

Stouffville cross country team drives for five

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

Drive for Five:
That's the motto Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) cross country coach Dave Connell will use to inspire his team as they go after their fifth straight York Regional title.

With the start of the school year comes a new sports season, and coaches at SDSS are looking forward to a successful and fun year.

The two top fall sports at SDSS are cross country and boys volleyball, and York Region championships are the goal of teams in these events.

SDSS Phys Ed boss Connell is optimistic about the cross country teams chances.

"We had our first meeting last week, and we had one of the largest turnouts ever for cross country," he said.

Pace setters will be Brenda Hachey in Junior girls and Rob McConnell in Senior boys.

Both had excellent finishes last year, with Hachey making it all the way to the Ontario finals. McCon-

nell, running as a junior last year, was seventh in the Durham-York championships.

"I stress that cross country is a team sport," Connell said. "All six of our teams (boys and girls Midgets, Juniors and Seniors) have a good quality and quantity of runners and with a lot of hard work we expect our drive for five to be successful."

The season's first cross country meet is slated for next Thursday, and there will be races every Thursday afterwards until the York Region finals on Oct. 22. Vivian Forest is the tentative location for the championships, but that still isn't official.

The Durham-York Secondary School Athletic Association (DYSSA) championships will be Oct. 29 at Dagmar Ski Resort in Ashburn.

Though SDSS won the York crown last year, Oshawa O'Neill took the DYSSA title on the hilly Dagmar course.

Coach Connell admitted that SDSS's only cross country weakness might be their hill climbing, an area they intend to concentrate a lot

of time on in practice.

Boys volleyball is the other sport where SDSS stands a good chance of winning a regional title. The boys volleyball teams have a long championship tradition, though they were shut out last year.

"Last year was the first season in a very long time that we didn't win a York championship in boys volleyball," Connell explained.

Jim Fletcher will be coaching the Senior squad this year and he expects a good season. Former student Ross Dube and Anne Wilson will coach the Juniors, while Mike Quinn is in charge of the Midgets.

Former graduates Rob Reesor and Wayne Cheng may also help out with some volleyball coaching, Connell said. "It's a real help when former students come in and assist with the coaching," he added.

Cathie Croucher will coach the girls field hockey team and they will be led by Lisa Zeck and Brenda Hachey, who both represented Ontario during the summer.

Zeck was a member of the Ontario under-18 girls team, while

Hachey travelled to British Columbia for the Canadian Championships with the Ontario under-16 squad.

Many members of last year's Senior field hockey squad have graduated, but a number of talented younger players are ready to take their spots.

The field hockey finals are slated for Oct. 27.

Scott Croucher is this year's tennis team coach, and he'll be depending on strong performances from Mary Sled, and Imran Rasul.

Senior Sled made it to the DYSSA doubles' finals last year. Rasul, though only 16, will play Senior boys this season.

The tennis season is a short one, with the championships scheduled for Sept. 25 in Newmarket.

SDSS will field a Senior girls basketball team this year, they were unable to so last season because of lack of players, and Al Piette will handle the coaching chores.

A number of Juniors have now reached the Senior ranks and play-

ers to watch for on the court are Sonya Klien and Mary Sled.

Bill McKnight and Doug Walker will coach the Midget squad, while Adel Kamel and Brian Kettlewell will be behind the Junior bench.

