

# Poor turnout for Stouffville program

By KELLY CONNELLY

A gymnastics program for children as young as six months has started in Stouffville.

However, if last Monday's opening class at the Recreation Complex was any indication, not too many parents know about it or are too lazy to bring their young children to the sessions which involve exercises and games. It's open to kids six months to 12-years-old.

Sandy Mitchell, a certified coach

and co-ordinator of the program — the first of its kind in Stouffville — said children between the ages of one and five are at the peak of their flexibility. As they grow older, the muscles are not so pliant.

"Watching Sesame Street and Polka Dot Door is wonderful, but parents are starting to let their children do more things," explained the 29-year-old instructor. Her program aims to enhance body awareness, motor skills, and prepare kids for school.

Mary Anne McManus brought both her children — Michael, 1, and Heather, 3 — to the first morning class. Although only nine kids and their mothers showed up, she believes there's a need for kid's gymnastics.

Doing summersaults, balancing on a beam, bouncing a ball and co-ordinating moves to music will give her children more confidence in their physical skills and get them ready for Kindergarten.

"I never had this opportunity when I was young," said McManus. "Today, I think we seem to be more aware as parents of teaching our kids more skills at home."

More than 150 children participate in the same program at Seneca College, said Mitchell, who helps out on Saturdays.

"We're hoping that word gets around in Stouffville," Mitchell explained. "If we get a good turnout,

the program will likely start again next September."

Presently, there are a lot of openings in the Monday morning classes at the Recreation Complex and Tuesday evening sessions at Summitview Public School.

Cost is \$20 for eight 45-minute classes. Mothers and fathers are encouraged to accompany their children. Co-op babysitting is also available.

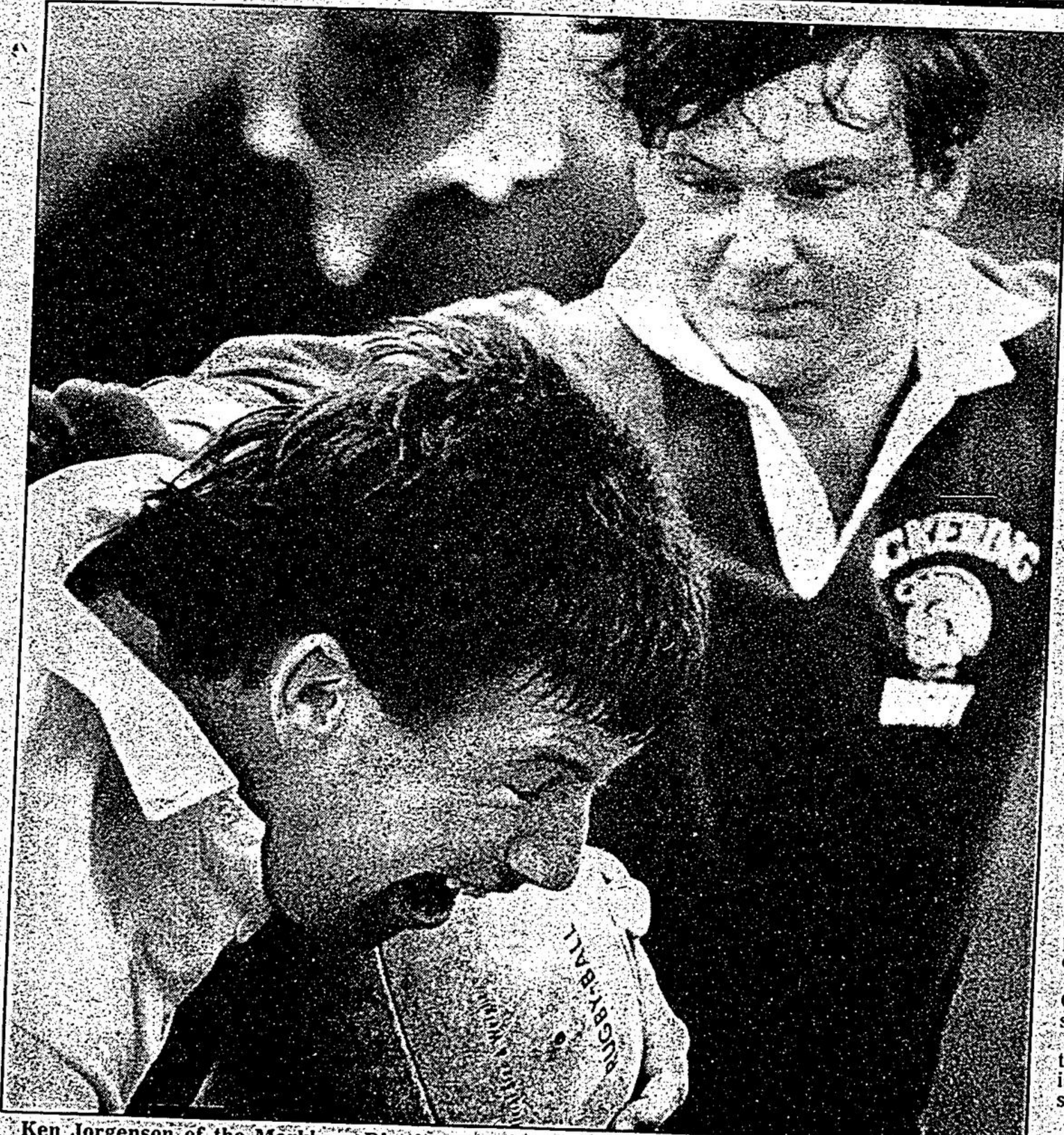
For more information, contact the Recreation Complex at 640-6527.

