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Second Section

Wednesday, September 2, 1987

## Bantams take Provincial title Scott Evans leads way with two home runs in final

By ALAN SHACKLETON  
Sports Editor

The arm and bat of pitcher Scott Evans led the Stouffville Canadian Tire Bantams to the Provincial C Fastball Championship last weekend.

Evans had all three RBI's, two of them solo home runs, in Stouffville's 3-2 win over Napanee in the championship game Sunday evening at Stouffville Memorial Park.

The weekend tournament pitted Ontario's top eight Bantam C teams against each other in a double-knockout competition. As host town, the Stouffville squad earned a spot in the tourney.

In the championship game, Stouffville took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Evans hit a one-out single to cash in Chris Burkholder who'd doubled.

Evans then opened the fourth with a home run to right field to put Stouffville ahead by two.

He repeated the feat to lead off the sixth, this time banging the ball over the left field fence to give Stouffville a 3-0 lead.

That put Stouffville six outs away from the provincial title, but they were taking nothing for granted as Napanee had been staging impossible comebacks all weekend.

### ONE OUT AWAY

Stouffville could have won the title earlier in the day when they went into the bottom of the seventh, the final inning, with a 3-2 lead over Napanee in the first championship game.

After striking out the first two batters, Evans walked the next two and a long double to centre field gave Napanee a shocking 4-3 win.

Since the tournament was a double knockout, and Stouffville was previously undefeated, a second championship game was necessary. For Napanee to take the title they'd have to win both championship games.

Considering they had been playing ball non-stop since 1 p.m., and the second championship game didn't even start until 6:15 p.m., it seemed an unlikely possibility.

However, Napanee almost pulled another rabbit out of the hat and only some outstanding defensive plays by Stouffville kept them from making the comeback.

### PLAY OF THE GAME

The play of the game came in the bottom of the sixth when Stouffville left fielder Chris Winn snared a one-out sacrifice fly and then threw out the runner tagging up from third with a chest-high bullet to catcher Dan Bell that Jesse Barfield would have been proud of.

The throw ended what could have been a disastrous inning for

Stouffville, and stunned the Napanee side.

A single followed by a bunt gave Napanee runners at first and second with none out to open the sixth. The success of the bunt was especially dangerous as Evans had fielded the ball cleanly at the mound and fired to second to get the lead runner.

Unfortunately, the ball sailed right between the short stop and second baseman, Chris and Rich Burkholder respectively, who were both standing on the bag waiting for the other one to catch it.

The next Napanee batter doubled to make the score 3-1 and a feeling of déjà vu went over the large Memorial Park crowd as there were now runners at second and third with none out.

After a strike out and intentional walk of the Napanee batter who'd hit the game winning double in the first game, Winn came up with his throwing heroics from the outfield to end the threat.

Winn is not noted for his arm strength, and this was the first time all season that he's tried to throw a runner out at home.

"I've thrown three or four people out at bases this year," Winn explained. "I never had a chance to throw someone out at home until now."

Stouffville manager Howard Burkholder said, "It was a completely unpredictable play, but Winn is a tough competitor and a talented athlete."

Nanee also threatened in the bottom of the seventh, getting the lead runner to first on an error and eventually cashing him in on a two-out double to close within one run.

### OUTSTANDING PERFORM.

However, Evans would not be denied and he blew away the Napanee pinch hitter on three straight strikes to end the game and give Stouffville the championship.

After the game Evans said he was happier about his offensive output, especially the home runs, than his pitching. Both his defensive and offensive contributions were outstanding, though, and he was without a doubt Stouffville's most valuable player and the key to the championship.

Evans admitted that the Stouffville boys were shocked to lose the first championship game after coming within one strike of winning it.

"We were all pretty down when we started the second game, but we got up as the runs started to come," he said.

