

SPORTS

Softball crowns highlighted 1990

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The Stouffville sports scene for 1990 was dominated by softball championships, the rise of a former local minor hockey star, and a shocking scandal involving allegations levelled at a Stouffville hockey fixture.

It was a season to remember at Stouffville's Memorial Park as no less than three town teams captured Ontario titles.

The Stouffville Merchants Junior men's fastball team knocked off all comers at the provincial's in Grimsby last July, then fell just short at the Canadian championships in Quebec a month later.

The Merchants, led by pitchers Byron Baranieski and Scott Evans, dropped a pair of 1-0 games at the national tourney to finish fourth overall.

The Ontario crown was the second in three years to be won by a Whitchurch-Stouffville Junior outfit as Merchants' manager Carl Myers had earned the honor with the Vandorf Juniors in 1987.

The Rowntree Mite Buttermakers boys, along with the Stouffville Choko Design Squirt boys, both won Ontario softball championships for the second consecutive year.

And as if that wasn't enough, the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Senior boys softball team regained the York Region title they lost in 1989. The Spartans enacted their revenge against Huron Heights, the same team to beat them in the final the year before.

The Stouffville Stingers Intermediate ladies softball team brought home another title with their victory over Uxbridge in the South Lake Simcoe Ladies Softball League finals in early October.



Todd Townend at SkyDome

Claremont's Janice Cosgrey had her day in the sun as well, pitching a couple of wins for her Cobourg ladies team at the Canadian Senior Ladies Championships in British Columbia in August.

For former Stouffville Novice and Atom Clipper player Brad May, who now lives in Markham, 1990 was a year when a career in the NHL became almost certain. May, who plays with the Ontario Hockey League's Junior A Niagara Falls Thunder, was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the first round of the NHL entry draft. The 19-year-old left-winger, who seems destined to have a pro career, is presently playing with Team Canada in the World

