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Second Section

Spartans aim high

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Senior boys volleyball coach Jim Fletcher is hoping the pressure and top-level competition of two upcoming tournaments will give his team the edge they need to win the York Region championship.

The Senior Spartan volleyballers will take part in the Pickering High School Tournament this weekend, which should feature the top squads from York and Durham Regions, and the prestigious London Saunders Tournament at the end of the month.

"The London tournament will be a great one," Fletcher said. "It will be mostly Triple A rated volleyball schools and there should be some great competition."

Some 24 top teams from across the province will take part in the Saunders, and Fletcher said the experience the Spartans will gain at such a meet is crucial.

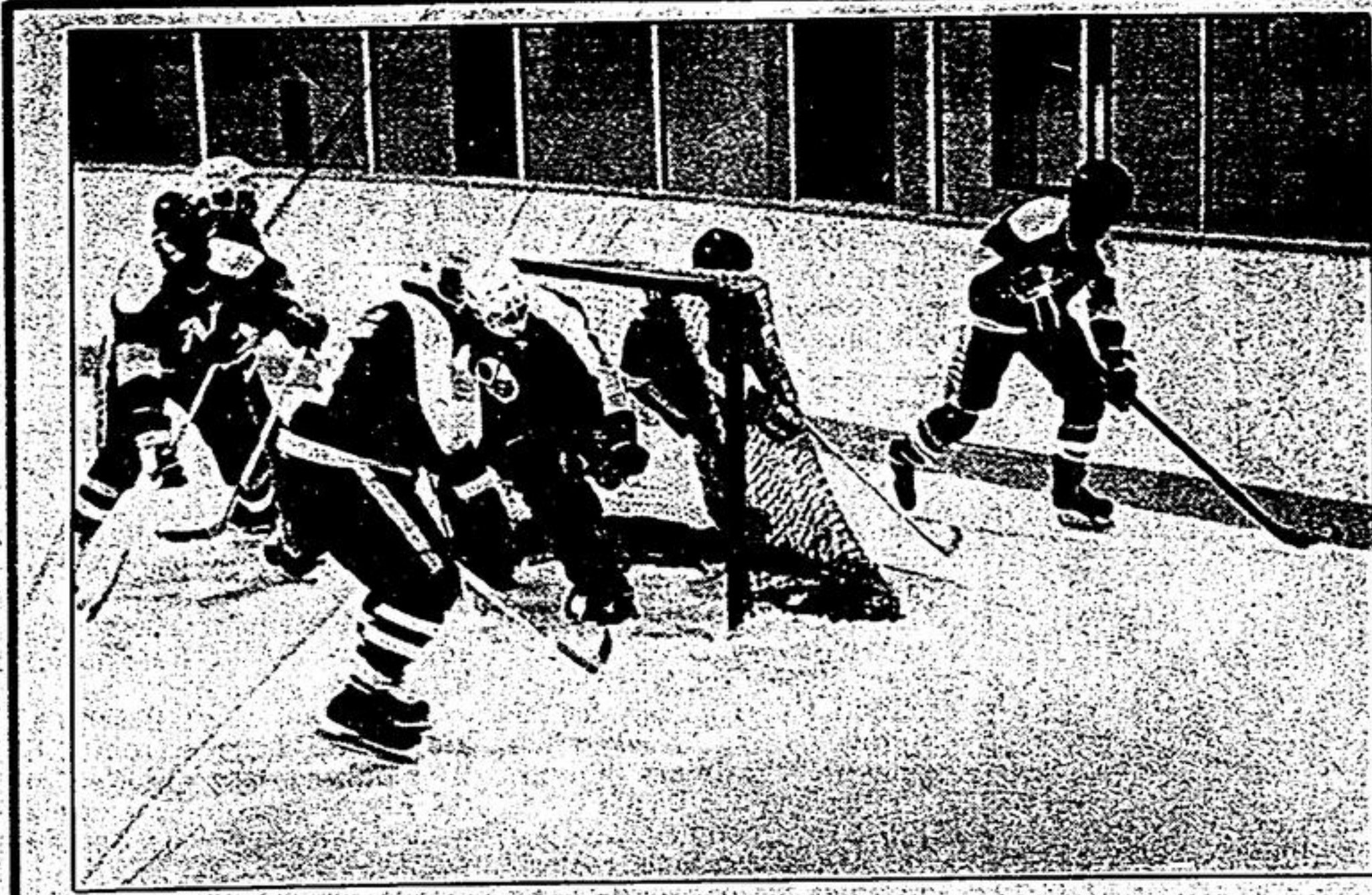
"This is a highly ranked tournament and I'm putting the team in it so they can get a taste of playing the top teams," he explained.

