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Second Section

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# Betz men win Ontario crown

By ALAN SHACKLETON  
Sports Editor

Betz Pools made it two provincial fastball championships in a row for Stouffville when they won the men's Intermediate Open title last weekend in Windsor.

Betz destroyed Peterborough 10-3 in the final game as the Stouffville squad went undefeated throughout the entire double-knockout tournament which pits Ontario's top teams against each other.

Two weekends ago, the Stouffville Bantams won the C Provincial Championship in Stouffville.

The victory by Betz has to be considered an upset, however, as they were in against some very stiff competition from such large population areas as Windsor, Scarborough and St. Catharines.

"Going into the tournament I thought we'd do well, but I didn't really expect to win it this year," admitted Betz manager Bryan Emery. "But we won the first game against a tough team and we got on a roll."

Jim Chilvers was on the mound for Stouffville in the final Sunday afternoon, and he completely shut Peterborough down. Heading into the final inning, Chilvers was sitting on a big lead and a no-hitter.

Three runs in the seventh ruined Chilvers no-hitter bid, but Stouffville still won the game easily.

The final was a tense affair until the third inning when Betz exploded for six runs on five hits and two walks to put the game away as they cruised to the 10-3 win and the Provincial Championship.

"The whole thing is just incredible," said Emery. "The pitching and hitting was great the whole weekend."

The Betz Pools side is the first men's fastball team to represent Stouffville in almost 10 years. This was their first season as a team and to win a provincial title in the first year of operation is a major accomplishment.

Emery had intended this first season to be a building year for the

team, and he expected them to be serious challengers for the Ontario crown over the next couple of years.

"We had certainly anticipated this to be a building year, and when it started we didn't expect to win it all in our first season," he said.

However, the squad came together quickly and they proved to have excellent spirit both on and off the field.

"This is one of those dream come true teams," Emery said. "Everybody got along great and worked hard. They showed a lot of dedication, desire, discipline and togetherness."

That dedication was obvious in the performance of captain Mark Fockler who broke his wrist in a collision at first base against Acton, but continued to play through the pain and finish the game.

While the final was played Sunday afternoon against Peterborough, Stouffville may very well have won the championship in their first tournament game Saturday morning when they beat AD Systems of Scarborough, one of the heavy favorites to take the title.

"When we knocked off AD Systems people started to take notice of us because they were a very strong team," Emery explained. "Also beating them the way we did gave us a lot of confidence."

The way Stouffville beat AD Systems was with three runs in their final at bat in the bottom of the seventh to overcome a two-run deficit and win 3-2.

Gary Vaughan opened the final frame with a solo home run followed by Bruce Beare, Jim Chilvers and Doug McMillan loading the bases. That set the stage for Steve Schell who blasted a two-run double to give Betz the win.

"It was an incredible amazing win," Emery said. "The home run lit the spark and everybody was standing on the bench saying we can win it now."

Jim Chilvers pitched for Stouffville and after giving up single runs in the first and second innings set

tled down and only gave up two more hits the rest of the game.

"We were a little shaky, a bit nervous when the game started, but fortunately we snapped out of it before it was too late," Emery said.

Stouffville beat Acton 1-0 in game two Saturday afternoon as Chilvers tossed a six-hit shut out. Doug McMillan crossed the plate with the only run Betz needed in the second inning.

John Annis was originally slated to throw against Acton, but he volunteered to sit out his turn as Chilvers was red hot.

That move proved to be crucial for Betz as it gave them a fresh John Annis to pitch in the semi-final Sunday morning, and a well-rested Chilvers set to toss the final later that afternoon.

Stouffville beat St. Catharines 2-0 in the semi-final behind the three-hit pitching of Annis. "Having a fresh pitcher in the semi-final really helped us," Emery said.

Betz took a one run lead in the first inning after Bruce Beare opened the game with a double and was later cashed in by John Tait's sacrifice fly.

In the next inning Gary Vaughan brought home Terry Bowles, and the lead was all John Annis needed as he pitched superbly.

"John just mowed them down, and we had a rested Jim Chilvers ready for the final and he was awesome in that game," Emery said.

There was a large contingent of Stouffville fans in Windsor for the championships, and Emery said their presence was an inspiration to the team.