Evans added his attitude going into game two was, "We've got nothing to lose, we were going to have to play the game whether we won it or lost it so we might as well



The 1987 Provincial Champions

The Stouffville Canadian Tire Bantams won the C Provincial Fastball Championships held in town this weekend. They won the final game 3-2 over Napanee to take the title. Members of the team are Chris Burkholder, Dan Bell, Brett Yoshida, Jason Underwood, Scott Evans, Keith Piette, Jamie Campbell, Jason Yoshida, Jamie Showers, Rich

win it." Even manager Burkholder agreed that such a loss was tough to come back from. "It was a hard one to lose and the boys were really mad, but I told them we couldn't change what was done and we just had to go out and win the next one."

### NERVOUS TIME

The bottom of the sixth in game two was a nervous time, he added. "It was here we go again, but fate often goes in cycles and I thought this can't happen twice," Burkholder said.

For the most part, the Canadian Tire sponsored squad, has been made up of the same group of players since Squirt days and they've been with coach Burkholder the whole time.

Burkholder said they've been

Burkholder, Dan Larmer, Rob Blundon, Rob Parcels, Scott McKinley and Chris Winn. The coaches are Howard Burkholder, Dave Caldwell and Gary Yoshida and the scorekeeper is Heather Campbell.

— Alan Shackleton

working toward a provincial championships for the last couple of seasons.

"I felt all along the fact we were given the right to host this tournament meant this was our year and our time to win the provincials," he said.

Prior to the championships, Burkholder had predicted that the toughest competition would come from Napanee, and that proved true.

Stouffville and Napanee faced each other three times on Sunday, once in the semi-finals in the morning and twice in the finals. All of the contests were extremely close.

Stouffville pulled off the comeback in Sunday morning's match, as they overcame a 2-0 deficit to even the score and force extra innings.

Rich Burkholder's RBI single to cash in Jason Yoshida in the top of the fifth made it 2-1, and Scott Evans ground-rule double in the sixth brought home Chris Burkholder to tie it up.

### HURT BY ERRORS

Three Napanee errors in the top of the eighth gave Stouffville a 3-2 lead and they hung on for the win

to advance directly to the championship game Sunday afternoon.

"We gave them six outs in that inning and you just can't do that and win," said Napanee manager Bob Paul.

Nanee played some excellent ball during the tourney including a nine-inning 3-2 win over Hagersville to advance to the finals.

Their pitcher Barry Ellerbeck was particularly strong, pitching hard even in the second championship game. "Barry did a great job and we're proud of all our boys," Paul added.

On Saturday, Stouffville beat Lyons 7-2 and Bracebridge 12-7.

### PROUD OF TEAM

Both these wins were team efforts with solid performances from Rob Parcels, Jason Yoshida, Jamie Showers, Scott Evans, with a three run homer in the top of the first against Bracebridge, Dan Larmer, Rich Burkholder, Chris Winn, Brett Yoshida, Jason Underwood and Keith Piette at the plate.

