



Let's go do the Hop!

Stouffville Dist. High School teacher Lori Cook scrambles against the clock during the annual Stouffville Fitness Challenge slalom hop. This was the first time in three years Stouffville hasn't kept the title at home. Markham High came in and swept the competition, held last week.

Girls' softball expanding

Thanks to Cliff Dunkeld

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Ever since his own daughter got involved in girls rep baseball 15 years ago, Cliff Dunkeld has been the Town's number one ambassador for competitive ball for the young ladies of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Into his 12th year as a member of the Provincial Women's Softball Executive, Cliff has been instrumental in the success of the local baseball program, having coached both boys and girls from the lower levels right on up.

The level two coach was all set to retire last season, but was persuaded by another fixture of the local ball scene, Al Piette, to give it one more run through, from the bottom up. "Al suggested we go back down and start at the bottom."

The result has been a revitalized approach to what was a fast fading concept. The two veteran coaches assembled a Mite level girls rep team last year, and have left it in the capable hands of Dave Miller, while they establish a Squirt outfit this year.

"We've got six players who played Mite for us last year," says Cliff. "The rest of the players will come from the house league."

Recognizing the need for extra practice time due to the relative inexperience of the girls, Cliff and Al have been holding indoor workouts at Orchard Park School for the past eight weeks in preparation for the upcoming season.

He's pleased with what he has seen. "There are some who feel we shouldn't be starting the girls in rep ball so early," he claims.

"But we have found the big difference with the younger girls is that they are willing to practice every night if they can. They are more

eager to get out to play, and their parents are just as enthusiastic. They come out to almost all the games."

Cliff keeps parents informed as to the goals of the team, and above all, he stresses that the primary aim is to have the kids learn, and enjoy themselves.

"I believe every player should give rep ball a try if they feel so inclined. It's not really 'all star', it's just for kids who want to give it that little extra."

The desire to play, he insists, must come from the encouragement of parents, or other kids who have been involved in the program.

The make up of the Squirt squad is primarily girls in the 11 year old age group. The 15 players will all be given the chance to perform at various positions.

Cliff feels he has four pitchers, and that it is pitching that can make or break a rep team. "Pitching is the toughest," he claims. "We've got three girls who pitch the old style, Alison McDonald, Kathy Tait, and Shyla Brennan, and one girl, Melissa Dawson, who pitches windmill. Melissa is the niece of Betz pitching ace Jimmy Chilvers, and he's been out helping her in practices," enthuses Cliff.

"I've got 15 talented players," he says. "They are all good or they wouldn't be here. We'll play it a game at a time. I'm not going to make any predictions."

The team will host the Ontario Squirt Championship in August, and will participate in at least three other tournaments throughout the season.

As for Dave Miller and his Mite girls team, he will have four members of last year's group

back this year. They are Heather Lee, Christa Dudley, Stephanie Watson, and his daughter Melissa. Dave, who has been involved in the local baseball organization for nine years, will be assisted in his coaching duties by Keith Dudley and Eldon Wagg, the past president of the league.

While Dave realizes there are a lot of question marks this early in the season, he's confident it will be a good learning experience for the girls. Nine team members are T-Ball graduates, and two are still of T-Ball age, but have made the team "out of pure guts and determination" according to the coach.

Pitching, as always, will be the biggest unknown at first. As for the team as a whole, Dave claims its a matter of internalizing the basics. "Its a matter of getting them into a routine," he says. "Concentration is important. Through repetition, the results are starting to come. I think we may surprise some people."

The Mites will play in two tournaments, including their own on July 9, which will see teams from as far away as North Bay and Sarnia competing in Stouffville.

The regular season will find them up against outfits from Newmarket, Thornhill, Unionville, and Aurora.

"We'll let the kids have some fun," claims Dave. "And we'll help them learn the team concept."

Dave has nothing but praise for the likes of Dunkeld and Piette, and their determination to see the girls baseball program succeed. And he's quick to point out the importance of getting more people involved to keep it going.

Slowpitch tourney helps Big Brothers

The York Region Big Brothers is hosting its slowpitch baseball tournament in which teams will compete for cash prizes of up to \$200.

The tournament welcomes sixteen men's teams to participate in the event, which will raise money to support the Big Brothers and their work with father-absent homes.

To enter the event, call 471-1620 (Markham) or 773-6168.

Stouffville slowpitch catches on

By BRUCE STAPLEY

It may have started in Niagara Falls, but slowpitch has caught on in Stouffville.

Disdained by some because of a pitching style that requires that the ball achieve the arc of a rainbow on its way to home plate, the game has become like a religion to those who get involved.

According to Paul Murray, vice president of the York-Durham Men's Slowpitch League that is based here in Stouffville, there are 5,000 teams playing organized slowpitch in Ontario, with a total of around 80,000 players participating.

