

Stouffville Sports

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The triumphant Stouffville Choko Squirts team which won the All-Ontario Squirt B Division Softball Championship. Back Row — Coach Earl Crowder, Steve Ellis, Wally Crowder, Manager Dave Smart. Middle Row — Craig Wood, Paul Koert, Ian Ellis, Graham Crowder, Scott Assinck, Brad Hackert. Front Row — Tommy Hammond, Tim Smart, Michael Underwood, John McKinnon, Adam Crowder, Evan Boyd and Batboy Rod Assinck.

Squirts finale

Ian Ellis' sixth inning grand slam home run gave the Stouffville Choko Squirts a 11-6 win over Stittsville in the championship game of last weekend's All-Ontario Squirt Softball Tournament in Owen Sound.

The Stouffville squad went undefeated in four matches, beating Stittsville twice, the first time coming in a nine inning classic, 2-1.

Scott Assinck was awesome at the plate for Choko throughout the tournament, racking up 10 hits in 14 at bats, along with three

walks. He had three home runs. It was Assinck's round tripper that gave Choko their slim victory over Stittsville the first time the teams met.

The championship match up with Stittsville was neck and neck until Ellis blasted his grand slam in the sixth. Singles by Evan Boyd, Brad Hackert, Assinck, and Crowder set the stage for the big blow.

The Ontario champion Choko club joined the Stouffville Mite Buttermakers in the provincial title winners' circle.

Mites title quest smooth as butter

An extra week of batting practice couldn't help Dunnville batters figure out Stouffville Mites Buttermakers' pitcher Kevin Hackert, as the Stouffville softball squad took a 22-3 victory last Tuesday to give them the Ontario Mite B championship.

Dunnville, who were blanked 19-0 by Hackert and the Buttermakers in the first game of the best-of-three final in Stouffville August 11, put off hosting game two for a week so they could try to find their batting stroke against a pitching machine, according to Buttermakers' head coach Dave Boyd.

"Their coach told me they had the machine out every night," said Boyd.

Hackert struck out 13 batters, and chipped in with a home run, a triple, and a pair of singles, good for five runs batted in.

Slugger Dan Tardella hammered 8 round trippers and had seven RBIs.

Jeff Hassard and Brett Boyd each collected three safeties, while Billy Wray had two hits.

Boyd said that even though he realized his team had the game wrapped up, it was still a thrill to see Hackert strike out the game's last batter.

"Believe me, I really enjoyed it. I knew we were going to win the game, but that last strike was something else."

Boyd said he gathered his team together before the last inning. "You're Ontario champions if you can get three outs," he told them.

"And they got them three up, three down. Hackert struck out the last batter on three pitches. He was just burning them."



The Stouffville Buttermakers are the All-Ontario Mite B Softball champions, winning the Jim Conlan Memorial Plaque. The team consists of Back Row — Co-coach Ray Steel, Brad Johnston, Dan Tardella, Billy Wray, Robbie Spytz, Derek Emmerson and Co-coach Dave Boyd. Missing from the photo are Co-coach Bryan Emery and players Matt Turner and Andrew Harper. Front Row — Jeff Hassard, Matt Eagen, Bob Lewis, Kevin Hackert, Evan Cain and Brett Boyd.

Thank-you, Stouffville

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

Chuck Phillips, the man who helped turn around the faltering Junior C Uxbridge Bruins hockey club last hockey season, is a believer in being kind to the people who help you on your way up.

The Bruins' general manager and director of operations is very aware of the contribution made to his hockey club by Stouff-

villians Paul Sinclair, Craig Stronach, Jason Underwood, Chris Winn and Aaron MacWilliams in last year's last-minute playoff scramble that saw the Bruins qualify for post-season play on the last night of the season.

The team went on to drop a hard-fought series to Wellington, four games to three, finally running out of healthy bodies to send

out on the ice.

Phillips found there were more and more Stouffville residents showing up to cheer on the Bruins last season. It was the combination of the presence of so many Stouffville-based players on the team and the fact that Stouffville's highest-ranked hockey club was the Midget B Clippers, a far cry from Junior C excitement.

Heart-breaking tie-breaker

The Stouffville Bantam Boys softball team went down swinging in the provincial finals at Napanee last weekend, winning one of their three games played.

The Bants were edged 14-13 by Grimsby Saturday evening to put them out of the running. Stouffville had led 12-5 after three innings.

But the heart breaker came just a half hour before the game with Grimsby started, as Stouffville lost an extra-inning marathon to Cobourg 17-16.

The teams were tied at 16 at the end of the regulation seven innings. When the game was still

tied after nine frames, international tie-breaking rules went into effect whereby each team begins the tenth with a runner on second base.

Stouffville failed to score in the top of the inning, but Cobourg scored on a bases-loaded walk in their half of the inning.

Eilert Fraser led the Stouffville offence in the extra-inning contest with a homer, triple, and three singles.

Matt McKnight had four hits, and Bill Pride banded out a triple and a pair of singles.

The Bants had edged Simcoe 6-5 in their tournament opener.

Saturday morning in what Stouffville coach Gary Fraser called "the best game we played" all year.

"There wasn't one kid who didn't make an outstanding play," said Fraser of the narrow victory.

David Caramanico and Pride had two hits each in the win, with both players scoring twice.

Mike McCool and McKnight were the defensive standouts, according to Fraser.

Jason Underwood and McCool each rapped a pair of doubles in the Bants' one-run loss to Grimsby.



sports notes

bruce stapley

So Phillips has arranged to bring his act to the Recreation Centre for an exhibition game Sept. 23, to whet the appetites of Stouffville hockey fans in the hope even more of them will make the drive up Hwy. 47 this fall and winter to watch the Bruins play.

"We have really appreciated the support from the Stouffville area," says Phillips. "We felt that by playing an exhibition game there we could show the people in Stouffville that we would love to have them on board this season."

Phillips says that while it is still too early to know just who will end up wearing the yellow and black of the Bruins this season, there is a good chance Sinclair, Underwood and Stronach will be back.

"And there may be more," he suggests. "There are some good quality hockey players in Stouffville." Phillips will be in Stouffville to mark down Sept. 23 on the calendar. After taking in several

Bruins games last season, I can promise it will be a whole lot more entertaining than suffering through a Maple Leafs game on the tube.

Charity golf tournaments continue to raise impressive amounts of money in the Stouffville area this summer.

Last week's multiple sclerosis extravaganza at the Maples of Ballantrae succeeded in bringing in around \$10,000 for Marg Britton's York East MS chapter.

And the benefit tourney for Shane Stapley at Firefighters Rolling Hills on Tuesday resulted in \$4,500 being deposited into Shane's trust fund.

Special thanks from a personal standpoint to John Heaton, Dave Wood, Wayne Simpson and Jean Peters, who organized the event, and to Rolling Hills, which donated its course for the occasion, and to all the sponsors, both corporate and individuals, who helped out.