Also, Bruce Beare was named best batter in the tourney and Gary Vaughan finished second to Peterborough's pitcher in the MVP voting.

While there isn't much Betz can do top last weekend's heroics, they



**The champions**

Betz Pools Stouffville won the Intermediate Open Men's Provincial Fastball Championship Sunday afternoon in Windsor. They went through the tournament undefeated and beat Peterborough 10-3 in the final. Members of the team are Steve Schell, Mark Fockler (broken wrist and all), Randy Grant, Jim Chil-

vers, Gary Grant, Bruce Beare, Paul Boynton, John Annis, George Burkholder, Terry Bowles, Gary Vaughan, John Tait and Doug McMillan. Coaches are Bryan Emery and Wayne Allan; scorekeeper is Carole Watson, bat boy is Terry Annis and sponsor is Marvin Betz.

are still in a race with Greenbank for top spot in the Oshawa City and District League with two games remaining.

Also, the league championship tournament goes the weekend of Sept. 19 in Greenbank, and Stouffville would like to cap off this wonderful first season by taking that title too, Emery said.

## Bowling registration

Registration for the Stouffville Youth Bowling League is slated for Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. till noon at the Stouffville Bowling Centre on Main Street.

The registration fee is \$3, plus weekly league which is payable in advance or per week.

There are three age divisions for young bowlers to compete in: Bantams are 10 years old and under, Juniors are 11-13 years old and Juniors are 14-18 years old.

Peewees, bowlers under 7 years of age, will be included in the Bantam division.

Seniors alley times will be 7 p.m. Sundays, with an option on Thursday afternoons. Bantams and Juniors will bowl either Tuesday afternoon or Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

Also, interested adults are urged to participate in Youth Bowling as coaches or scorers. The job is rewarding and appreciated.

For more information on Stouffville Youth Bowling, please call Eunice Flewell at 640-3224 or the Bowling Centre at 640-1471.

## Stouffville minor hockey registration next week

Registration for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's 1987-88 season begins next week.

Sign-ups are slated for Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 17 from 7-9 p.m. at the Recreation Centre on Ninth Line North, and on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon also at the Recreation Centre. There will be an equipment exchange held during the registrations. Fees are as follows: Novice Hockey School \$120; Novice \$140; Atoms and Peewees \$150; Bantams and Midgets \$160.



**Barry O'Neil**

## Figure skating sign-ups

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club will hold fall registration for the 1987-88 season at their booth in the Trade Show this weekend.

The Show takes place at the Recreation Centre on Ninth Line North and registrations will be accepted on Friday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 12.

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club offers programs in Pre-school, Can-skate, Can-figure, Senior and Power Skating. To end the year they will have a Carnival on Apr. 15 and 16.

For more information, on the Club, please call Mrs. Davia at 640-5868.

# Bantam fastball coach Burkholder takes Christian approach to game

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Howard Burkholder, a Christian cash crop farmer from Preston Lake, believes there are three reasons to play baseball. The first, he said, is to honor and glorify God, the second is to have fun and the third is to win.

Last week, Howard's Bantam boys fastball team, sponsored by Canadian Tire-Stouffville, combined all three to take the Provincial C Championship in dramatic fashion.

The team exhibited the character and tenacity that Howard feels is so important, not only in baseball, but in life.

"The ballfield is like life," he said. "You can never be happy with past achievements, you have to pit your teeth and do the job again and again. But at the same time, it's got to be fun. If it's not fun, there's no point being there."

## FAMILY AFFAIR

This has been a particularly rewarding season for the father of three boys; two of his sons, Chris and Rich, are members of the Stouffville Bantams, as the many years of hard work he's put in with the team have paid off.

Howard has coached most of the players on the team for several seasons, some since Squirt age, but has never experienced the success this year brought about.

"It's very rewarding to see the boys come along the way they have," he said. "The development of a boy like pitcher Scott Evans stands out and that development can be seen throughout the entire line up, though perhaps



**HOWARD BURKHOLDER**  
Champion coach

not as dramatically as with Scott."

Evans is the Bantams top pitcher, and along with putting in a masterful performance on the mound during the Provincial Championships he led the team with two home runs in the final game.

Howard believes baseball is a game of concentration, and he emphasizes its importance when he coaches.