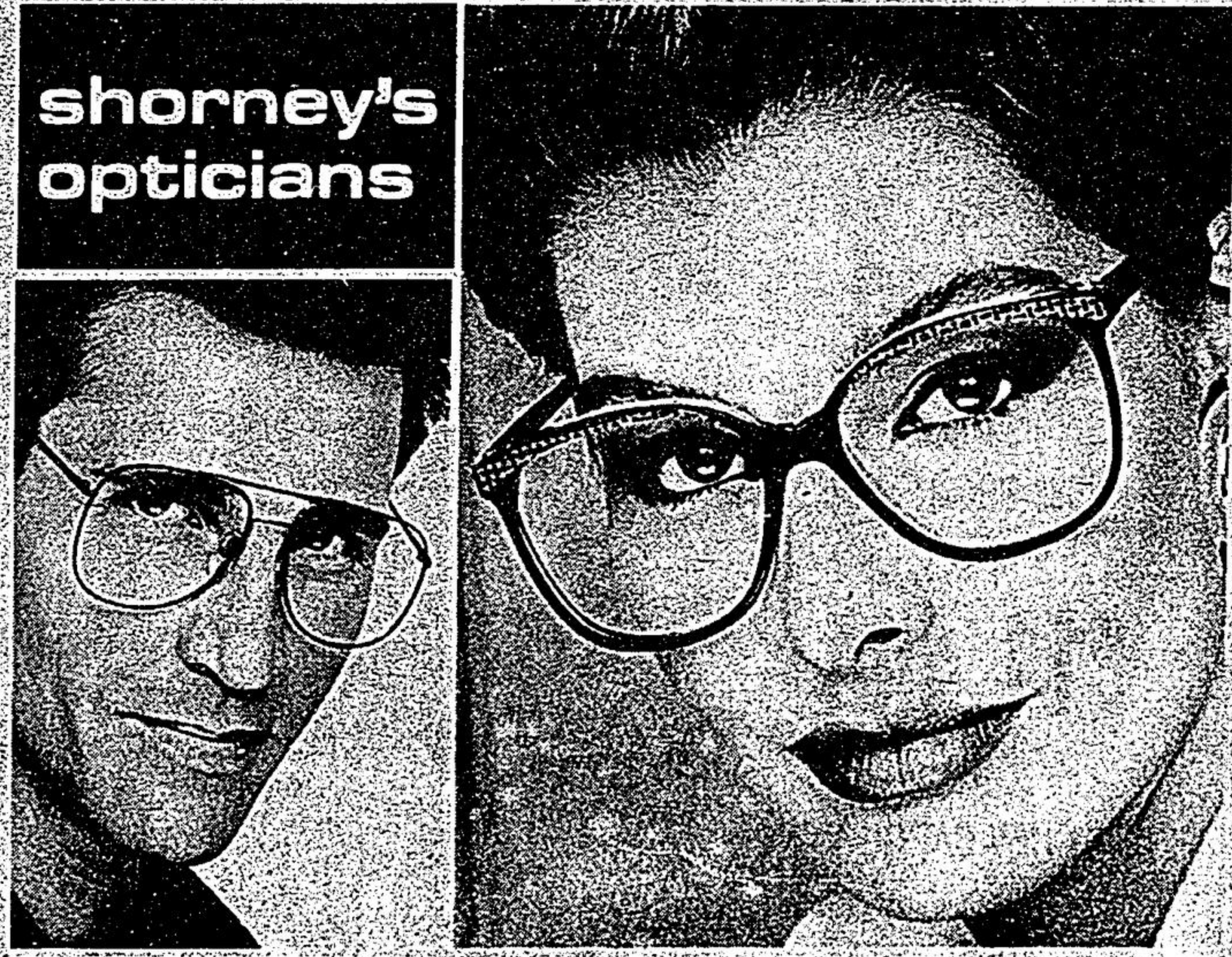
In golf, the SDSS girls team has won the regional championship for the last two years. However, they lost some of their top players to graduation and they'll face a tough task this season.

Golf coach Lin Jones will be looking to Jason (Pharaoh of the Fairways) Stronach for leadership in the Senior boys competition.

Also, the intramural and lunch time sporting scene at SDSS is very lively this year with Wallace Barbour and Leslie Snooks of the Athletic Council organizing events.

"We have a wide variety of things going on and we're pleased with the number of people turning out and the enthusiasm," Connell said.

However, with all this action, and only one gym at SDSS, things could get crowded and practice time will be at a premium.



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