

stouffville sports

Town Spurs down Aurora Rangers

The Stouffville Town Spurs won a game, but lost a goalie last week. The Spurs made it two wins in a row and maintained a share of first place with a 4-2 win over the Aurora Rangers Thursday night at the Rec Centre field.

But goalie Ziggy Reiter, who had performed capably in goal for the Stouffville team after his conversion from forward this season, announced that he will have to undergo surgery.

"Ziggy has had a bone chip in his elbow for several years, but it has just come loose," explained Spurs co-coach Alfons Rubbens.

"He's been doing such a great job for us that he'll really be missed."

The Spurs used back-up net-minder Chris Quadrini against Aurora, and the inexperienced goalie gave up a pair of goals, including the first score of the game early in the first half.

Darren Nichipork squared things for Stouffville, but the Rangers regained the lead once again.

Travis White knotted things before the mid-way break on a long, low shot from a narrow angle, as he skillfully caught the bottom right corner of the net.

Malcolm Burdon managed to tip the ball away from the Aurora goalie, and up into the net to give the Spurs the lead in the second half.

Spurs leading scorer Tony Pearce then raced the Rangers goalie to the ball, tipping it over his head and into the net for the Spurs fourth marker.

The Spurs, who welcome non-players to work out with the team every Tuesday night, host Bradford United at the Rec Centre field this Thursday night at 8:30.

The Stouffville outfit which has lost just one game all season, is in a virtual tie with Orillia for first place.

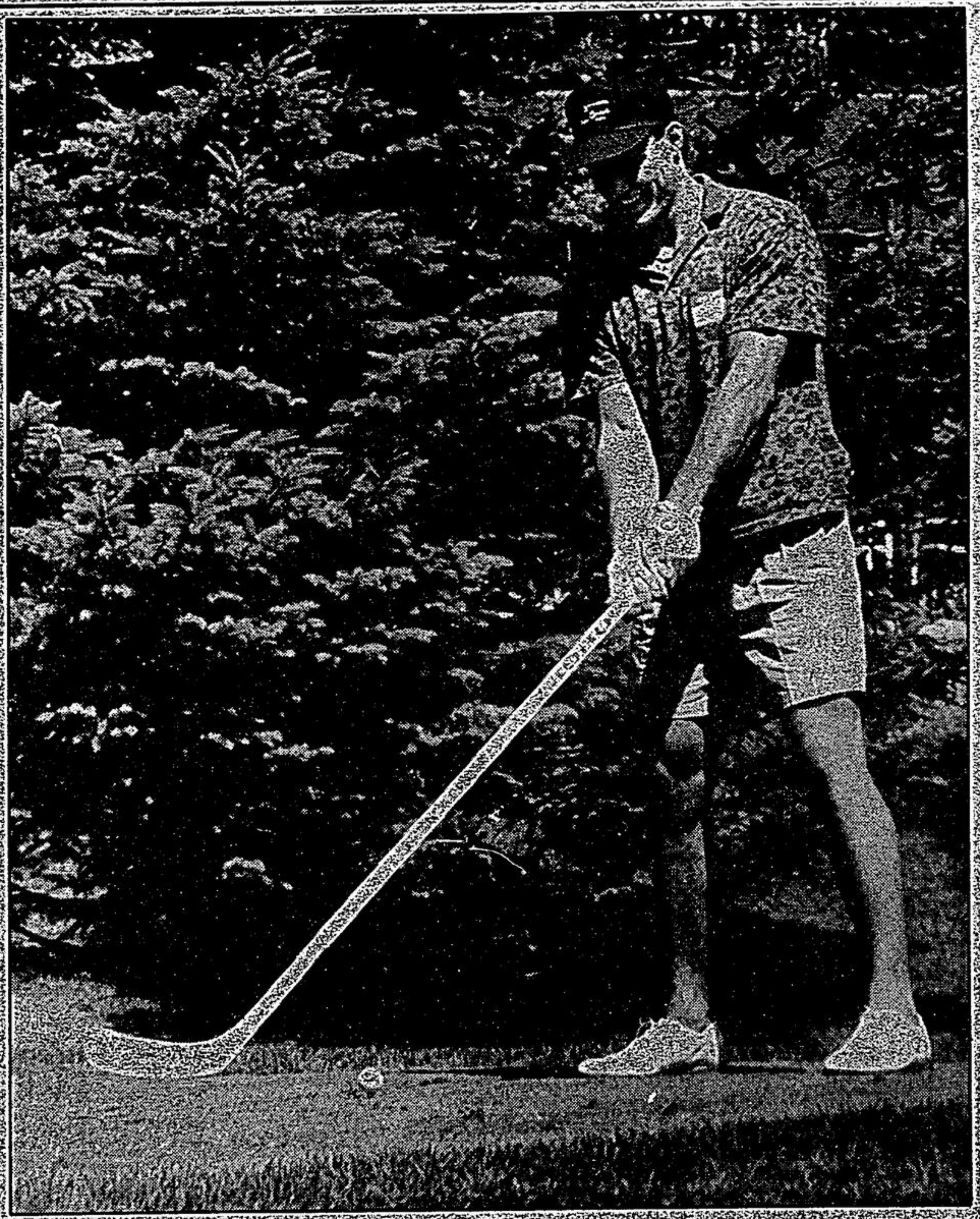


Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

He drives, he scores

Eric Lindros, this year's first round draft choice of the Quebec Nordiques, practises his slap shot on a golf ball during the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association celebrity golf tourney at the Emerald Hills Golf Club in Stouffville Monday. All proceeds from the third annual event go to Big Brothers Canada.

Eglinton club impressive at Cavan event

It was a first, a second, and a third for Eglinton Equestrian Club team entries at the Prince Philip Games meet held at Saddlewood Farms near Cavan Sunday.

The Davis Dr. Pony Club team claimed the red first place ribbons in the C level event, with the trio including Ashlee Burness and Marissa Stapley of Stouffville, and Jennifer Hoehne of Newmarket.

In the B competition, it was the Eglinton club's Christina Riley, Andrew Henderson, Lisa Maher, Alaina Martin and Helen Reece placing second.

In the tougher A flight, the Eglinton entry finished third, with members including Shannon Cummins, Julie Foster, Joanna Rhineland, Robert Dalnocki and Jessica Schmidt.

The meet was one in a series of Prince Philip Games scheduled for this summer in different parts of Southern Ontario.

The games provide an initial level of team competition for young riders.

Pee Wees go on rampage

The Dean Myers Pontiac-Buick Pee Wees were all revved up last week, scoring 48 runs while recording two lopsided victories.

Grahame Crowder cracked a pair of bases loaded triples to key Wednesday's 13-6 win over Port Perry in the Scugog town. Scott Assinck, Tim Smart and Crowder each crossed the plate three times for the winners.

Pitcher Mike Underwood went the distance for the Myers crew, striking out seven batters.

The Stouffville squad feasted on a weak Aurora outfit at the town park Thursday evening, blasting the visitors 35-6.

Crowder made his season pitching debut, fanning six in the four-inning, curfew-shortened contest. Tommy Hammond was the offensive spear-head, scoring six times in six trips to the plate.

Crowder smashed a homer, a double and a single, while Underwood also crushed a home run. Shawn Sargeant rapped three doubles.

The Pee Wees, who play two more league contests this week, will travel to Niagara Falls for a weekend tournament.

Squirts blank East Gwillimbury

Brad Johnston threw a one-hit shut out, with home run support from Carmen Auciello and Dan Tardella, as the Choko Design Squirts triumphed 10-0 over East Gwillimbury Wednesday.

Bob Lewis slammed a triple and a double for Stouffville, driving in two runs.

Tardella had three RBIs and Auciello two. Bill Wray, Johnston, Evan Cain, Andrew Harper and Bret Boyd also chipping in with hits for the winners.

Choko catcher Mat Eagen had to leave the game in the first inning when hit on the elbow by a swing by an opposition batter.

Pitch in -- do your part to support a dream

You've heard this kind of plea before.

In fact, as we begin the climb back up after a devilishly persistent recession, appeals for financial support have become about as common as the announcement of yet another plant shut down.

But this one involves the completion of the already half-spun dream of some dedicated local young men, along with their families. Not to mention the pride of an entire town, no, make that a region, in an age of civic and national uncertainty.

The Stouffville Merchants Junior Men's fastball team has a date with destiny Aug. 10 in St. John's Newfoundland. Call it a second chance, a score to settle, some unfinished business to attend to.

This collection of polished and poised young athletes from Stouffville, Markham and Bradford will challenge for the Canadian National Junior Fastball title.



No mean feat, to be sure, and a goal they came within a couple of heart-breaking 1-0 losses of achieving last August in Pont Rouge, Quebec. With last year's experience under their belts, and with Byron Baranicki pitching and the team hitting and fielding like they did in the provincial championships, the other weekend, it is a realizable dream.

These guys are so red hot that when Keith Piette had a screaming one-hopper laced directly at his face while playing, an extremely close third base last Wednesday night in a league game, he calmly gloved it and fired a strike to first base for the out.

It's razor sharp reflexes like these that win national titles! And what better way to bring honor to one's town, while bidding such a satisfying adieu to one's teenage years, What a positive reflection on the Whitchurch-Stouffville minor ball organization, both past and present, as well as the ability of players, who were once rivals to mesh together.

Merchants coach Howie Burkholder is charting a course by which he hopes to raise the over \$25,000 needed to fund the down east adventure. He is actively pursuing several

corporate sponsors, hoping to convince a few of them to join in with the team and use the Merchants in their advertising.

It's a smart idea. What more positive image for a large firm to be associated with than a clean-cut group of accomplished young athletes shooting to be the best in all of Canada?

Throw in the Merchants nifty Red shifted uniforms, and you've got a visual winner as well. The team will also be counting heavily on local individuals to help with projects such as raffles, car washes, bingos, etc. The fan who won \$69 in the 50-50 draw at last Wednesday's home game, got right into the spirit of the thing, donating most of his prize back to the team!

For this is surely one of those causes that captures the imaginations

of all the dreamers among us. Sure, it's not essential, and it doesn't involve life or death, hunger or homelessness.

But what it does entail is the very essence of life itself, the difference between merely existing and striving to attain something that will mark your notable presence in a town for decades to come.

Just ask the 1958 Ontario hardball champion Stouffville Cardinals, who 30 years after their victory, gathered together for a reunion amid much celebration within their town.

Let's all ensure that this dream is indeed allowed to take off, whether by way of purchasing a raffle ticket or by offering a corporate or individual donation.

Then, win, lose or draw, we'll all be able to say that we went for it together.