This weekend's Pickering Tournament will give the Spartans a crack and O'Neill High School of Oshawa, and Pickering High School.

Fletcher expects both squads to challenge SDSS for the Durham-York Secondary Schools Athletic Association (DYSSA) volleyball championship later in the season.

By getting experience in tournaments we're getting ready for the York, DYSSA, and, hopefully, a shot at the Ontario championships," Fletcher added.

In York league play, the Senior Spartans travel to King City this afternoon, and Fletcher said all their remaining games are important in their drive to the region crown.



After him

Members of the G & R Flooring Jets chase a Green's Restaurant North Stars player who has gone behind their net with the puck during Stouffville Amateur Hockey League (SAHL) action Sunday at the Recreation Centre. The North Stars topped the Jets 4-3 in this contest.

— Alan Shackleton

SDSS Juniors win squeaker in York girls basketball play

It was a cliff hanger.

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Junior Spartans girls basketball team squeaked by G. W. Williams 28-26 in an exciting York Region match-up last week.

Playing at home last Thursday afternoon the Juniors put in a solid team performance, with the scoring honors well distributed among the team members.

Karen Carr led the offence

with nine points, while Debra Sanderson had eight, Kim Saunders seven, Dianne Nicols two, and Lynn Nicholson two.

In other SDSS basketball action, the Teacher Terrors squad took on the Senior girls Spartans in a fun game last Friday afternoon.

The main purpose of the match was to raise money for the Physical Education Department, and it was a great success

in that area as about \$400 was collected.

The high-scoring Croucher Combination, teachers Scott and Cathie, led the Terrors to a 31-28 victory over the Senior girls.

Stouffville Minor ball meeting

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Softball Association will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 8:15 p.m. in Latham Hall.

The Association executive urges the parents of all players to attend the meeting.

"The purpose of the meeting is to listen to your suggestions as to how the league can be improved," said Dianne White, league Vice-President.

A new executive for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Softball Association will be elected at the meeting, and volunteers are needed for a number of specific jobs such as sweaters, trophies, photos and division convenors.

"We would appreciate meeting all our parents and friends at this very important meeting," White said. "Don't sit at home and complain about things, come out and help us."

"We are all volunteers. The more people who help with small jobs, the better we all do."

With a very successful 1987 season now completed, the Association extends its thanks to all those who worked so hard on behalf of minor softball.

Special thanks go to the players, the coaches and parents along with the umpires, organizer Al Piette and scorekeeper Kathy VanKoughnet.

Good and bad news for SDSS cross country

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

There was good news and bad news for the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) cross country team at last Thursday's prestigious Chicopee Oktoberfest Invitational meet.

The good news was Brenda Hachey's 12th place finish in the Junior girls race, while the bad news was the thigh injury suffered by Senior Rob McConnell.

Hachey, 16, finished the approximately 4,000 metre course in a time of 15:51 for 12th spot overall in a field of about 265 runners.

"Brenda ran a great race and was only about a second behind the 11th place girl," coach Dave Connell said. "Her's was the team's most positive performance of the day."

While Hachey's finish ranked as most pleasing, the biggest disappointment for the SDSS side was Rob McConnell's run in the Senior boys competition.

He fell down some cement steps that were part of the course and injured his thigh quite badly.

Despite the fall, McConnell toughed it out and completed the race to finish 139th in the field of 300.

Along with a bruised hip, McConnell is now suffering from some pulled ligaments and muscles in the thigh, Connell said, and his status for the remainder of the season is questionable.

"He's possibly out for the season, we don't know for sure," Connell added. "But if he's gone that's not good news for the team. He's our top runner in Senior boys, and we're depending on him for a lot of points at the York Region Championships."

"This was the Eighth Annual Chicopee meet, but the first time SDSS had ever entered a team. "I want my cross country team to participate in as many quality

meets as possible," explained coach Dave Connell on the decision to enter the tough competition which featured more than 2,000 runners from across the province.

The best SDSS team performance at the meet came from the Midget boys who finished 15th out of 35 teams entered.

Matt McKnight was the highest placing runner on the Midget boys side as he came home 91st in a field of over 400 runners.

Midget girl Tanya Cassie was 84th for SDSS against more than 250 runners in her race.

Midgets remain unbeaten

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Midget Spartans girls basketball team extended their undefeated streak to five games with a 38-17 win over Williams last week.

The home-court win Thursday afternoon means the Midgets now have a perfect 5-0 record in York Region competition.

Anne Baston led the Spartan scoring attack with 13 points, while Susan Baston contributed nine points.

