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Stouffville Stingers first batter Allison Lowery, number three, comes charging into home plate during Provincial Qualifier action against Newven of Ottawa Saturday afternoon in Memorial Park. It was a close call but Lowery was out on the play as the catcher put a

big block on the plate. The Stingers aggressive base running led them to a 5-1 win in this game, but they were eliminated from the tourney later in the day. — Alan Shackleton

Stingers miss out on shot at provincials

By ALAN SHACKLETON
 Sports Editor

The Stouffville Stingers will not make it three in a row. The ladies' fastball team's bid to bring home medals from the provincial championships for the third consecutive year came to an end Saturday night with a 4-0 loss to Brockville.

The Intermediate Open Regional A Provincial Qualifying Tournament was held in Stouffville last weekend, and the Stingers were hoping to be one of the four teams to advance to the championships in London two weeks from now.

Ten other squads were also hoping to make the same trip, and competition was fierce in the double knockout tournament.

This is the Stingers first year in the Open division; the last two seasons they played Intermediate Sophomore, and they met up with some very tough and experienced teams over the weekend.

Two years ago the Stingers won the provincial championship, and last season they finished third overall.

Stouffville manager Ted Lowery was hoping the girls could continue their success in the Open division, but knew they were playing a higher calibre of ball this year.

They had to make the move from Sophomore because a number of their players were too old, over 20, to continue in the division and the team wanted to stay together.

"It was a move up, and a new situation for us," Lowery said. "We didn't really know much about our opponents, though some of them are considerably older than us and have been together for a long time."

The Stouffville girls may have



CANDY BROWN
 Pitcher hot

been a bit nervous in their opening game Friday night against Kingston as they gave up six runs in one inning enroute to a 7-3 loss.

"Kingston was a good team and we were maybe a little intimidated in that first game," Lowery said. Stinger assistant coach Dave Fockler agreed with that assessment. "We just made too many errors against Kingston," he explained.

Having lost the opener, the pressure was on the Stingers. If they dropped another game they'd be eliminated from the tourney.

They rose to the challenge Saturday afternoon, playing an aggressive and inspired brand of ball which powered them to a 5-1 win over Newven of Ottawa.

Pitcher Candy Brown tossed a great game for the Stingers. With the exception of a late-inning solo home run, she was almost unhittable.

However, it was the Stinger's bats combined with their hard-nosed play on the basepaths that earned the win.

There were a number of crunching collisions at second, third and especially home plate as the Stouffville girls consistently tried for the extra-base.

Bonnie Hollingworth threw a block on the Newven catcher that Argo coach Bob O'Billovich would have been proud of to score a run.

"We played much, much better against Newven," said Fockler. "We were more relaxed and played our kind of game."

However, the Stingers luck ran out against Brockville Saturday evening as a 4-0 loss put them out of the tourney.

"We kept it close for a while, but Brockville scored three late in the game and that was it for us," Lowery said.

Brampton was the overall winner of the tourney, with Newmarket and Batters Up of Toronto also advancing to the provincial championships. The name of the fourth team to qualify was not available at press time.

While the Stingers had a bit of a rough introduction to Intermediate Open provincial play, they are doing quite well in league competition.

They sit comfortably in second spot in the six-team South Lake Simcoe League just behind Uxbridge.

The Stingers play their home games on Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. on Diamond Two in Stouffville Memorial Park.

Markham motocross in August

Next weekend, Aug. 8 and 9, the Markham Fairgrounds will be home to the Cycle World/Honda Motocross Weekend.

The event, sponsored by Uxbridge promoter Terry Barrett of Moto-X Productions, will run over two days and feature some 240 of Canada's top riders competing in more than 30 races.

Among area riders expected to attend are Todd Townend and Clint Crust of Ballantrae and Mount Albert's Doug "Sweeper" Hoover.

This is the second year for the Motocross at Markham Fairgrounds, and Barrett predicts this time will be even more entertaining than last year's popular debut.

"The first one was great. There were around 2,500 fans and this year should be even better," he explained. "We have more riders

and a number of special attractions between races."

Racing begins at noon on both days and continues until about 4 p.m. On Saturday, there will be 15 races for Junior and Schoolboy division riders in five different classes.

Sunday's action is the Main Event, and races in the A class for 80 cc Schoolboys, along with 125 cc and 250 cc Senior and Expert races are slated.

Riders on Sunday will be going after \$3000 in prize money as they throw their machines around the thrilling man-made track.

A Radical Jump Contest off the Trailer Jump is planned as an intermission show during Sunday's action.

Riders from the 250 cc Expert class will perform aerial acro-

tics off the jump with \$200 going to the winner.

Other attractions will be a Longest Jump competition Saturday from the Finish Line Jump. Last year's winner was Don Mill's Chuck Guy who sailed 82 feet through the air.

Also, Markham's Jong Park Tae Kwon-Do Demonstration Team will be performing during the intermission on Saturday.

Some of the other top Canadian riders who will compete in the Markham motocross are Allan Dyck from British Columbia and Glen Nicholson from Mississauga.

Tickets are \$5 for Saturday, \$8 for Sunday's Main Event or \$12 for a weekend pass, and can be purchased at the gate.

For further ticket information, please call Terry Barrett at Moto-X Productions at 852-6507.

Celebrities flock to Acton golf tourney



Gentlemen start your golf carts

Stouffville's Keith Acton of the NHL's Minnesota North Stars hits the horn on this brand new Corvette to officially start the first annual Williamson Motors/Keith Acton Golf Tournament at the Firefighters Mill Run course in Uxbridge last Friday.



Along with all the NHL and other celebrities, a few stars from the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League also took part in the tournament. Standing are Wayne Nugent, left, and Paul Barry while Gus Bodner, sitting on the left, doesn't look at all confident in the driving ability of partner Bill Carr.



Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Bill Root, who now calls Stouffville home, lets go a powerful drive during the tournament. The golf day was held to raise funds for the Children's Wish Foundation. Many other NHL stars were also in attendance.



NHL Players Association boss Alan Eagleson was one of many celebrities at the Williamson Motors/Keith Acton Golf Tournament in Uxbridge last Friday. His partner is Canada Cup Treasurer Marvin Goldblatt.



Dave Wood, owner of Green's Restaurant in Stouffville, sank this putt during play at the tournament on the Firefighters Mill Run course. Looking on appreciatively are Glen Jackson, centre, and Hockey Night in Canada's Brian McFarlane, left.

—photos by Alan Shackleton