

Hot and cold spells for softball Squirts

The Stouffville softball game, striking out 10. Jeremy Squirts were hot and cold last week. Monday, the Choko Design club took it right down to the wire against Bramalea, and came out on top 4-3. But there was no joy for Stouffville Thursday, as Aurora handled them easily 7-3.

The Squirts were behind for most of Monday's game. It was the top of the seventh and final inning with two out before they got anything going.

Down 3-1, the team rallied for three consecutive runs to take the lead. They then held their opponents hitless in the bottom of the seventh to take the win. Brad Crozier pitched the

game, striking out 10. Jeremy Brown was the big hitter for Stouffville, going 4-for-4 with three singles and a double. Lindsey Haylow added a single and a double.

At home to Aurora, there was little to cheer about. The Squirts got behind early and never could come back.

Aurora jumped all over Stouffville in the first inning, scoring three runs. They never looked back.

Haylow provided some sunshine on the miserable evening with a home run and a triple. Mike Underwood and Brad Crozier combined for a fine pitching performance, striking out a total of 10 Aurora batters.

Resident recalls hardball heyday

Millard Reesor

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Millard Reesor sits at the dining room table of his Parkview Village home, scanning old Tribune clippings.

He reads of his days as a rightfielder with the famed Stouffville Nine baseball team of the 1930s.

Hardball. Real baseball. The kind of thing Stouffville used to be known for.

"Ball would always be the topic of conversation on any street corner," Reesor claims of those years. "And there were some pretty good rivalries, especially with Sunderland. But Stouffville always had a good hardball team."

Millard recalls the frustration felt by the Stouffville players after the tough shutout loss.

"We were hitting the ball hard, but always right at somebody," he says. "We were really disappointed. We came back into the clubhouse after the game and threw our gloves on the floor in disgust."

Reesor played ball between assignments on his father's farm at Altona, which he ended up working for 55 years. Games were scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m., and he would either ride his bike or drive his 1930 Plymouth Coupe into Stouffville.

But it could be a little difficult juggling farming and baseball sometimes, especially road games.

"It's hard playing a ball game in Oakville when you were supposed to be helping your neighbor fill a silo at home," he admits.

Millard Reesor remembers that certain Stouffville businessmen were always willing to help the team make it to out-of-town games.

"We were indebted to some kind businessmen," he says. "Percy Tarr, who ran the monument works, would take us in his Model A Ford. Roy Curtis, who operated the drug store on Main



Millard Reesor browses through some old copies of the Tribune which herald his days in the local baseball system. Reesor can recall every moment of the Stouffville Nines' glory days, almost 60 years ago.

Street, Art Weldon, who had a shoe store, and Fred Button would also give us rides."

The team coach was undertaker Tim O'Neill. The lineup consisted of the likes of Wes Boadway, Dinty Hodgins and Bruce Lehman.

"Bruce was our right-handed pitcher," Millard says. "He had great control, a good fastball and a good curve."

"We also had Jack Pennock, a leftie, who would go in to give Bruce a rest every once in a while. Of course, back in those days, a pitcher started a game and usually finished. There were no relief pitchers."

Millard recalls that the catching was done by Lou Lehman.

"Some thought he was the best amateur catcher in all of Ontario. Harold Cook played first base for us, and Reg Button played se-

cond. Dinty Hodgins was at third, and Wes Boadway played shortstop. Pete Clendenning was in the outfield with me, along with Jack Pennock."

There were always large crowds at home games, Reesor claims. And he vividly remembers some of the more vocal fans exhorting the big hitters like Lou Lehman and Harold Cook to "hit one over the old elm tree" that used to sit out in deep left centre field in the town diamond.

Millard also remembers the first attempt at lighting the field so a game could be played between a pick-up team he was part of, and a team from the Sixth Line.

"It was in 1932," he reflects. "A fellow named Fred McNair went to the swamp and gathered up some cedar poles. He wired them to the fenceposts and put reflectors on them. Then he hooked up some high voltage lights to the reflectors."

"It wasn't the best, but we could see a little," he smiles.

Reesor says he still sees some of his old team mates occasionally.

"I haven't seen Harold Cook since we played. He lives in Islington. I hear Jack Pennock lives in Aurora and I see him occasionally."

He runs across Dinty Hodges and Reg Button more regularly, as both still live in Stouffville.

Reesor is a big Blue Jays fan. "I watch them on TV. I used to go to the park and watch town baseball, but not so much any more."

He lives at Parkview with his wife, Dorothy, and has one daughter.

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Millard Reesor as he was in the 1930s, when he played for the Stouffville Nines. Reesor recalls that baseball was the talk on every street corner in town. The Whitechurch-Stouffville resident still takes in the odd ball game.

MARKVILLE TOYOTA'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Erin Hallinan 14

Plays on Markham's Novice Girls Softball team sponsored by Sylvia Houghton. Led the tournament in batting - in seven games she hit 4 home runs, including a grand slam & two doubles, including a double that hit the fence in the air at Adams Park.

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