

stouffville sports



Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEN

Tag attempt

Stouffville Indians' first baseman Paul Gibson dives for the bag with the ball in his glove during provincial divisional finals at Stouffville Memorial Park on Saturday. He tried to tag out the opposing Midland team's player with the bases loaded but the ball was jarred out of his glove and the runner was safe.

Stouffville teams gear up for finals

It's approaching crunch time for the five Stouffville rep softball teams.

The local squads are all gearing up for the upcoming Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) play-downs, which will determine the provincial champions in their respective divisions.

The Choko Design Squirts and the Mite Buttermakers are slated to defend their respective OASA crowns at tournaments to be held at Simcoe over the Labor Day weekend.

The Dean Myers Pee Wees are presently involved in a best two-out-of-three series with league rival East Gwillimbury to determine who goes to the OASA Pee Wee tourney.

The Boyd's Sports Midgets are off to Stittsville this weekend to participate in the OASA Midget championship tournament.

The Stouffville Merchants Juniors, who have already won the All-Ontario OASA Junior crown, are to enter the competition to decide the province's A class junior champion Aug. 25 at Markham.

The Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, and Midgets all compete at the B level.

Merchants win one, before heading east

The Stouffville Merchants gave their fans a preview of the team which will contest the Canadian Junior Men's Fastball title this week in St. John's Newfoundland last Wednesday night.

Bolstered by three players picked from among the best in the province, the Merchants edged the Oshawa Juniors 2-1. The game marked the last home appearance for the Ontario champion Merchants before leaving for St. John's this past Friday evening.

The large, supportive crowd watched Owen Sound recruit Todd Martin shut down the Oshawa offence in his five-inning stint.

Martin racked up a total of 11 strike outs.

Merchants' resident ace Byron Baranieski came on to pitch the final two frames.

Barry Ellerbeck, the Rideau Valley pitcher who will accompany the Stouffville team to the nationals for the second year in a row, didn't see action.

The third pick up, Sebringville's Ron White, saw some infield duty.

The Merchants then took a depleted crew to Port Perry Thursday night, where they fell 5-2 to the Scugog squad.

Wednesday's lusty send off impressed Merchant's manager

Mary Meyers. "Everybody is very excited about us going to the nationals," said Meyers, whose Merchants placed fourth in last summer's Canadian Junior championships.

"There seems to be even more excitement and support than last year. Everybody is more hyped up about it. We're getting great support from everyone this time around, even the kids."

Myers expressed her gratitude to all who helped the team realize its \$27,000 fund-raising goal, calling it a tremendous community effort.

"We didn't have much time to put the money together, but the boys

worked hard, and everyone involved with the team got involved. It was great."

The Merchants return home Monday and are scheduled to play host to Bowmanville at the town park next Thursday.

Precision Auto try for Ladies league title

The Uxbridge Precision Auto Refinishing Intermediate Ladies Softball team will be going for all the marbles this weekend.

The Uxbridge ladies are contesting the South Lake Simcoe Ladies League playoff championship at the Richmond Hill Greens, located at Leslie St. and Elgin Mills.

The three-day competition, which begins Friday evening, involves all seven teams from the league.

The host Richmond Hill outfit was given a bye into the second round of the event due to its first place finish in the league's regular season standings.

Precision Auto starts off with a game against Mt. Albert, and will then play either Scarborough or Zephyr in game two.

The Auto crew, which dropped a 12-2 decision to Richmond Hill last week, closes out the regular season with games against Scarborough and Zephyr this week.

New logo for Eglinton pony club

North America's oldest pony club will be sporting a new appearance from now on.

The Eglinton Equestrian Club, located on Davis Dr., Cedar Valley, has acquired a new logo. The logo is the work of renowned artist Theo Dimson, the father of club member Emily Dimson.

The club will be losing the services of dressage instructor Eugenie Hollaender, who is heading back to

THE EGLINTON



EQUESTRIAN CLUB

her native Holland on Aug. 29 to assist in her family's business after instructing at the Eglinton club for a year and a half.

The club is holding a senior show this Sunday, followed by a barbecue.

On Aug. 24 to 25, the Fox Run Future Horse Show will be held at Eglinton. The show will feature both Hunter and Jumper divisions. Entries are available at the club.

Royals tie Aurora to help end skid

The Stouffville Royals put the brakes on their recent skid when they held the visitors from Aurora to a 3-3 tie at the Rec Centre field last Wednesday evening.

The Royals came on strong in the game's opening half, outshooting their opponents by a 7-3 margin while scoring a pair of goals.

Chris Pettit netted the game's first goal for the Royals, with assists going to Robbie Taylor and Erik Jensen.

After Aurora tied it up, Taylor restored the Stouffville lead from Trevor Chee-a-Tow and Pettit.

Aurora squared things again, and then Andrew Post gave the Royals a 3-2 lead on a goal from Chee-a-Tow and Taylor.

But Aurora managed tied it before time ran out. Philip McComiskey was impressive in goal for the Royals.

Marco Buccini, who had scored his first goal of the season the week previous, continued his aggressive offensive play for the Stouffville squad.

Andrew Lombardo and Rob Howie were strong on defence for the Royals.