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Second Section

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Up for the ball

Members of the Stouffville Panthers boys Bantam soccer club (dark sweaters) go up for the ball against St. Andrews of Scarborough during an exhibition game Saturday morning at the Recreation Centre fields. Kevin Walthers (Number 2 in the air) has the best shot at it while

Travis White (6) and Ben Cheung (far right) look on. The hot, muggy weather took its toll on both teams and the game ended in a 0-0 tie. — Alan Shackleton

Senior boys softball

Spartans bid for ball championship ends with Aurora

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

It was so close. The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Senior boys softball team just missed making it to the York Region championships when they dropped their semi-final game to Aurora High School 4-1 Monday afternoon at home.

As with their loss last week to Bradford for the league title, the Spartans were killed by their silent bats.

The Aurora pitcher was throwing smoke, and it was the fifth inning before Stouffville got their first hit, a bloop single by first baseman Dan Larmer.

The hit also produced the only Spartan run of the game as it cashed in Derek Mann who had walked earlier in the inning. The walk had spoiled what until then had been a perfect game for the Aurora pitcher.

"We got beaten by our batting," said coach Rod Leonard. "We just couldn't get the hits when we needed them."

Defensively, the Spartans were playing well behind the pitching of Scott Couperthwaite (Dave Chilvers made a great grab in centre field in the first

inning) and the game was tied 0-0 going into the fourth, an inning that proved to be disastrous for Stouffville.

They made a number of mental errors that added up to two Aurora runs.

High school games are only six innings long and the closest the Spartans got was in the bottom of the fifth when they made it 2-1.

Aurora added two more runs in the top of the final frame with Dave Chilvers on the mound for Stouffville, and the game was over.

The Spartans went down in order in the bottom of the sixth, unable to capitalize on the ejection of the Aurora pitcher who was thrown out for arguing with the umpire in the top half of the inning.

The Spartans finished the season in second spot in the York Region loop, and the highlight of their season was probably their strong play in the Bradford Tournament two weeks ago in which they reached the final before losing to Huron Heights.

"Overall, I thought we played very well this season," Leonard said. "We can't complain about how we did."

Champion athletes honored with medal

A number of Whitchurch-Stouffville athletes were honored by the town last week for their achievements in provincial and national competitions.

In a private ceremony on Thursday the town presented 11 athletes and one team with special town medals recognizing their performances.

The individuals won provincial or national titles some time in the last two years, while the team was honored for its provincial win this year.

Those honored included the members of the 1986-87 Beekers Midget Clippers who won the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) BB championship this season with a four game sweep of Beamsville.

Also, Ballantrae motocross racer Todd Townsend who won the Canadian Junior 250 cc

Championship last fall in British Columbia.

Rally driver Terry Epp who was part of the Canadian championship team in 1986.

Equestrian rider Diane McHale who won the 1986 Ontario championship.

Mark Ludbrook who was the Canadian champ in the 1986 amputee swimming championships.

Glen Sikura who was a member of the Canadian champion indoor field hockey team in 1986.

Wheelchair athlete Keith Brettell who won a provincial championship in swimming in 1986.

Golfer Marlene Streit who was the Canadian and U.S. senior ladies champ in 1985.

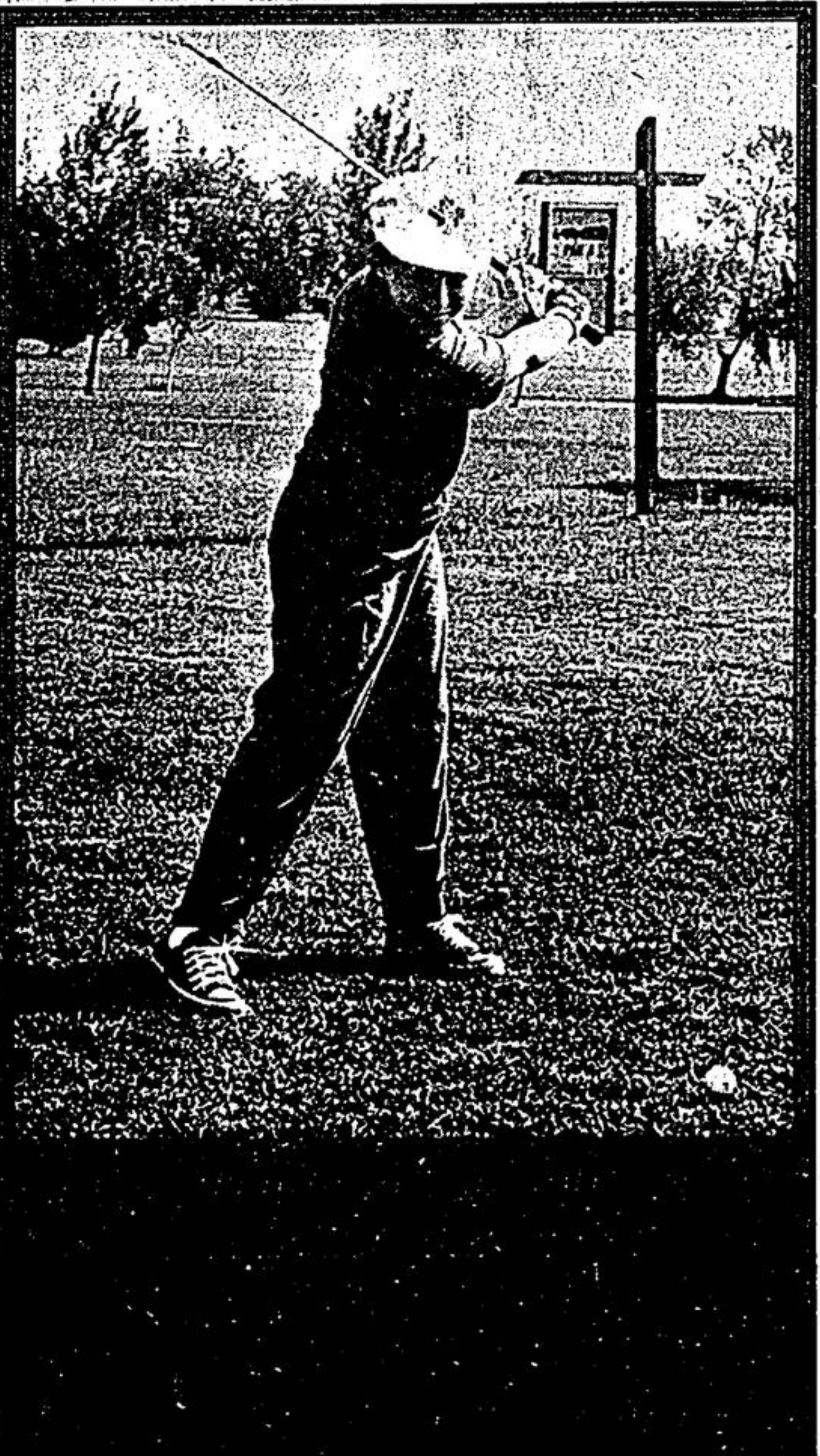
Tracey Garbutt who was a champion in the 1986 Canadian Special Olympics.

