

# SPORTS

## Stouffville Squirts win tourney title

Paul Koert struck out 14, and Robbie Spytz and Sonny Acosta banded out two hits each, as the Stouffville Choko Design Squirts beat St. Mary's 6-1 to take the title in the New Hamburg Squirt Tournament Sunday.

The Squirts swept their way to the championship of the tourney by winning all three games they played, and outscoring their opponents 40-3.

Stouffville thumped Downey 14-1 in their opener, as Koert combined with Acosta to pitch the win.

Acosta had late inning relief help from Kevin Hackert in game two, which was a 20-1 pasting of Puslinch. Evan Boyd, Tim Smart and Robbie Spytz all scored three runs each in the rout.

The championship game was a pitcher's duel until Stouffville put the contest away with a three-run sixth inning.

In league play last week, Stouffville romped to a 28-1 win over Scarborough as Acosta fired a no-hitter and Jeff Hassard hit a home run and a triple.

### Track sod turning Thursday

With the gala sod turning scheduled for tomorrow at 6:45 p.m. to the east of the Recreation Centre, the Stouffville Community Track Advisory Committee are meeting fast and furious with Town and Board of Educa-

tion officials, as well as with potential contractors and volunteers, in an effort to cement plans for the project.

The committee, which is prepared to commence actual construction of the \$350,000 combination track and field/soccer/tennis facility now that over \$200,000 has been raised, is looking for a large turnout at the sod turning.

"We want to see as many high school and public school students as possible out for the ceremony Thursday, along with soccer players and their parents," said committee spokesperson Ged Stonehouse. "This is truly a community project, and it's going to take everyone working together to see it through."

Stonehouse said the committee has had good co-operation from the Board, which owns the land, and is contributing \$125,000 as well as the Town, which chipped in with \$40,000.

They have also met with representatives from the high school phys ed department, and with officials from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club, which is contributing money towards lights for the project, as is the Town.

Stonehouse said that, thanks to certain offers of goods and services from local corporate interests, there will be significant savings to be gained. "James A. Rice are donating the greater part of their work, which includes the engineering plans, and Park Lane Nurseries have offered 50 hours of back hoeing. Another interest has offered 50 hours of free bulldozing. And of course, we're still looking for more donations of contracting services and equipment."

### Midgets crush Newmarket

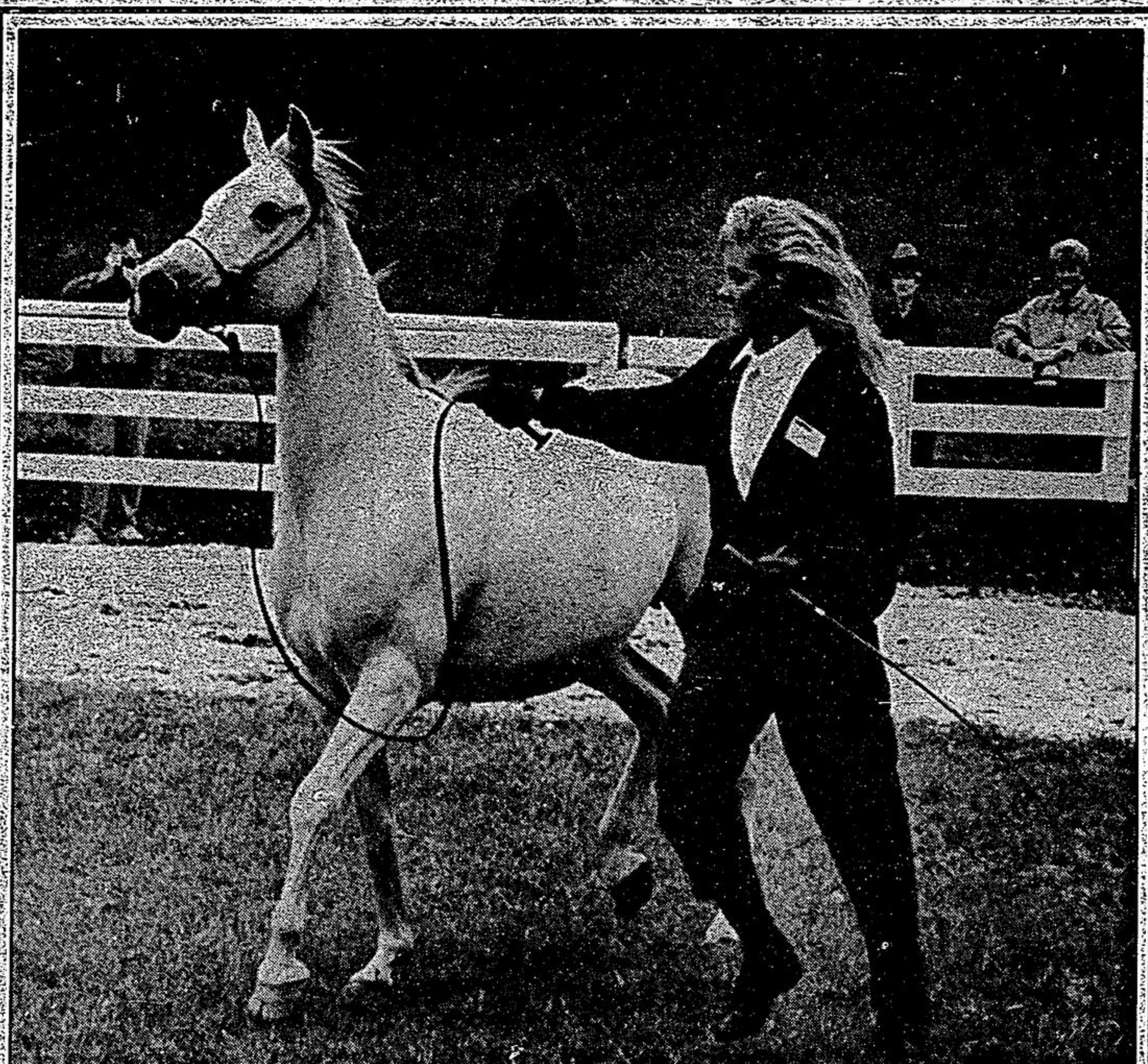
The surging Stouffville Midgets were momentarily arrested, but came back stronger than ever in last week's softball action.