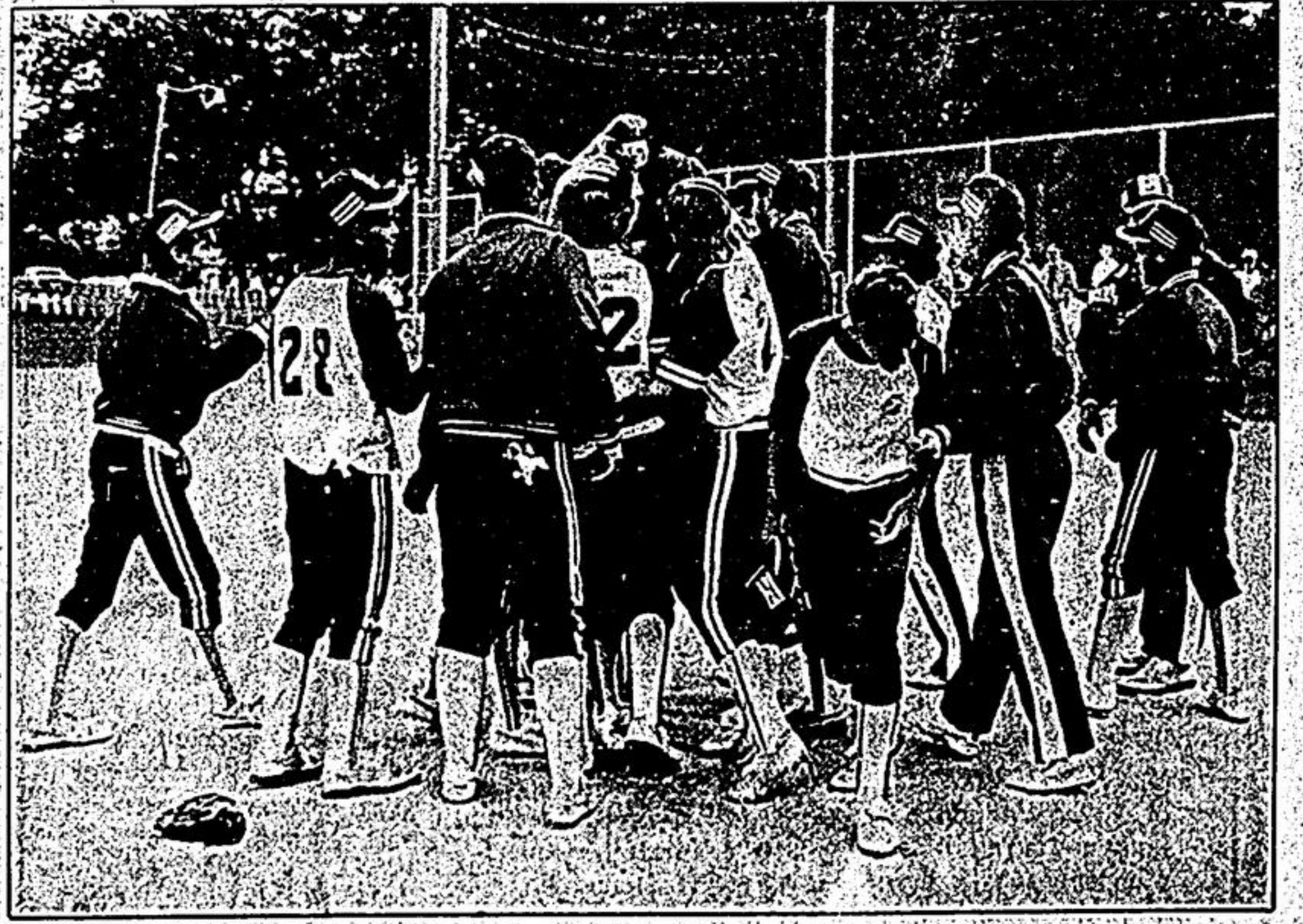
"I'm very proud of the whole team; they worked very hard for it," said manager Burkholder. "I'm especially proud of the way they were able to come back after

losing that first game. We were all ready to celebrate and then we had to play again."

"All the guys on this team are great athletes, even the ones who didn't get a lot of playing time during the weekend. They didn't complain and gave us a lot of moral support and team spirit."

The members of the 1987 Provincial Fastball Champion Stouffville Canadian Tire Bantams are Scott Evans, Chris Burkholder, Rich Burkholder, Jamie Showers, Dan Larmer, Rob Parcels, Dan Bell, Chris Winn, Jason Yoshida, Brett Yoshida, Keith Piette, Jamie Campbell, Scott McKinley, Rob Blundon and Jason Underwood.

**TOURNAMENT NOTES**—A lot of credit for the success of the weekend's Provincial Championships has to go to organizer Heather Campbell who did a lot of work getting things in shape, including painting the old grandstand in a fresh coat of Stouffville colors. The old bleachers have never looked better... This was the first time Napanee manager Bob Paul had ever been to Stouffville and he was impressed with the town and the organization of the tournament. "I'd certainly like to come back some time," he said.



### Here's to the winners

It was high fives and back slapping (photo on right) all round Sunday evening when the Stouffville Canadian Tire Bantams won the Provincial Fastball Championship over Napanee 3-2. The final game went

right down to the wire before pitcher Scott Evans tossed a strike out on three straight pitches to give Stouffville the victory on their home field in Memorial Park. And to the winners go the spoils. In the photo on left,

Stouffville captains Evans, right, and Chris Burkholder accept the Bantam C Championship plaque from Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) representative Bob Abbot.

— Alan Shackleton