## Weekender

# Sports

Economist & Sun  
The Tribune

294-2200  
640-2100



Ken Jorgenson of the Markham District High School Senior rugby team struggles past a Pickering defender during exhibition play last Tuesday.

Markham defeated Pickering 6-4. In regular league action Thursday, the MDHS Senior team trampled Huron Heights 26-4. They led 15-0 at halftime.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

## Markham boys too strong for their own good?

By GREG COATES  
Staff Reporter

Markham District High School's Senior rugby team is a shoe-in to recapture the York title this year — but it's no longer an honor worth boasting about.

Once a fairly strong loop, the Senior circuit is now watered down to just two teams. And Markham has already made mincemeat of its only opposition, Newmarket's Huron Heights High School.

That contest, played Thursday, saw the locals grab a 15-0 halftime lead and go on to trample Huron Heights 26-4. Dave Spence led the way with three four-point tries.

Others came from veterans Iain Forster and Brian McMaster. Forster also booted a pair of two-point conversions.

Coach Jim George was pleased with the win, but pointed out Markham's dominance is becoming a problem. Woodbridge recently dropped out of the league after suffering a 47-0 defeat to Markham.

"I'm finding it very discouraging, because I'm phoning other schools (in Metro Toronto) and even they don't want to play us," he explained. "We're suffering because of it."

Despite the team's success, George has some concerns and is still experimenting with the lineup.

"There's a lot of talent on this team, but I'm concerned individualism might rule over teamwork," he said.

One move the coach plans to make is switching team captain Jim Monk from his regular flanker position to outside centre.

"This should help get the maximum (output) from our players," said George. "I think with our depth, we can maximize player personnel."

During an exhibition game against Pickering on Tuesday, Coach George juggled his players from position to position and came away with a 6-4 victory.

"I was very pleased with the work of our forwards, in particular the front line of Eric Grant, Brian Bastien and Kevin Wilson," he said. "Pickering has a good team with strong forwards."

The coach said it was a strange game, with Markham dominating the first half and Pickering taking over in the second.

Mark McKinnon scored the lone try with Ian Forrester kicking the conversion.

"We're looking good and should be there when it comes down to the end," said Coach George.

In Junior rugby action, MDHS picked up two wins this week by downing Pickering 21-4 on Tuesday and Huron Heights 40-0 in regular league play on Thursday.

Coach Dave Harris is also ex-

perimenting with the team and had several new players in his line-up Tuesday.

"Exhibition games give us a chance to experiment and observe," said Harris. "They (the new players) did very well. I was pleased."

He added the team's scrums are coming along very good.

"Every team we've played against, we've blown away in the scrums," said Harris.

Scoring tries in the Pickering game were Richard Broughton, Doug Seed, Andrew Gallifant and Kevin Ely. Back-up kicker Rod Beare rounded out the scoring with a two-point conversion and penalty kick.

In Thursday's match, Markham dominated all aspects of the game. Dave Gallifant led the way with one try and four conversions. Other tries came from Jamie Robb (2), Paul Hemburrow, Paul Kerr, A. Gallifant, Greg Grierson and Mike Chelico.

The team is now undefeated in four games and stand at 2-0 in league play.

In action on Wednesday, the MDHS Midgets trounced Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School 28-0.

The team was led by the strong play of Chris Goodale who scored three tries and kicked two conversions.

"Chris is an excellent runner and played an exceptionally strong game," said Coach Ian Odgers. "He's hard to stop once he gets going."

Other tries came from Chris Zacharuk, Toby McHale and Tom Walton.

## Locals lose in tourney

Despite losing four straight games in their first competitive tournament, Markham Mini Celtics Coach Ernie Armstrong is pleased with his team's performance.

The Markham team was participating in the Under-12 Basketball Ontario Championships last weekend in Hamilton.

"Considering the kids hadn't played competitively before, we did quite well," said Armstrong. "Athletically we probably had as good a group as any there. The kids just need to work on their skills."

In their first game, Markham lost 43-32 to Hamilton. Top shooter for the Celtics was Adam Lamarre.

## Badminton finals

# Milliken pair ousted

The good luck finally ran out at the provincial high school finals for Milliken badminton players Peter Lyn and Terry Vitor.

After two early wins in the New Liskeard competition last weekend, Lyn and Vitor dropped two straight sets and were eliminated from Senior boys doubles play.

However, Vince Delisi, who coaches the Grade 13 St. Robert Catholic High School students, was quite pleased with their play.

"Both boys played up to my expectations," he said. "It's a very high-calibre tournament with almost all of the top players from Ontario. They acquitted themselves very well both on and off the court."

Coach Delisi explained that Lyn and Vitor started off a little shaky in their first match against Ottawa, but rebounded to win the first battle 3-1 in a tie-breaker.

Game two was a 15-10 loss, but a 15-8 triumph in the final tangle gave them the match.

"I thought Peter and Terry were a better team than Ottawa, but they seemed a little tentative and sluggish at first," said Delisi.

In their second match against Mississauga, the pair dropped the first game 15-5, but came back to win the second and third outings 15-3, 15-10.

"Mississauga had a very good team, but Terry and Peter are quite

smart and noticed a weakness in the backhand (shot) of one of the players and took advantage of it," explained Delisi.

The victory against Mississauga put the St. Robert pair into a round with 16 undefeated teams.

In their third match, Lyn and Vitor lost two straight (15-10, 15-8) to Guelph, who were described by Delisi as being, "very, very good and overpowering."

Despite losing their fourth match two games straight (15-11, 15-8) to Chatham, Delisi said it was probably one of the most entertaining matches of the tournament with both teams being very closely matched.