

Stouffville Stinger

Allison's taking one day at a time

By BRUCE STAPLEY She's a laid-back sort of athlete, who performs best when there's something up for grabs. And while her direct approach could be taken for cheek, she simply believes in calling a spade a spade. She's Allison Lowery, 21, who with her booming bat has put much of the sting in the Stouffville Stingers attack this season. The Ballantrae resident holds down first base and is now in her fourth year with the ladies softball team. She was on the provincial championship team in 1985, and was with the Stingers when they took the South Lake Simcoe League finals last year.

And if they repeat as champs again this season, Allison will have played a key role. She has been hitting often, and far, while holding her own defensively. While she has hit many home runs this season, none could match the drama of her clutch blast in Bradford in July that made tournament winners of the Stingers. The blow, which came with two out and two on base in the last inning of the semi-final, transformed a 6-4 deficit into a 7-6 victory. She admits the season can be a little routine at times, because it must compete with career and other interests. But put a little in-

centive in there, and she rises to the occasion. "I guess I play better under pressure," she says. "I like playing, and deep down inside I want to win, even though I'm mainly in it for fun, just like the rest of the team." Allison, the daughter of longtime Stingers manager Ted Lowery, came to Ballantrae from Scarborough when she was 10. She claims she was never keen on sports until she started getting involved at Stouffville District Secondary School. "We won the championship in basketball and volleyball, and then we won the softball championship. I played all positions on the baseball team." She tried soccer in Markham one year, and has been involved in the Town's all-star hockey program since 1978. Her hockey teams have won the provincial women's top honors four years running, with her solid play at centre contributing. She coached a Junior house league team with fellow Stinger Cathy Carr one season.

Except for the time I sprained my wrist on a skateboard," she adds. "But I still played ball that night." Allison claims she enjoys the social aspect of softball as much as playing. "The tournaments are a good time," she says. "They give us the chance to get to know each other as friends, not just team mates." The current season has been a positive experience, she maintains, although she just can't believe how fast it has gone. Allison claims she hasn't really given much thought to how many more years she'll play for the Stingers. "I just don't know. There are days I really look forward to it, and others where, well..." Allison hopes to have a family some day, and says she'll take her career as it goes. She could see herself getting into coaching, "probably at the house league level, especially if my own child was playing on the team." And Allison admits that it's easier on her when her dad is managing, and not coaching. "I'm glad he's involved," she says. "I'm very protective of him when it comes to what the others on the team say about him." Would she ever coach the Stingers herself a few years down the road? "Who knows," she replies. For Allison believes in taking life one day at a time.

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Rain delays T-Ball

Rain forced the delay of many games for Novice T-Ballers, but other divisions were blessed with nicer weather. Results from last week's games follow:

T-BALL NOVICE Stouffville Pizzeria slapped Guaranty Trust 19-12. Home runs from Heather Lyon, Chris Lager, Stephanie Rand and Matthew Downie helped out. Nicole Aldcroft tripled and Charles Davies was outstanding at second for GT.

Hathaway Interior Design 7, MacLean's Furniture 0. Default.

T-BALL ADVANCED Ian Anderson had five home runs and Billy Read blasted four homers and a triple as Rennie Transport downed Goodwood Gas Station 36-30. Zachary Raybould and Daniel Haines added taters for Rennie. Big hitters for Goodwood were Mark French, Chad Norton, Trevor Mackenzie, Keith Lehman, Daryl Vague, Kinsey Rouss and Amanda Cornelisse.

Country Stop Burgers 7, Ken Cole Trucking 0. Default.

Ballantrae Progress club played shorthanded and still managed to tie AA&A Plumbing at 34. Matthew Bare had three round-trippers and Chris Hoher had one for Ballantrae. Josh Martyn belted four homers while Peter Mabely and Ryan Mortson had one on the AA&A side. AA&A's Shawn Barton made an excellent running catch.

Blasts from Chris Heidema, Jamie Redshaw, Peter Ward, Mike Rhynold and Nicholas Serjeant were all needed to get Gallo Real Estate by AT&T 33-31. Shawn Boadway, Jeff Boadway and Jake Spenser homered for AT&T.

It was Stouffville Lions 37, Giles Chev-Olds 30. Michael wood, Dan Thompson, Ryan White, J.P. Belanger, Karen Boyd and Mike Pesnyak made their bats boom for Lions. Homers for Giles came from Tegan Bennett, Jason Cumbers, David Giles and Ken Ruff.

MITE GIRLS Shannon Timms and Amanda Leger pitched well for Ballantrae Lions club as they held off Stouffville Florist 13-12. Rachel Armour hit a long one for Florist.

MITE BOYS Clark's Critters walked all over Claremont Lions, 14-5. Simon Fraser, David Clark and Jesse Gray were key players for the Critters. Shaun Tran and Shawn Vanderyagt led the Claremont team.

A triple by Jason Wood and good fielding from Michael Pride helped Stouffville Kinsmen double up Vandorf General Store 16-8. Jay Nesbitt had a quick glove for Vandorf.

Stouffville Co-Op defeated Floyd Preston Ltd. 20-12. Paul Gribbon and Peter Reed beat up on the ball for Co-Op, while Scott Eyre and Darren Hackwood were just smashing for Preston.

SQUIRT GIRLS Nicole Redshaw, Pam Taylor and Tanya Vanderyagt brought in big runs as PetroCan got by Farquarson Real Estate 18-15.

Karen Hoover homered and tripled for Farquarson, and Tara McKenzie had a good catch.

SQUIRT BOYS Pickering Sod crushed Stouffville Lions 20-10 thanks to triples by Terry Annis and Darrin Lehman. Terry added a homer to his hit list as well. Marc Green, David Mountjoy and Geoffrey Armstrong were the big batters for Stouffville.

Rino Dambrosio's home run helped John Doner Ltd. knock off Stouffville Fish 'N' Chips. Fish 'N' Chips big plays came from Stephen Wilcox, Jeff Clare, Michael Boyd and Peter Watson.

A receptionist at Markham Handcraft Industries, Allison tries to spend her lunch hour keeping in shape at the Muscle Factory.

"I usually get there about three times a week," she says.

Perhaps because of her interest in staying in shape, Allison has never endured an injury in all her years in sports.

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MARKVILLE TOYOTA'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK JAMIE LOUGHERY Jamie Loughery of Markham Abate Towing, Tykes contributed six hits and scored the winning run in 5-4 win over Thornhill last week. MARKVILLE TOYOTA HWY. #7 EAST OF McCOWAN 294-8100 HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS