

# Harmer finds the good life in sports scene at Stouffville High

Kevin Harmer is a transplanted Toronto boy who has fallen hook, line and sinker for the good life as offered by a town like Stouffville.

The 18-year-old Grade 13 student at Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS), who first set foot in the school as a somewhat retiring Grade Tenner, admits to having been a little less than confident about his athletic abilities when he walked into the gym.

Three years later, the sturdily built Harmer has more than made his mark on the school volleyball and basketball scene.

He was a competent first stringer with the Senior Spartan volleyball squad which went to the all-Ontario Double-A championships back in the fall.

And he's averaging 15 points a game, while picking off a pile of rebounds, as a forward guard with a Senior Spartan basketball outfit which has won its last seven league games.

"When I came to the school in Grade 10, I wasn't even thinking about trying for any of the school teams," Harmer recalled. "But Fletch (Spartan volleyball coach, and SDSS phys ed teacher Jim

Fletcher) told me I should come out and give volleyball a try. I was the last one picked to the team."

By season's end, Harmer had emerged as first stringer, helping the Midget Spartans to a third place finish in the York Region championship tournament.

But it wasn't until last season that he emerged as a basketball front liner.

"My height (6'3") finally started to work for me. I averaged about 20 points a game with the Junior Spartans and we ended up second at DYSSA (Durham-York High School Finals)."

This year, as an established



## Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

two sport player, Harmer feels he has reached his peak as a high school athlete.

"Personally, I think I played better volleyball this year than ever before. Fletch got us into so many tournaments, and that helps you get better."

And while he feels the odds are against his Spartan cage crew making a lot of noise at the provincial finals next month, he is happy with the team's performance, and his own efforts.

"We had a slow start, but we're rolling now, and I think we have a chance of winning the York AA title, and maybe getting into the DYSSA final. My own play has improved, especially my outside shooting."

He credits a trip to summer basketball camp at Queens University in Kingston, where he hopes to take a BA or BSC next year, with picking up his game this season. "That really helped me with my technique."

While Harmer may be a self-confessed sports nut who spends hours in the SDSS gym each week, his marks haven't suffered.

An honors student in Grade 12, he is maintaining an average of around 80 per cent this school year.

Along with sports, his interests also extend to show business, as he directed the school Variety Show last year.

And when his schooling is all over, he hopes to make it in the world of business, possibly in the field of accounting.

But for now, he is happy to let the scorekeepers keep track of his own impressive point totals as he prepares to wind down a satisfying high school athletic career here in the town he'll always be glad he stumbled across.

## Stouffville softball sign-ups

Registrations for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA) are slated for a number of locations next week.

Players from Stouffville, Ballantrae and Vandorf will be able to register for softball in their own communities.

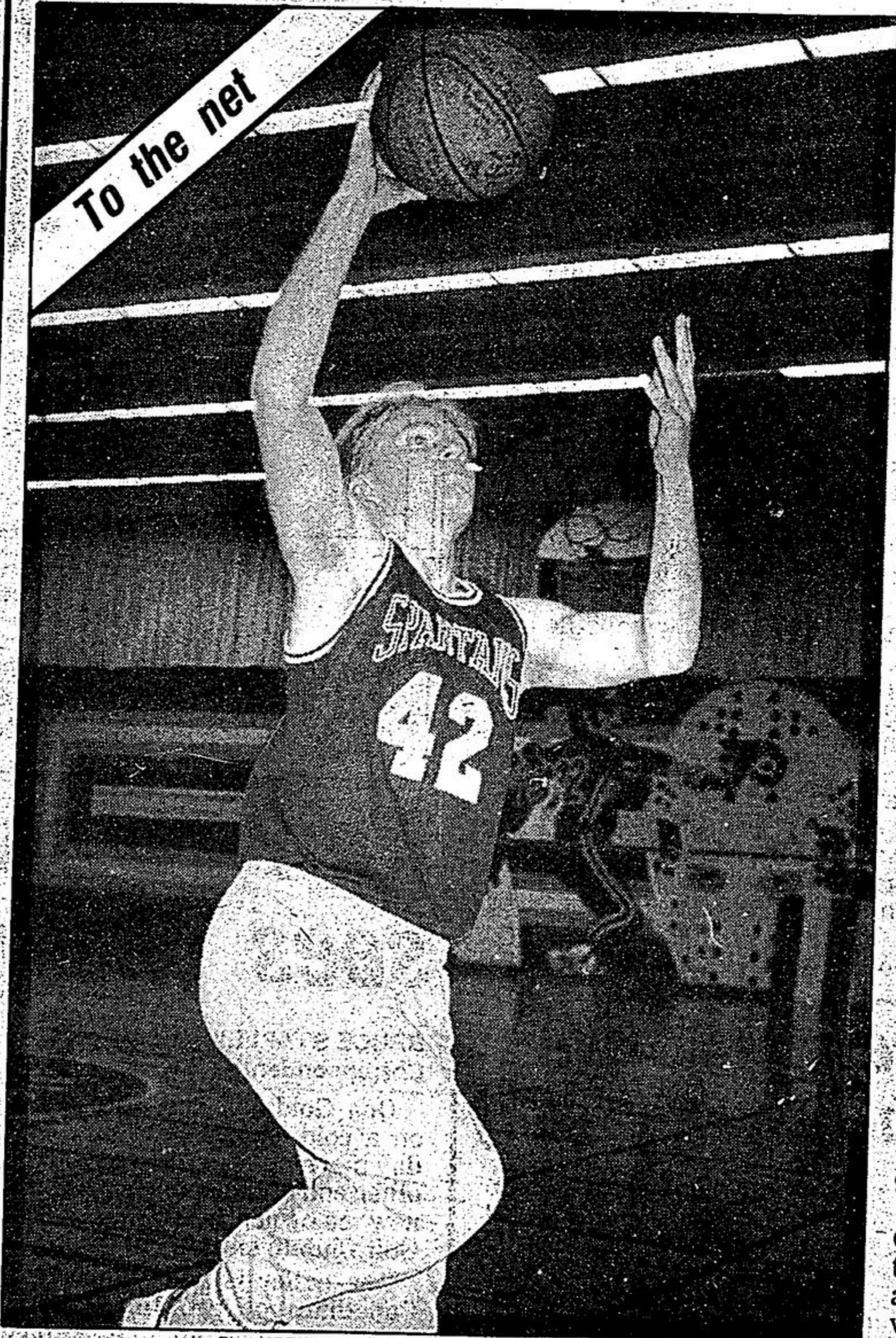
Sign-ups can be made at the Stouffville Recreation Centre of Feb. 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Feb. 11 and 18 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Ballantrae Community Centre will be open for registrations on Feb. 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Vandorf Hall will hold sign-ups on Feb. 9 and 16th from 7 to 9 p.m.

Players can register at any of the centres, and the age divisions range from novice T-ball to a newly created young adult league.

The new loop will be a Mixed League for 17-20 year olds, and the WSSA is hoping to have the games played on Sunday nights.

For more information, please call Ann at 640-1573.



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

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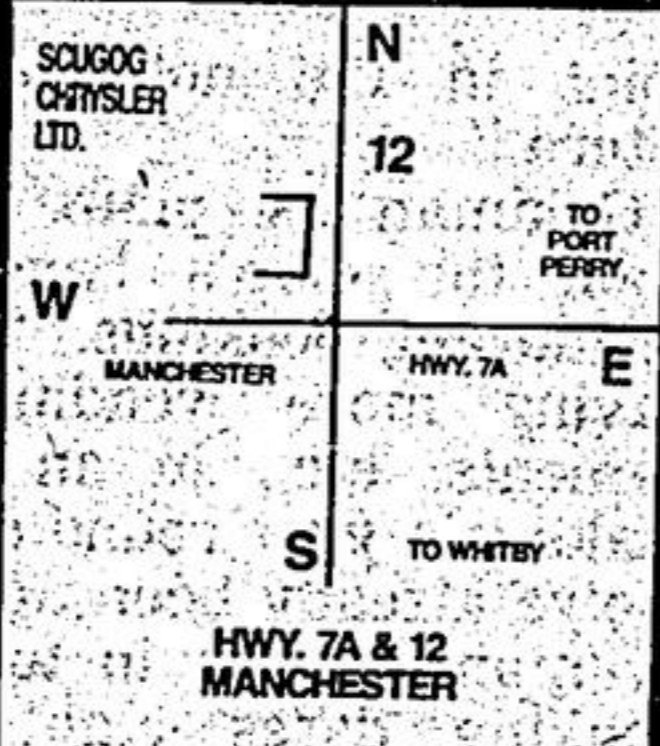
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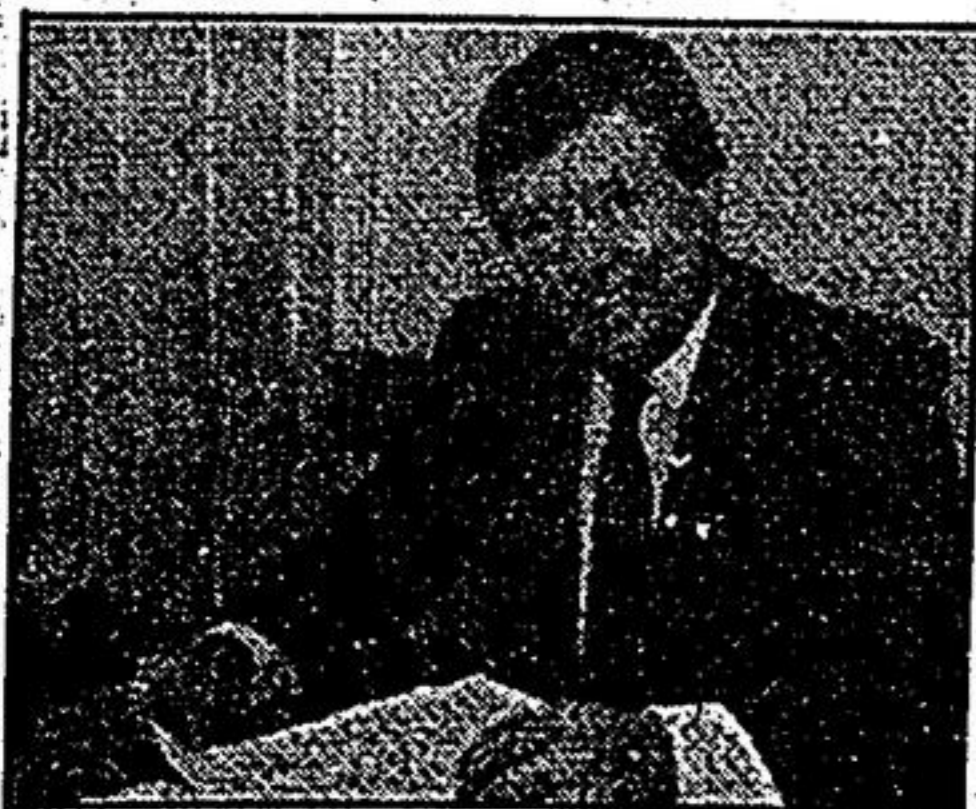
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PARTICIPATION

Kevin Harmer leaps for the basket during a recent Stouffville District High School Senior boys basketball team practice. Harmer has enjoyed participating in sports at SDSS since arriving from Toronto three years ago.

## Darlene Cotton PHOTOGRAPHY



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