"I stress the mental approach to the game," he explained. "Amazing things can happen if you concentrate."

Nowhere was this made clearer than during the Provincial Championships, held two weekends ago in Stouffville Memorial Park.

The Bantams had a full day of fastball on the Sunday, starting

with an early morning game and concluding with two tension-filled championship matches against Napanee. It was almost 8 p.m. before the final game ended.

## OVERCAME HURDLES

Among the hurdles the Stouffville boys had to overcome was the shock of a last inning loss to Napanee in the first championship game. They were leading 3-2 with two outs in the final frame but ended up losing 4-3 after a pair of walks were followed by a double.

However, the setback didn't cause the Stouffville boys to let up at all, and they came back even more determined to win the second game.

Great defence, along with the homers by Evans, gave Stouffville a 3-2 win and the Provincial Championship.

Howard said that sports provide youngsters with an interesting outlet. "Kids need to be busy at something. If you don't find a positive outlet for them, they'll get involved in other things."

His approach to coaching stresses discipline and responsibility. If a player misses a game without a legitimate excuse, he will sit out the next one. Swearing, temper tantrums and the throwing of equipment such as bats and helmets is not tolerated.

"Howard's discipline is one of love, rather than an exercise of his own authority."

"I like the kids," he explained. "That's the first thing I've been given some athletic abilities, and

I like to think I can pass them on to the boys and show them a good example."

As an outlet for his own skills, Howard plays for and manages the Markham Menos men's fastball team. Often he's involved with the game four or more nights a week.

As the busy time in farming is now upon him, Howard admitted that he's relieved to have the bulk of the ball season behind him.

"You tend to get a little burnt out this late in the season," he said.

And this year he's accomplished everything he and the Bantams aimed for. Along with winning the Provincial Championship the team had an excellent record in league play, losing only one game.

## FUN AND DISCIPLINE

Howard Burkholder epitomizes the combination of fun and discipline that Whitchurch-Stouffville's minor softball program attempts to instill in all its players and coaches.

His success this season goes a long way to dispel the old maxim about nice guys finishing last.

As for the future, Howard said he'll wait and see how he feels about doing it all over again next year. If he does, the team will probably be the Stouffville Midgets as a number of players will be too old to play Bantam ball next season.

However, you can't help but think he'll be out there coaching the squad again. For he'd be a hard man to replace.

## House league softball tourney this weekend

The ball diamonds of Stouffville and area will be busy for the next four days as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Softball Association holds its House League Championship Tournament.

Competition will take place in all 10 of the league's divisions with every team getting a shot at collecting some hardware in the season finale tourney.

All squads qualify for the double-knockout tournament which begins tomorrow night and continues until the finals Saturday and Sunday in Stouffville Memorial Park.

"This is the perfect opportunity for teams that didn't have an exceptional regular season to regroup and go for a triumph in the tournament."

Some 57 teams from 11 Ball Novice to Bantam boys and about 300 ball players will be participating in the tournament.

For interested fans, the schedule of championship games will except the Bantam final will be played at Memorial Park, followed by the Bantam final.

On Saturday the Bantam boys final goes at 10:30 a.m. on the main diamond and will be followed at 2:00 p.m. by the Bantam girls final. The Peewee girls final is slated for 5 p.m. on the diamond.

On Sunday the Peewee boys championship game is at 9 a.m. on the main diamond. The Midget girls final goes at 10:30 a.m. on the main diamond. The Midget boys final goes at 1:00 p.m. on the main diamond. The Squirt girls final is at 10:30 a.m. and the Squirt boys follow at 1:00 p.m.

The 11-Ball final will be held at Memorial Park in Stouffville. The Novice championship game is slated for noon and the advance game at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

## Armstrong top slo-pitcher

John Armstrong of the A & S Raiders was named York-Durham Mens' Slo-pitch Player of the Week for his strong plate performance in leading the Raiders to a 6-4 win over the Trappers.

The Player of the Week award is sponsored by Green's Restaurant. Armstrong received his award for the week ending Aug. 27.

Last week's honors went to Dave Slack who played a solid game with both bat and glove as the Stouffville Buttermakers knocked off the Saints 18-3.

In the race for first, Goodwood Eagles tightened their grip on top spot with a 20-18 win over the second place A & S Raiders.