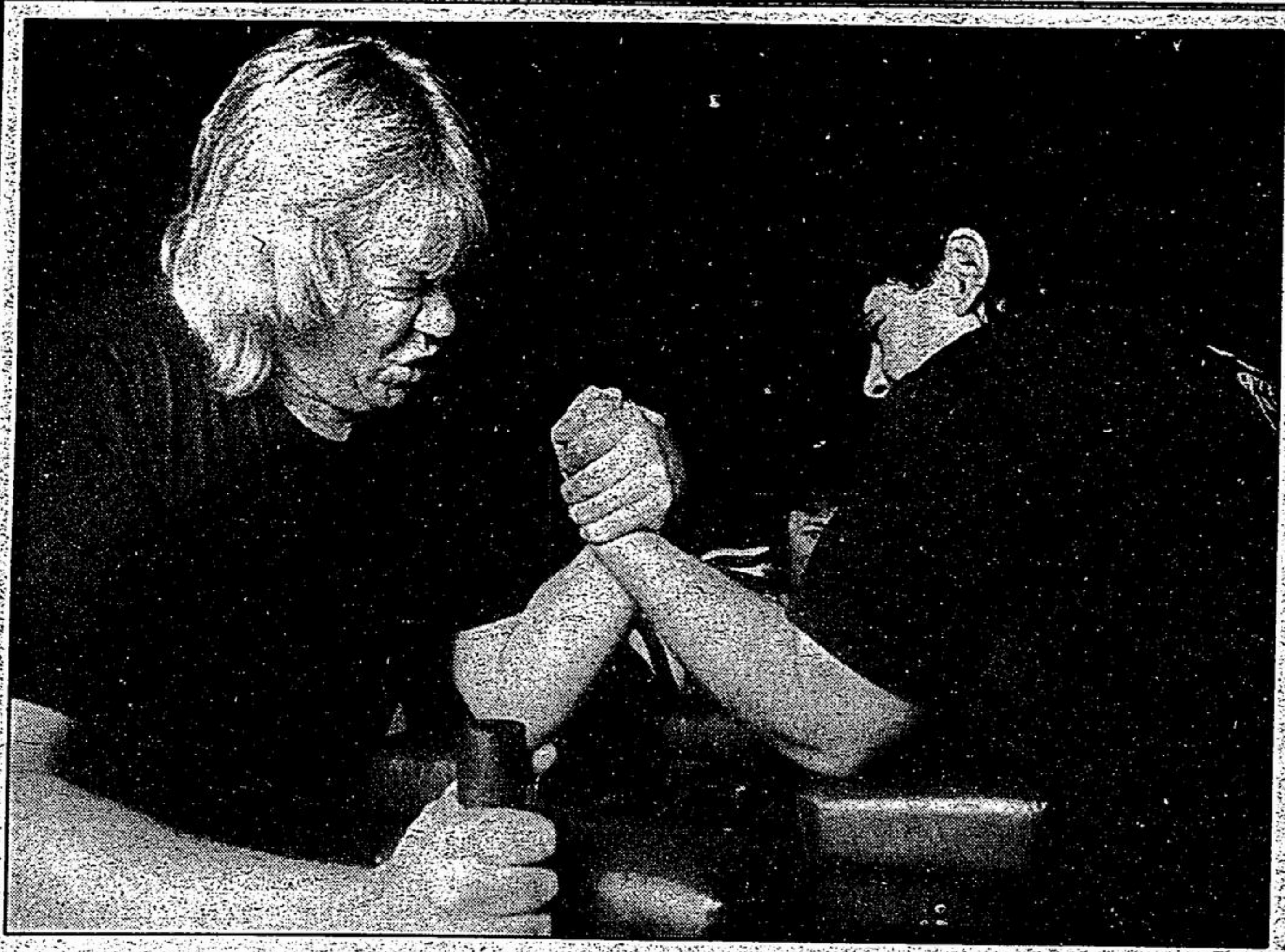


# SPORTS

## Spartan basketballers drop three straight



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

### Over the top

Gary Bouwmeister, left, puts the maximum effort into this arm wrestling contest with his opponent, Ballantrae's Frank Spataro during action at Don Cherry's Grapevine in Markham. The event was the sixth annual Bouwmeister tourney. Gary won his match over Spataro.

## Stouffville Pee Wee Clippers play win, lose and draw

It was a win, a loss, and a draw for the Markham-Stouffville Credit Union Pee Wee Clippers last week.

The Stouffville crew was doubled up 4-2 by Whitby on Thursday, who were out for revenge after being defeated by the Clippers the week before.

Tim Smart and Roger McMann accounted for the Stouffville scoring, with Brent Avery picking up an assist on each goal. Smart also drew an assist.

The Clippers held a 2-1 advantage at the end of two periods in Friday's contest with Port Perry, but couldn't hang on, as the Port crew scored

early in the third to earn a 2-2 tie.

John McKinnon and Will Hunter each had a goal and an assist for the Credit Union side, with David Hutchison chipping in with an assist.

The Clippers then dumped Richmond Hill's Double-A squad 5-3 in an exhibition match Saturday, as Hunter fired two goals while throwing in an assist.

McKinnon and McMann had a goal and an assist each. Adam Crowder also found the target, while assists were earned by Smart, Peter Smith, Scott Assinck and Graham Crowder.

The Peewees host Bowmanville at the Recreation Centre this Friday night at 9:15 p.m.

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) was blitzed by the invaders from Newmarket High School last Thursday, with all three Spartans boys basketball teams falling victim to the visiting cage squads.

The Midget Spartans dropped their second straight heartbreaker, as they were edged 24-21.

The Junior SDSS cagers were downed 64-44, while their Senior counterparts were drubbed 84-42.

The Midgets played well in defeat, with John McKinnon heading up the defence, while Steve U'Ren and Jason Reesor stood out offensively.

The Junior Spartans moved the ball well, displaying some good defensive skills, but couldn't find their shooting range, according to coach Dave Connell.

The Juniors trailed 28-26 at the half, with crisp passing, alert rebounding and good team play holding them close. But it all came undone in the second half.

Brian Leoni led the Junior scores with 16 points. Brian Snooks and Rob Jones hooped seven points each, with Jason Cowan and Jason Hollin both netting six points.

Derek Sheahan was strong on defence for the Spartans, and Jermain Franklin picked off several rebounds.

The Senior Spartans were led by Dave Irwin with 14 points followed by Karam Amer with 11.

Phil Spencer sunk two three point shots, while Bill Pride, Tom Oldham and Fred Klein were impressive in defeat.

## Atom Clippers take title at East Gwillimbury event

The Stouffville Boyd's Sports Atoms Clippers allowed only two goals in four games played to claim the championship of the East Gwillimbury Tournament over the weekend.

Clippers goalie Jason Brown, named the outstanding netminder of the entire tournament, collected his second shutout of the event as Stouffville beat Whitby 4-0 in the title game.

Kevin Hackert, Dan Tardella, Brad Johnston and Shawn Carruthers accounted for the Stouffville scoring in the final.

The Clippers opened the tourney with an 8-1 romp over Flamboro.

Brown was flawless in Boyd's second game as they blanked hosts East Gwillimbury 4-0. Stouffville goals went to Hackert, Tardella, King and Carruthers.

In the semifinal, the Clippers beat Hespeler 3-1. Tardella notched a pair of goals in the win, while the single went to King.

## Volleyballers win four

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Midget girls volleyball team prepared for the upcoming season by winning four, and tying one, in six games played at a mini-tournament at Dr. GW Williams Secondary School in Aurora last Thursday.

The Spartans started off by splitting with Newmarket, winning 15-10, then bowing 15-6.

The SDSS squad topped the host crew 15-12 before the two teams

played to an 11-11 draw.

The Stouffville girls finished strong, sweeping Aurora 15-4, 15-8.

Lisa Yake, Michelle Martins and Andrea Crothers served well for SDSS, while Jen McGowan, Kate McKnight and Christine Jackson displayed strong setting skills.

Good digging was contributed by Leana Milos and Shannon White.

Sandy Van Ryn and Andrea Wilson played well around the net, and Leah Hoover hit well.

## Success of Dickson Hill is no surprise

Somehow it didn't surprise me to find out the kids from Dickson Hill Public School had captured both the Area F North Senior Boys and Girls Elementary School Volleyball Championships held last Monday and Tuesday.

For the French Immersion school with a student body of around 300 has made a habit of winning, or being close, in just about every athletic competition it has entered in the past few years.

In fact, such is Dickson Hill's prowess that it is right up there with the best four schools in all of Area F, along with the likes of Markham's Raymerwood Public School, boasting a population of 800, which managed to beat Dickson Hill in both the Area F boys and girls volleyball title matches last Wednesday.

And just in case I've lost you by

now, as you scoff and say that the Dickson Hill kids are all imports from Markham and Unionville, hold on a second.

Scanning the rosters of last week's victorious volleyball squads, I find names like Sonny and Lester Acosta, Graham and Adam Crowder, and Kirsten Fraser. Stouffville kids each one of them, mainstays on Clippers and girls' hockey teams, and local Rep softball outfits.

Now whenever you find a powerhouse school which collects competitive athletic victories like kids collect Ninja Turtles, you know there has to be an individual helping to make it happen.

At Dickson Hill, this person is the guy with "Forbsy" emblazoned on his licence plate, Don Forbes. An ex-Montreal native, Forbes came to Dickson Hill via Cornwall



sports notes

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and Toronto.

He took over as the school's physical education head four years ago, and the first thing he noticed was a complete lack of confidence among the athletes representing the school in volleyball, basketball, cross country running, and the like.

"It was pretty bad at first," he recalled. "They just assumed they couldn't win, they had a bad attitude."

Forbes soon changed all that, beginning by upgrading the entire

athletic program. Kids were given the chance to compete at an earlier age.

Grade 2 and 3 students were encouraged to get in on the fun that is cross country running, and responded by winning the Reesor Park Public School (Markham) meet this year.

He worked on athletic skills with both the school's rep athletes, and the others as well, introducing lunch time games for all students. He normally starts with Grade 4 students for basketball, soccer and volleyball.

"If you get the skills at the age, then you have a good grounding," said Forbes. "Not all kids are going to want to make the school team, but they can still have fun learning how to play the game and playing at their own level."

Forbes will tell you he likes to

win as a coach, and that winning is a good self-concept booster for the kids. But he also acknowledges that winning is not all that counts.

"Winning is a motivator, a confidence builder. If you can prove yourself a winner in sports, that can reflect on how you do in life. It's not everything, but it helps build confidence for life. And I'll admit I can get a little carried away when I'm coaching. I like to see the kids win."

And most important, Forbes can hold his head high now that the students of Dickson Hill no longer feel they are the athletic door mats of days gone by.

"Things have come around. I think it is safe to say that we've broken into the top four schools in all of Area F, and those schools have all got more students than we have."