The Midgets, who had won four straight after losing their first three games of the season, dropped a 6-5 decision to Unionville Tuesday.

But they soon regained their touch as they crunched three home runs in an eight-run third inning, enroute to an 18-5 trouncing of Newmarket at home Thursday night.

The Stouffville squad, which had fallen 4-3 to the same team earlier in the campaign, got back-to-back homers from Billy Pride and Jason Underwood in the explosive third frame, with David Caramanico adding another round-tripper before the inning was out. Dan McNeil socked a two-run shot to round out the 18 run assault. Basil Luciano, who stroked a triple, scored three runs, as did Underwood.

Meanwhile, pitcher Mike Pongracz was holding the Newmarket batters in check with a six hitter, faltering only in the sixth, when he was touched for four runs as the Stouffville defence let up.



Proud Arabian

Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Kim Raab of Cherry Hill Arabians in Stouffville 20 horses were displayed at the event which featured pyramid society straight Egyptians, and through its paces at an open house Sunday. Some there was good crowd on hand to watch.

### Merchants reach finals in Smiths Falls

The boys went up against the men at Smith Falls over the weekend, and fell just short of taking home the lion's share of the spoils.

The Stouffville Merchants Junior fastball team lost the championship game of the men's fastball tournament played in the Eastern Ontario town, falling 4-0 to Bernwood, an Intermediate level squad.

The Merchants shone in their five games leading to the title match against both Junior and Intermediate competition.

In opening round pool play, they bested Manotick 7-1, dropped a 4-3 decision to the host team, then beat the Scarborough Juniors 2-1 to advance to the playoff round.

The win over Scarborough was significant, as that club is expected to be one of the stronger teams the Merchants will face at the Ontario Eliminations at Grimsby July 6 to 8.

Stouffville got shutout pitching from Scott Evans and Byron Baranieski in a 1-0 victory over an Intermediate team from Gatineau in their first playoff match up, with Chris Burkholder scoring on a wild pitch after stroking a double.

The Merchants then beat The Dynes 3-1 in the semifinals, before challenging Bernwood in the championship contest. Baranieski captured the tournament MVP honors, with a record of four wins and one loss.

## Enemies turn into teammates for Merchants

Fred Crawford, the man who coached the Markham Midget boys softball team which kayoed Stouffville's highly touted squad last summer at the Provincial Eliminations, believes that "once you've beat 'em - you may as well join 'em."

So when Markham failed to field a Junior ball team this spring, Crawford emerged as manager Carl Myers' head coach for his new Stouffville Merchants Juniors.

The team is made up of the nucleus of last year's Stouffville Midgets, along with a quintet of players from the Markham unit that went on to finish next to the champs from St. Catharines after knocking off Stouffville in such dramatic fashion at the All-Ontario's last year.

And of course, the club also has Scott Evans, who would probably have guaranteed the provincial

championship to either the Stouffville or Markham Midgets last summer had he been on the roster.

Evans was originally envisioned by 1989 Stouffville Midget coach Howard Burkholder as one half of his dream pitching tandem, with the lanky Byron Baranieski making up the other half.

But Evans ended up touring the country with both Team Ontario, and the Canadian National Youth Softball team, leaving Burkholder's outfit with but one top notch chucker. This year, however, the dynamic duo is together at last, and that spells bad news for hitters at this year's Junior Eliminations in Grimsby the weekend of July 6.

When Myers put his team together back in April, he was thinking long range, hoping to have a crack squad with which to host the Ontario Junior championships in 1992.

But Myers was emphatic when



### Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

he said his boys would be competitive right off the bat. And the record has born him out so far.

The combined Stouffville-Markham roster, comprised of almost all first-year Juniors, has yet to lose a game against Junior level teams. Playing out of the Oshawa and District Men's Fastball League, which has hooked up with the Richmond Hill men's loop for cross league competition, the Merchants have looked sharp, sporting an overall record of six wins, two losses, and two ties.

Both losses have been to Inter-

mediate teams.

Coach Crawford said that realistically, his team appears to be about two good bats away from serious contention at the upcoming provincials at Grimsby.

"We can match any team with our pitching and defence," he said. "But our hitting is our weakness. We don't have the bats to come back if we get down by too much."

And then there's the matter of that fateful high school ball game a month or so back, when Crawford's own son Craig, who played with Evans on the Team Ontario entry that took the Canada Games crown in Saskatoon last summer, collided with Merchants' teammate Mike Clausner, as the two of them chased a fly ball.

Ironically, it came in a game in which the title-bound Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans, containing many Merchant

players, were knocking off Crawford and Clausner's Markham District High School unit.

Craig, who has been fitted with a steel plate in his left leg to assist in the healing of two badly broken bones, is gone for the season.

Clausner, who suffered a broken knee cap in the mishap, may also be history for the 1990 campaign.

Naturally, the loss of two of his regulars has coach Crawford a little subdued. "At the start of the season, I was confident we'd go a long way. But after losing two key players, well..."

However, as Yogi always used to say, "It ain't over 'til it's over." And anything can happen under that hot July sun.

Just ask the members of the Merchants who had their hearts broken last summer by five boys with whom they are sharing bench space this season.