The York-Durham loop will consist of 10 teams again this season, eight from Stouffville, one from Clarendon, and of course the defending champion Goodwood Eagles.

The Eagles, just one more example of the highly competitive brand of baseball played in the little hamlet to the northeast, captured both the league crown and the tournament honors in 1987.

Coach George Bruce along with Mike Assinck will be coming back in 1988 with an outfit that is determined to pick up where they left off last year. That means the other nine squads better be working on their collective batting stroke.

Along with Murray, the league executive is made up of Dave Woods, President; and John Val-leau, Treasurer.

The league commences its schedule May 16, with three tournaments having been lined up so far by participating teams.

The A&S Raiders will be hosting their sixth annual slowpitch tournament on the Victoria Day weekend, May 20-22. It will see a total of 32 teams competing, with 16 outfits in the 'C' and 'D' categories, and the other 16 in the 'DD' ranking. Sponsored by Labbatt's, this tournament will have squads coming from Thornhill, Oshawa, Milton, Toronto, Barrie and Peterborough.

Wayne Emmerson, the ball playing lumber expert who sits as Town Councillor for Ward 4, will organize a tournament on the July 1 weekend, to be hosted by Wayne's Buttermakers team.

The third tourney is to be put together by Naz Nicastro and the Greens Whalers slowpitch club for the August 1 Civic Holiday weekend. All three tournaments will be played on the diamonds in the vicinity of Memorial Park in Stouffville.

So with the regular season getting underway, and tournaments looming on the horizon, it's time for all the baseball widows to decide whether to tag along and enjoy the fun — or resign themselves to the prospect of evenings and weekends alone with the kids.

That is, unless they decide to hone their own baseball skills and win a spot on the Stouffville Stingers ladies' fast pitch softball team.

On the lighter side, the Stouffville baseball league with the longest name, but probably the shortest games anywhere, has resumed operations for another season of play.

The Stouffville Monday Night Men's Recreational Three Pitch League will once again take over the Main Diamond, come rain or shine — or hurricane, or tornado — every Monday night from 6:30-11 p.m.

The league is made up of eight teams, and is strictly recreational to the point where there are no umpires. Teams send one of their own players out to lob a maximum of three pitches to his own batters, after which the hitter is automatically out if he fails to connect.

There is no sliding, bases can be over run, and the side is retired if

everyone on the team should happen to come up to bat in a particular inning, except the last one. Games move at a quick pace, lasting an hour and ten minutes maximum.

The most efficient use of diamond space of any Stouffville league, the men's recreational loop is just the tonic for over 25-year-olds who still have that child-like love of the game, but

who don't want to take it all too seriously.

There are no playoffs in the 'fun' league, but an annual tournament is held in September.

The general consensus of the players wives is that the men's rec league lets their husbands be boys again one night a week, and it gets the men out of their wives' hair for just long enough to allow them to collect their thoughts.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB INC.

SOCCER REFEREES NEEDED

STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB NEEDS REFEREES FOR THIS COMING SEASON. FOR HOUSE LEAGUE PLAY, THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF GAME IS ESSENTIAL AND EXPERIENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL. REFEREES ARE PAID PER GAME.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL:

BRENDA PARSONS AT 640-3705

THE YORK REGION BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO CENTRAL PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Dear Parents:

On Thursday, May 26, 1988, at 7:00 p.m., a meeting will be held at Unionville Public School to provide information regarding the opening and organization of Central Park Public School.

Mrs. Anne Atkins, trustee, will chair the meeting. In attendance will be Mrs. Bev Brooks, Superintendent of Schools for Area H, Mr. W. Jones, Principal, and the Staff of Central Park Public School will outline the planning which has taken place.

BOUNDARIES FOR CENTRAL PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Contact area E. Office For Further Information 764-6830

Charles Cooper Chairman of the Board R.A. - Cressman Director

MARKVILLE TOYOTA'S

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Andrea English - Peter L. Mason's Unionville Softball Bantams pitcher tossed a two hitter and struck-out 10 batters to clobber East Gwillimbury, 10-0 in the opening game of the Aurora Early Bird Tournament.

MARKVILLE TOYOTA HWY. #7 EAST OF MCCOWAN 294-8100 HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS

THE YORK REGION BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO COLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Dear Parents:

On Tuesday, May 24, 1988, at 7:30 p.m., a meeting will be held at William Berczy Public School to provide information regarding the opening and organization of Coledale Public School.

Mrs. Anne Atkins, trustee, will chair the meeting. Mr. E.J. Dubkowski, Principal, and the Staff of Coledale Public School will outline the planning which has taken place.

BOUNDARIES FOR COLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Contact area E. Office For Further Information 764-6830

Charles Cooper Chairman of the Board R.A. - Cressman Director

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