column last week.

He just smiled.

## Claremont rider aims for '88 Olympics

By KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

When Claremont equestrienne Kelly Plitz walked into her stable last September, the last thing on her mind was an unsound horse.

Plitz was thinking about the 1987 Pan American Games, the 1988 Olympics, and possibly the 1990 World Championships.

However, that particular Septem-

ber day she was greeted with a rude awakening.

Her 13-year-old mare and Olympic companion — 'Dialdream' — had acquired a mysterious limp. "I figured she had slipped in her stall," recalls Plitz who placed 25th with the horse at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, Calif.

"It was sickening that the accident happened just before a com-

petition, but I felt she wasn't in any great pain to stand up and get better."

So 'Dialdream' took an extended vacation to heal a pulled ligament, and Plitz missed the Chesterland International 3-Day Event in Pennsylvania. However, the new year has been much kinder to both athlete and horse.

'Dialdream' is in top form once

again, and Claremont's 28-year-old rider has just returned from a two-month trip to Australia. She's now preparing for an event in Lexington, Kentucky, this May.

Plitz admits she's developed a more cautious regard for her animals. 'Dialdream' won't be around forever. Two three-day events a season is about all the aging horse can take.

She presently rides three horses a day including two young prospects — Kiosk and Atomboy. She also instructs youngsters at her Dreamcrest Stables.

"This is one of a few sports where you have to depend on something other than your own body. There's so much training involved, and you must deal with the personality of the horse," explains the ambitious competitor.

If something happens to the animal, the rider just can't buy a new one and expect immediate results. It takes years to build a "mutual trust" between the two.

"It also takes countless events to build a reputation as a fine rider in the three disciplines — dressage, stadium-jumping and cross-country. Plitz is considered young by equestrian standards. Most riders don't reach their peak till their late thirties. Still, she hopes to crack the top 10 in world ranking someday.

"A lot of years go into training a horse before you even know if she's going anywhere," notes Plitz. "With 'Dialdream', she's like putting on an old glove. We're so close."

For now, doing well in international competitions is crucial if she wants to make the '88 Olympic team. The more qualifying points a rider accumulates, the better. And yet, those events aren't always easy to reach.

Plitz says the Canadian team has opted to send one individual — Quebec rider Philippe Desourdy — instead of a team to the spring World Championships in Australia. As well, Canada may abort a competition in England next September because of an alleged equine-disease scare.

However, Ontario qualifiers, the Kentucky event, and a midsummer trip to Germany for the World Championships should keep her busy. Plitz' business partner and rider, Ian Roberts, will also compete in the Pan American Games on 'Tambourine Man'.



Kelly Plitz at '84 Olympics in Los Angeles; (inset) '88 hopeful Ian Roberts