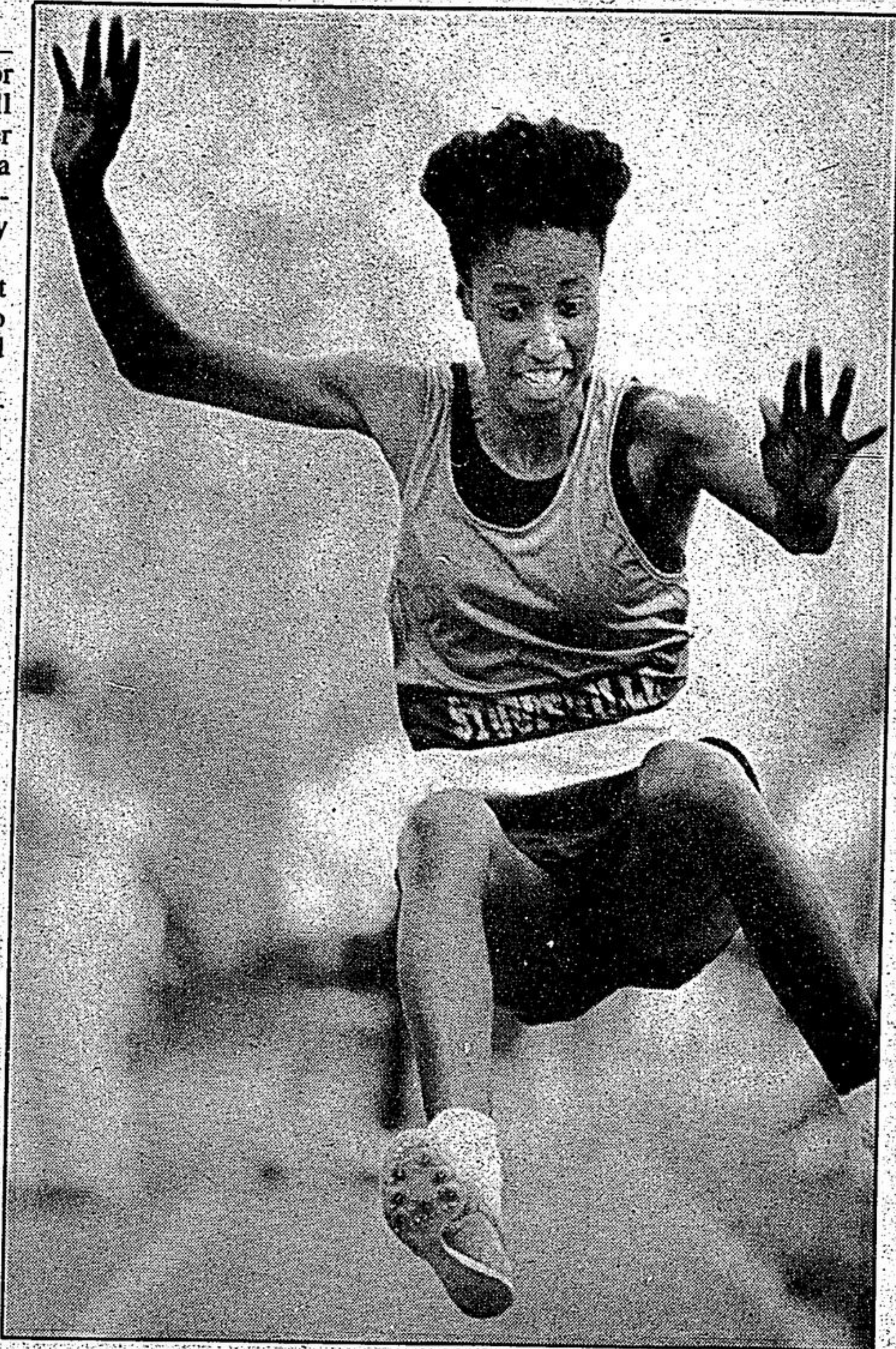


Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Anne Beecher of the Stouffville District Secondary School track and field team, shown here in the long jump, won a silver medal in hurdles at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) championships last June in Sudbury.

Junior Championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

But the bombshell that rocked the Stouffville sports scene came when long-time Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) executive member Ed Grimshaw was charged by York Region police with misappropriation of association funds. The case is still before the courts, and is expected to be heard sometime in the new year. The WSMHA also has a \$250,000 lawsuit pending against Grimshaw.

In another shocker, Marvin Betz announced in February that his Betz Pools men's fastball team would disband. Betz, whose outfit won the Ontario Intermediate championship in the first season in 1987, cited a lack of local player interest as a primary reason for pulling the plug on the team.

Carol Watson was named Whitchurch-Stouffville's Sports Personality of the Year for her work as an umpire, and supporter of local softball.

Stouffville's patron saint of women's sports, Cliff Dunkeld, was acknowledged by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association last January. He was given a plaque for his contribution to women's hockey in Ontario. Dunkeld has served 16 years as an executive member with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association.

SDSS's Anne Beecher went all

in hurdles.

Beecher was named SDSS's Outstanding Senior Female Athlete of the Year, while Scott Evans took the Male Athlete of the Year honors. Jamie Sheridan and Nicole Ellis took the male and female Junior honors.

Jim Fletcher's SDSS Senior boys volleyball team went to the provincial (OFSAA) high school championships for the third straight year in October, scattering the competition in both the York and Durham-York competitions. However, the Spartans fell well short at OFSAA.

Both the Junior and Midget Spartan volleyballers won the York crown, but were second at DYS-SAA. The school's three girls volleyball teams also won York championships in February.

1990 will also be remembered as the year construction finally began on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Track and Field Project, as the bulldozers moved in to the site just east of the Recreation Centre in October. The outdoor athletic facility is a joint venture involving the York Region Board of Education, the town, and the private sector. It will also incorporate lit soccer fields, and should be completed in time for the spring season.

Stouffville's Tracy Garbutt won a silver and a bronze medal at the Canadian Special Olympics in Vancouver last July.

Local motocross expert Todd Townend made an appearance at SkyDome in Toronto, winning his heat in the Molson Supercross.

Frank Nardi, Eron Sluga and Travis White made the soccer team which went to the Ontario Summer Games in Kitchener-Waterloo in August. Stouffville's Kathleen Fraser went to the Games as a cyclist.

Stouffvillites shone in equestrian events in 1990. Holly Garbutt and Andrea Zemp took several top medals in Morgan Horse competi-

tions at the CNE in August. Jason Pascoe was the top Canadian rider at the National's in Quebec in August.

In bowling, Jerry Snow and Carolyn Dobson went all the way to the Ontario High-Low Doubles Bowling Championships as they captured their zone roll-off. Jason Ringwood won the Senior boys Zone Pennant. Also, Gord Duck shattered the Stouffville Bowling Centre house record for a high triple in January as he rolled 1,090 — a full 100 points higher than the previous record. Duck had a 420 single, racking up 16 strikes in a row during his three game spree.

Brenda Hachey celebrated her final year with the Stouffville Figure Skating Club by winning a gold medal in Solo Dance at the annual Upper York Inter-Club in February. Also in skating, Janine Jeffrey, 15, passed her Fourth Gold and Fifth Figure in October.

It was the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League's old timers besting their Uxbridge counterparts in the first Stouffville-Uxbridge Challenge Cup in March. In league play, the Gallo-Real Estate Red Wings and the G & R Flooring-Jets took the Over-40 and Over-30 crowns respectively.

