

SPORTS

Third OASA crown for Stouffville

Squirts win Ontario ball championship

The Choko Design Squirts made it three Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) championships for Stouffville this summer as they swept the B division title tournament in Stittsville over the Labor Day Weekend.

It was the second consecutive provincial crown for the Squirts, who were made up of seven second-year players and five rookies.

Other OASA champs from

Stouffville this year were the Junior Merchants and the Mite Buttermakers.

Stouffville beat hosts Stittsville 9-7 in the championship game, though the contest wasn't really as close as the score indicated.

The local boys jumped to an 8-1 lead, but it still took a last inning diving catch by Craig Wood to seal the victory and the provincial crown.

Hits by Evan Boyd, Scott Assinck, and Robbie Spytz gave Stouffville a 3-0 first inning lead.

The team then batted around in the fourth, with Koert, Tim Smart and Adam Crowder providing the big blows in a four run outburst.

However, Stittsville came charging back and the Stouffville defence had some excellent play from Assinck, with eight put outs, Boyd and Billy Wray to preserve the win.

Stouffville opened the tourney with a 7-3 win over Trenton.

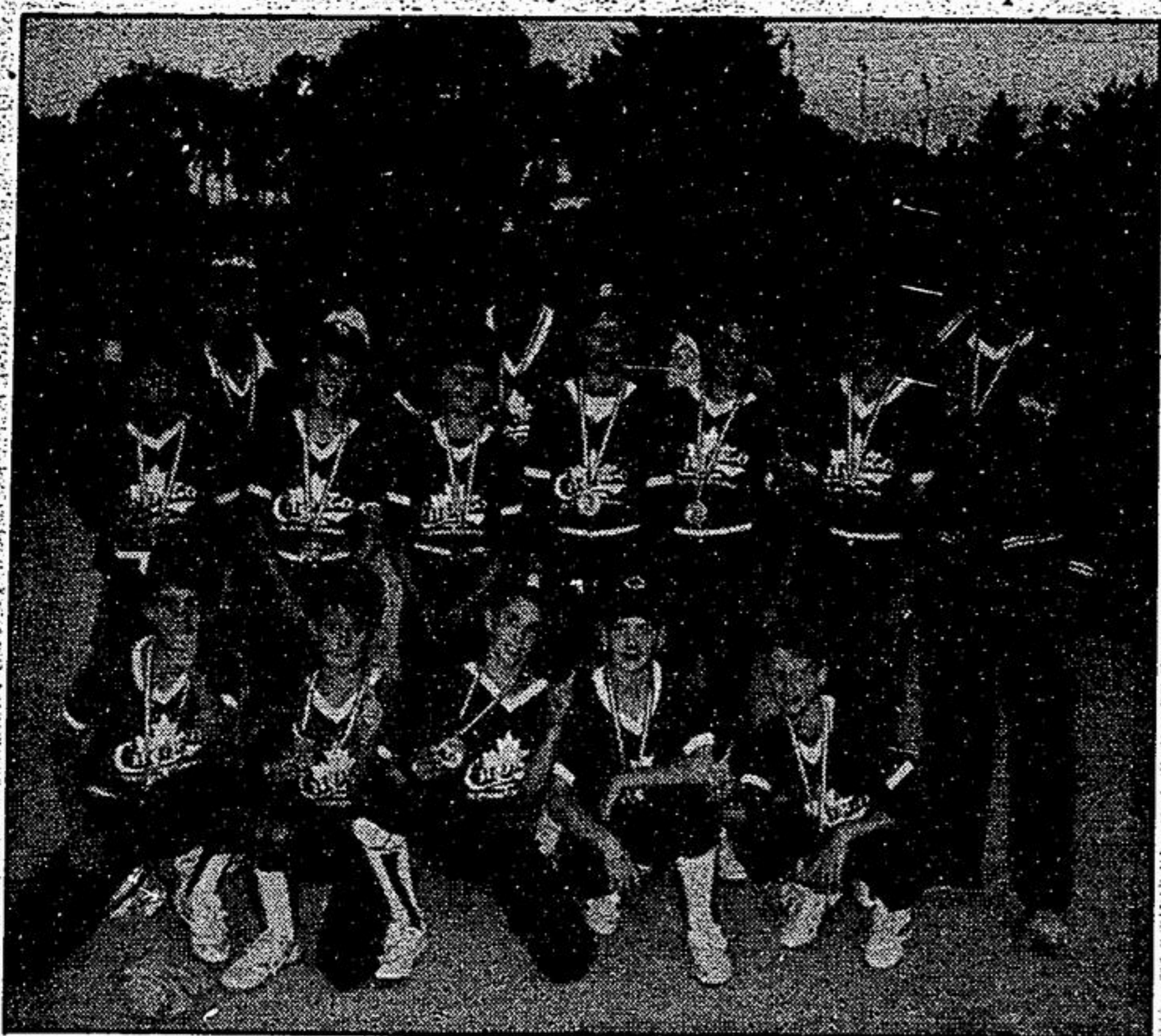
Paul Koert led the Squirts with a two-run single and solid relief pitching. Kevin Hackert started the game on the mound and pitched four strong innings.

Boyd, with a key triple, and Spytz, with a pair of hits, also contributed to the offence.

In game two, Stouffville scored six runs in the final two innings to take a 10-1 win over St. Thomas. Koert recorded 16 strikeouts in the game, while Assinck went three-for-four at the plate and knocked in three runs.

In a preview to the championship game, Stouffville edged Stittsville 5-4 in game three. Koert was once again excellent on the mound with superb support from the defence. On offence, Assinck hit a homer and Crowder had a triple.

The Choko Squirts were coached by Dave Boyd, Bryan Emery and Ray Steel.



The champions

The Stouffville Choko Design Squirts won the Ontario Amateur Softball Association championship over the Labor Day Weekend with a 9-7 win over host team Stittsville. Members of the provincial champion squad are front row (left-to-right) - Jeff Hassard, Evan Boyd, Adam Crowder, Dan Tardella, Tim Smart; middle row - Billy Wray, Robbie Spytz, Kevin Hackert, Paul Koert, Scott Assinck, Craig Wood; back row - coaches Dave Smart, Dave Boyd and Ray Steel. The OASA championship was the second in a row for the Squirts, and third title won by a Stouffville team this season.

Stingers flying high in bid for league title

The Stouffville Stingers may have fallen short in their bid for the Ontario Intermediate Ladies Softball title last month, but they are flying fast and furious in pursuit of their own league crown.

The Stingers, all fired up after suffering their first South Lake Simcoe Ladies Softball League loss in three months last Monday in Bradford, came back to buzz the Bradford girls 12-6 at home Thursday night.

The win gave the Stouffville squad the overall victory in their four game round-robin playoff with Bradford and Zephyr.

The Stingers tough 4-3 loss to Bradford three nights earlier had left both teams with two wins and a loss, making Thursday's game the deciding match.

The Stingers struck early, going ahead 6-0 after two innings on the strength of pitcher Denise Toole's three-run homer and Debbie Gold's triple.

Toole singled in another pair of runs in the fourth as the Stingers went out in front 8-0.

The Bradford bats erupted for five runs in the top of the fifth, but Stingers slugger Allison Lowery sliced a grand slam home run with two out in the bottom of the frame to put the game away.

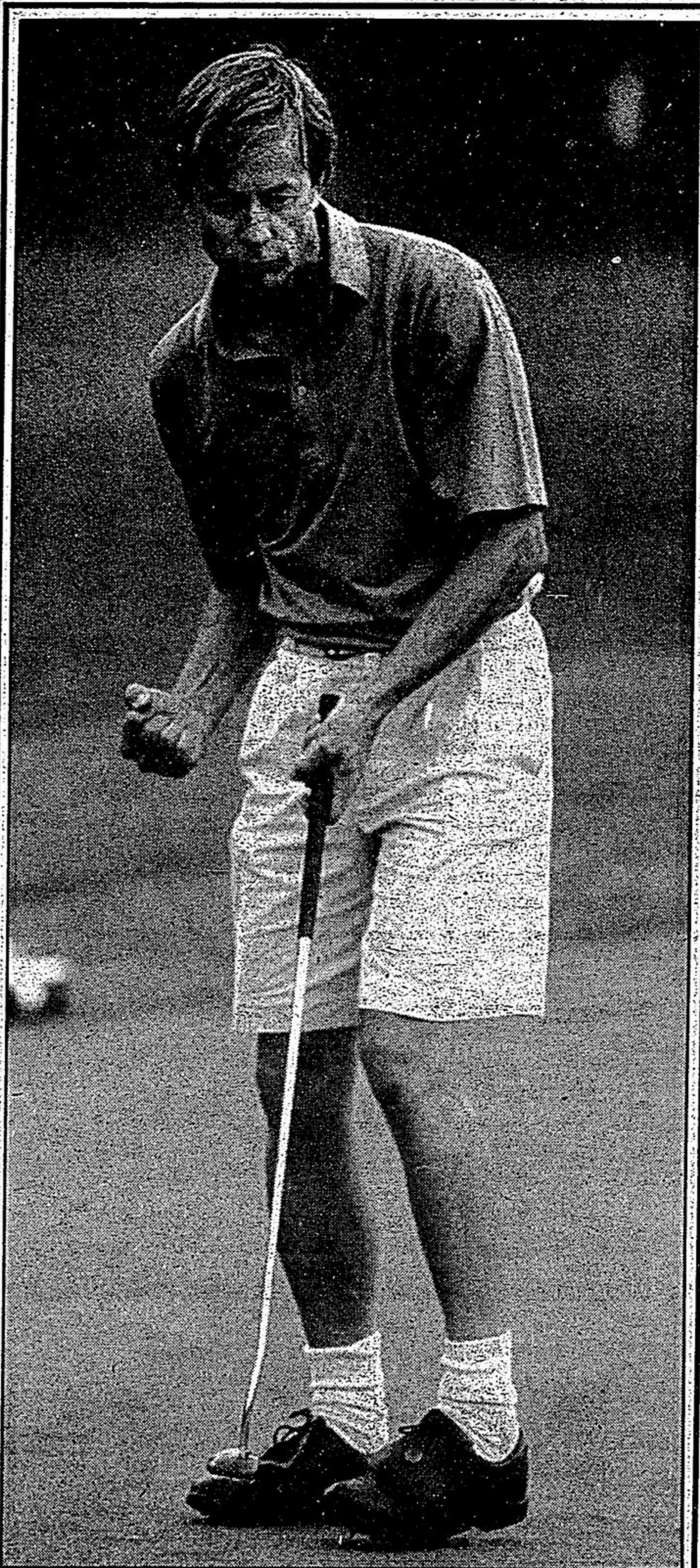
Barb Thompson's spectacular running catch in right field, with two runners on base and two out, snuffed out Bradford's last ditch comeback attempt in the seventh.

Lowery, a pure hitter who has a history of cashing base runners in key situations, said she was just looking for a good pitch to hit when she clubbed her bases clearing blast.

"Bob (coach Bob Abbott) always says to wait for the perfect pitch. So I did. It just happened to be the first pitch," she explained.

The Stingers now go on to play a four game round-robin with Uxbridge and either Newmarket or Mt. Albert for the league title.

The local ladies open up the set in Uxbridge Wednesday night then play at home Thursday. Game time is 8:30 p.m. at Diamond 2 in Memorial Park.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Helping the putt

Golfer Bob Owens gives his putt some encouragement as it makes its way towards the hole during tournament action Saturday at Claremont's 4 Seasons Country Club. A total of 140 golfers participated in the event which raised money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Men's low gross winner was Mike Savoi, with a 67, while Cathy Thorpe was ladies low gross winner with a 77. Men's low net winner Frant Reinprecht, with a 66, while the ladies low net title went to Diane Diggins with a 69.

Stouffville riders earn recent honors

Stouffville area riders won the lion's share of awards at three different equestrian events held recently.

Andrea Zemp, the 16-year-old reigning Canadian Youth Champion, racked up seven first place finishes at the Canadian National Exhibition Light Horse Show, Morgan Horse Division, Aug. 15 to 18.

Holly McNamara, also 16, dominated the recent Barrie Fair Morgan Horse Show, taking three firsts and two seconds, while her horse, KLN Bandleader, placed first in the five year old and up Gelding competition.

McNamara, who is also a member of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club,

had a pair of second place finishes, a third and a fifth at the CNE Morgan Horse competition.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Jason Pascoe was claiming third place overall in the Youth Riders Competition at the Canadian Young Riders Three Day Championships in Bromont, Quebec Aug. 23 to 26.

Pascoe, whose top 10 showings in every event he's participated in so far this year qualified him for the national event, was the highest placing Canadian rider in his class at the Bromont competition.

A Preliminary level rider, Pascoe achieved near perfect point scores in

dressage, steeplechase, cross country, and stadium jumping.

Zemp placed first in hunt seat equitation, stock seat equitation, showmanship (14 to 17 year age group), Morgan Youth English Pleasure, Morgan Youth Western Pleasure, open Western pleasure, and the Western pleasure championship.

McNamara was first at the Barrie show in showmanship, equitation and Youth Pleasure Driving.

Her brother Tim, 13, had a third at the Barrie competition in showmanship.

All three riders attend Stouffville District Secondary School.