Canadian and provincial judo champs Karen and Steven Sheffield.

Arvid Zakis who won four gold medals at the Canadian Masters track and field championships rounds out the list of those honored by the town.



Tracey Garbutt, 17, displays the medal she and 11 other local athletes received from Whitchurch-Stouffville for their success in provincial and national competitions. Tracey was a champion at the 1986 Canadian Special Olympics. — Chris Garbutt



Hachey, Hall do well at Provincial Finals

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) athletes Brenda Hachey and Mishelle Hall put in very respectable performances at this weekend's provincial track and field championships at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Junior girls long distance runner Hachey was 14th in the 3,000-metre race, and Mishelle Hall finished 12th in the Midget girls 80-metre hurdles event.

Hall ran a time of 13:19 in her race against a strong field. Her time wasn't her best, but the weather was extremely hot when she ran her race Friday.

The heat was also a factor in Hachey's race Saturday, in which a very fast pace was set despite the blistering temperatures. In fact, a new record in Junior girls 3,000 was set in this race.

The top athletes from across Ontario were in Hamilton, and each event had some 24 competitors.

Hachey and Hall qualified for the provincial championships by finishing in the top four in their events at the OFSSA Central Region championships in Oshawa.

Brenda Hachey was third in her race, and Mishelle Hall ran to a fourth place finish.

Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament June 22

The Maples of Ballantrae course is the site of this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce annual golf tournament slated for Monday, June 22.

The tournament is open to everyone, and the entry fee of \$40 includes trophies and prizes along with a steak dinner to be served at the Maples Lodge beginning at 6 p.m.

Tee-off times will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information or to book tickets please call Boumeister Landscaping at 640-1323 as soon as possible.

Betz home tonight

Betz Pools Stouffville mens fastball team hosts Port Perry tonight at Memorial Park in a nine-inning rematch of their battle two weeks ago which Betz won 8-4.

That game was a wild one which saw a lot of strange hits and plays including a single by Stouffville first baseman Chris Toole that ended up with him scoring a run.

Betz manager Bryan Emery expects the return engagement to be an interesting affair. Game time is 8:30 p.m. at the main diamond.

Last night, the Stouffville team travelled to Oshawa to play the B & B squad in another nine-inning match.

Prior to last night's game, Betz was undefeated in league play.

They've also performed well in exhibition games as they knocked off a tough Richmond Hill team 2-1 last Wednesday in Stouffville.

Betz Pools Profile

GEORGE BURKHOLDER

(Markham) resident George Burkholder, 29, is the man who patrols centre field for the Betz Pools Stouffville mens fastball squad.

The Burkholder name is a familiar one in the Markham-Stouffville area, and George is a farmer on the Ninth Line.

For the last two years Burkholder played 1st pitch in Stouffville for the Villagers, but when the opportunity to play fastball in town came around this year he decided to go for it.

Fastball's always been my first love and I wanted one more shot at playing it before I got too old," he explained.

The last fastball team he played for was the Markham Menno (two seasons ago). Also on that squad at the time was Betz right fielder Bruce Bears.

Returning to fastball from 1st pitch hasn't been too tough, Burkholder said, as catching a fastball is pretty well the same in any league. But he did take a while to get used to the pitching again.

JOHN ANNIS

A veteran fastball hurler, John Annis was expected to be one of the anchors of a strong pitching staff for Betz this season, and so far he's lived up to his advance billing.

The first two games he threw in were both shutouts and he only gave up three hits over both of them.

A resident of north-east Pickering, Annis played fastball last year in Whitchurch and he's joined the Stouffville squad this year mainly because of his friendship with manager Bryan Emery.

Over the years they've been teammates and opponents on the fastball circuit, and they have a lot of respect for each other, Annis said.

He is optimistic of Betz's chances this season, and impressed by the talent on the squad.

"This team looks good, there's a nucleus of really good ball players here, which doesn't often happen. A team that's first season," he explained.

When he isn't losing fastball, Annis runs his own plant care and repair business in Pickering.