Also in hockey, the Angies Pee Wee girls went to the semifinals in the Ontario C playdowns.

Adult gymnast Brian Emery was second in trampoline at the Canadian Gymnastic Championships in Halifax in May.

Stratford's Gary Manders took the overall prize at the annual Stouffville Triathlon held during the Strawberry Festival in July. Manders' brother Rick placed second, after winning the event in 1989.

In golf, Marlene Stewart-Streit was second at the United States Golf Association Senior Women's Amateur Championships in Modesto, California in September.

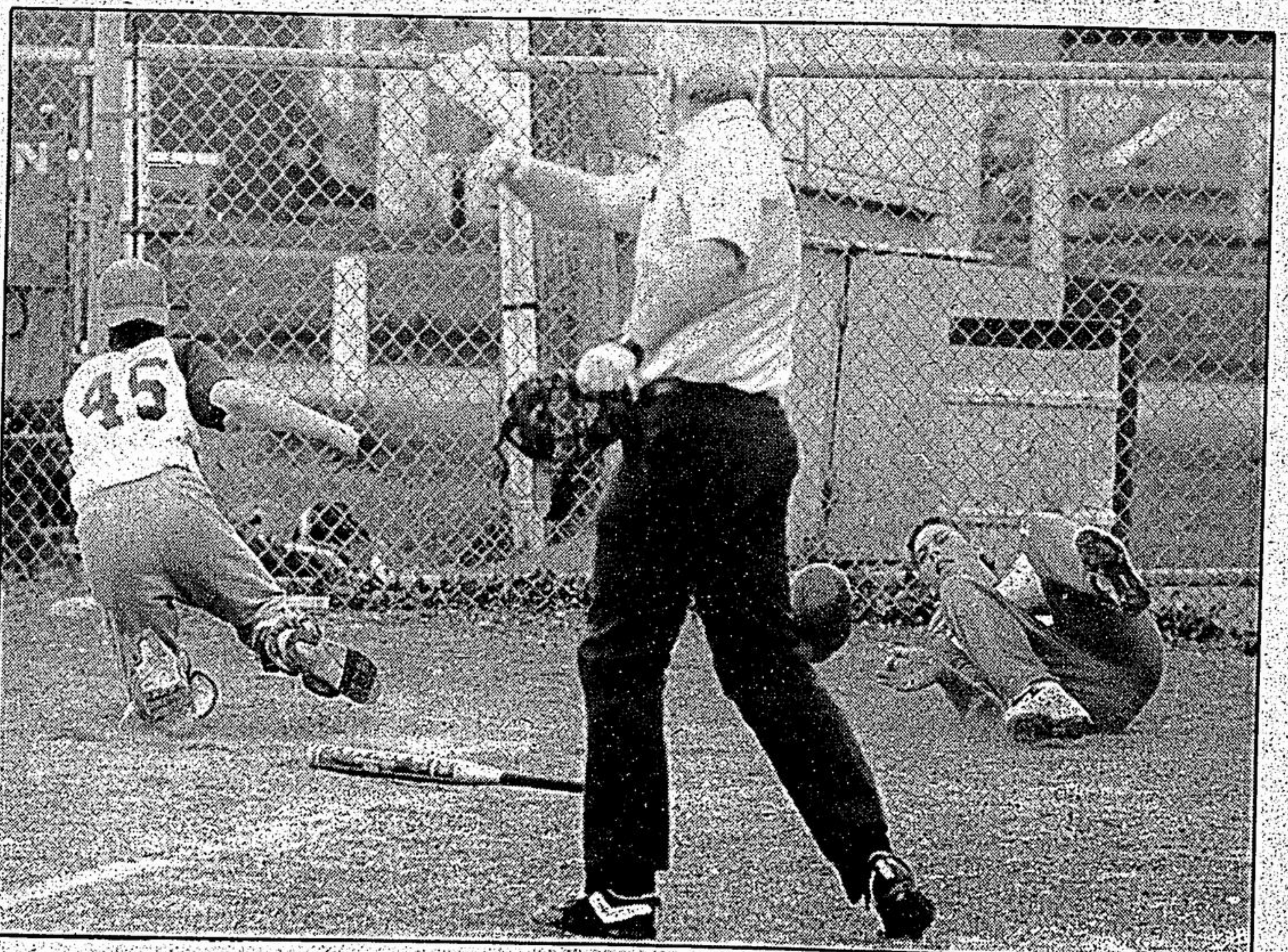


Photo: BILL LANNING

Umpire John White calls out Stouffville District Secondary School fastball player Scott Evans during action against King City last May. How-

ever, Evans went on to lead the Stouffville Merchants Juniors to the Ontario Fastball Championship in Grimsby.