Other SDSS point-getters were Julie Coleman, with six, Jen Barker, with four, and Kelly Sheridan, Terrill Junken, and Tammy Grove, who each had two points.

"We started slowly but once we got in a groove all the girls made a good contribution," said coach Bill McKnight. "This was a real team game."



York-Durham Slo-pitch Player of the Year

Bob Leger, centre, of Claremont was selected Player of the Year of by the York-Durham Mens' Slo-pitch League, and won a \$1,000 travel voucher for a trip anywhere in the world courtesy of Green's Restaurant, Stouffville and owner Dave Wood, right. The draw was made Monday night in Green's by Wood, and league

organizer Cliff Dunkeld, left. During the 1987 season, Green's sponsored a Player of the Week award, and all of the winners had their name in the hat for Monday's draw. A thrilled Leger said, "I've never won anything like this before. I have no idea where to go, I'm still so surprised."

— Alan Shackleton

Letter to the editor:

Volunteers needed to keep soccer alive in Stouffville

Dear Editor:

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club had a very successful year in 1987, with 155 youngsters playing both recreational and competitive soccer.

The largest number of players were in the five-to-ten-year-old age divisions, but like so many other sports, only a few people volunteered to help out — to organize, to coach, referee or manage a team.

Soccer is a very healthy sport for young and old alike. It is inexpensive and a more all-round physical sport than most other team sports.

However, new volunteers need to step forward to lighten the load for the present Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club executive. The present board members will not "do it again" without these new volunteers.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre, on Ninth Line North, you will have the last opportunity to say yes or no for soccer in 1988.

Sincerely,

Casey van Maris,

President,

Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club

Stouffville soccer worth saving

Is soccer in Whitchurch-Stouffville worth saving?

I think it is. I just hope there are enough other people in town who feel the same way or else something very important is going to be lost.

In the letter above this column, Casey van Maris, President of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club, has made an appeal for volunteers to turn out at a meeting on the night of Tuesday, Oct. 27 at the Recreation Centre to help Stouffville soccer survive.

If there's a big turnout, and new volunteers to assist in areas such as coaching, organization and refereeing then there will be a minor soccer season in Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1988.

If no new volunteers step forward, then you can kiss soccer goodbye in 1988, and probably for a long time afterwards in this town.

In 1987, 155 kids played soccer with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club in the house leagues, and on the two representative teams — the Royals (under-18 boys) and the Panthers (Bantam boys).

While those aren't huge numbers compared to the more than 800 playing minor softball, they're still pretty significant.

KIDS WILL LOSE

Those 155 kids, and probably a large number more who would like to play next summer, will be the big losers if the soccer club packs it in because of lack of volunteers.

That adults would deny their children the pleasure of participating in a sport because they themselves didn't want to get involved is shameful.

However, soccer isn't the only minor sport where lack of parental volunteers are causing a crisis and forcing those who do volunteer

Sidelines

By ALAN SHACKLETON

Sports Editor



to work three-times as hard.

Every minor sport everywhere in the country, this goes way beyond just Stouffville, seems to be suffering from a low number of parental volunteers.

There are many reasons why volunteers are harder to find, and none of them are good reasons. I looked at a few of them back in April after the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association general meeting said one of the main reasons for their increased costs was lack of volunteers.

I made statements such as parents use minor sports as babysitters, or that they would rather stay at home watching rented movies than their kids games.

You know, I hope a huge turnout at the Soccer Club's meeting proves me wrong. It isn't fair that those who do volunteer are forced to carry so heavy a load, while those who don't reap all the benefits.

Whitchurch-Stouffville with a population of 14,500, at least that's what the signs say, has only so many volunteers to go around and

between hockey, softball and soccer they're already being spread pretty thin, but I believe there must be enough people who care in this town to keep soccer alive.

Granted, the history of Stouffville dictates that it is primarily a hockey and softball town, and soccer will always take a back seat to those sports. Still, it is 1987 and with a growing population, including many young families, there has to be a place for soccer.

It is now up to those who care to step forward and start establishing a soccer tradition in Whitchurch-Stouffville. It may be your last chance.

VOLUNTEERS TAKE PRIDE

And while we're on the subject of volunteers, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Softball Association will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 8:15 p.m. in Latham Hall.

If your child played softball last summer, then you are urged to attend.

Being a minor sports volunteer is far from a painful thing. All the volunteers I've met seem to enjoy what they're doing, whether it be coaching, organizing, officiating or any of a number of other things. They can take pride in giving back their time to a sport they love while also helping the kids have fun, which is what minor sports is really all about.

Being a volunteer doesn't mean you'll have to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders. It does mean you'll be able to participate in your child's sport to the fullest and get even more enjoyment out of it.

They're your kids and they only grow up once.