

stouffville sports

Mites win Ontario crown

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Stouffville Mites Buttermakers drove to Simcoe to defend their Ontario Amateur Softball Association OASA Mite B crown this past weekend.

But by the time they had emerged as provincial champions for the third straight year, the team felt like they had made a trip across the continent.

The Mites dropped their tournament opener 9-6 to Sydenham Saturday morning, putting them on the losers' side of the double knockout competition.

But the Butters battled back, downing Vaughan 10-6 Saturday afternoon, then winning four games in a span of eight hours Sunday to reclaim their crown.

Pitchers Jesse Wood and Mark French excelled in the heavy going, giving up just five runs during Sunday's four-game marathon while the Stouffville bats produced 39 scores.

The Butters battled back from an early deficit to overhaul Vaughan in game two. Andrew Eager, Chad Kerswill, French and Ben Stone each stroked a pair of hits to lead the comeback effort.

The Stouffville squad started Sunday's streak with a 12-1 thumping of the host team. French and Wood combined to strike out 13 batters, while Kerswill had four hits, including a home run David Anthony chipped in three safeties.

Kerswill and Blair Cain led the Buttermakers' offence as they avenged their earlier loss to Sydenham with a 5-3 victory.

Cain and Brent Meyers provided the finals against undefeated South Woolwich, who they would have had to beat twice to take the title.

They did it with lots to spare, prevailing 14-0 in the first game and locking up the championship with an 8-1 triumph 20 minutes later.

Kerswill homered in the first contest, while Adam Jacque had three hits and scored four times.

In the clincher, it was French whiffing 16 batters, while Cain had three hits and Anthony clubbed a homer.

The team received strong vocal support in the final games from the parents of the Stouffville Choko Design Squirt team, which had clinched their provincial championships several hours before.

Mites coach, Bob French, applauded the determination of his team.

They did it the hard way. Everybody hit and some of the plays they made in the field were of major league calibre, particularly plays of Blair Cain at second base with the bases loaded and Andrew Cager at shortstop.

Squirts' Ontario win establishes dynasty

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A dynasty. That's what the Stouffville Choko Design Squirts have established, as they breezed to their third straight Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Squirt B title over the weekend in Simcoe.

The Choko squad won all four games played, outscoring their opponents 46-1.

Pitchers Kevin Hackert, Brad Johnson, Andrew Harper and Bob

Lewis combined for two perfect games, giving up just four hits and three walks in 24 innings.

Hackert also slugged three home runs, a triple and a double, driving in 11 runs while scoring 10 times.

Dan Tardella, Rob Spytz and Mark Meyer also homered for Stouffville.

Johnson and Lewis were perfect in Choko's 14-0 opening game win over Vaughan, with Hackert following up with a flawless gem of his own in a 10-0 whitewash of Dunville.

Carmen Auciello saved Hackert's perfect game with an outstanding running catch in right field.

It was Lewis and Harper shutting down Cobourg 8-1 in game three, while Hackert looked after the mound duties in Choko's 14-0 championship victory over Stittsville.

The Squirts were without fault in the field as well, with Mat Fagen, Evan Cain, Ryan King and Meyer also making good catches throughout the tournament.

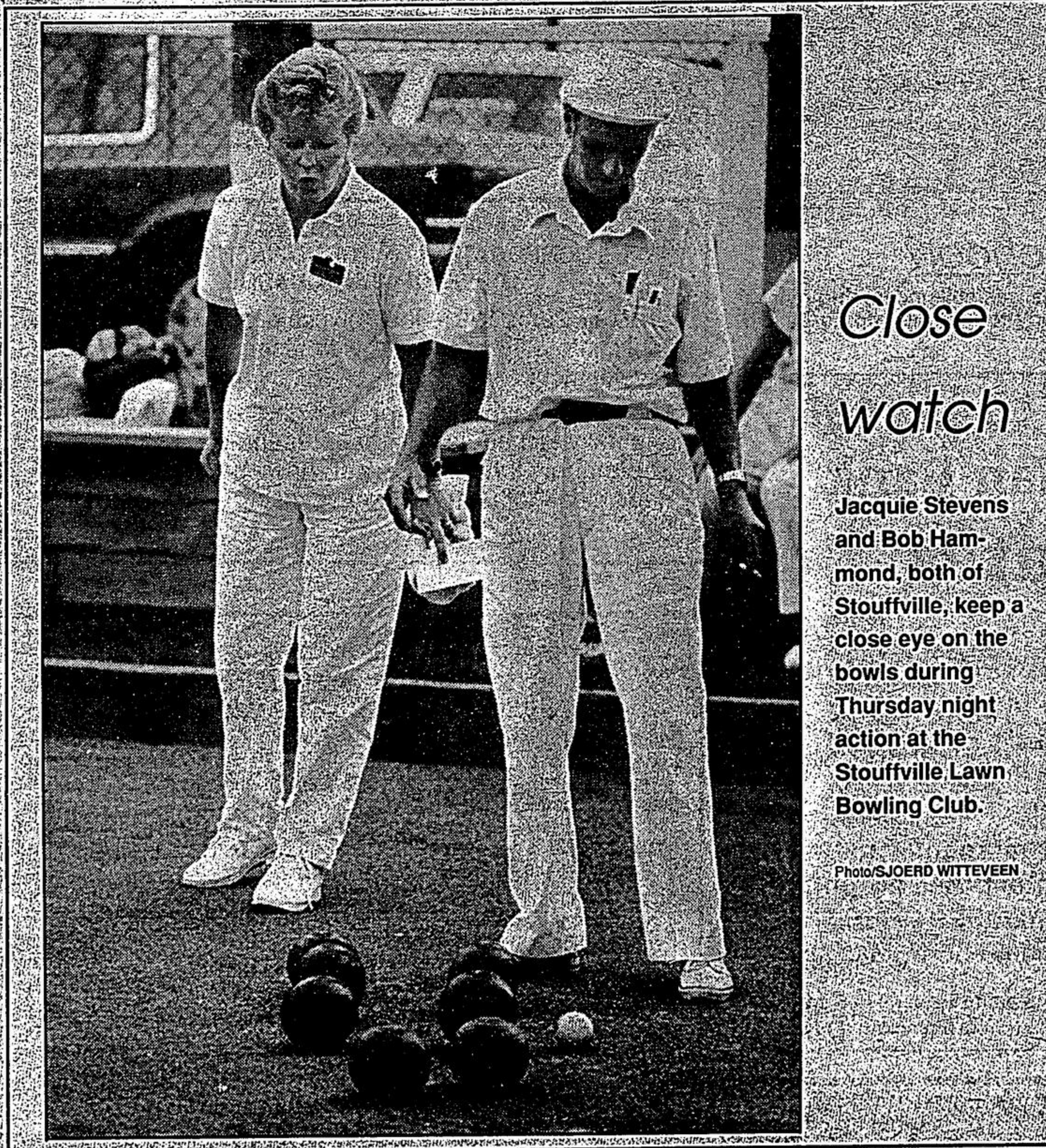
For Spytz, Tardella, Bill Wray

and Hackert it was the third Ontario championship in a row. They went all the way as Mites in 1988, and with the Squirts in '90 and '91.

Choko coach, Dave Boyd, also enjoyed his third straight OASA crown, two with the Mites and one with the Squirts.

The Squirts play their final league game at home tonight (Wednesday) at 6:30 on diamond two at the town park.

They then contest their league playoff championships this weekend in Thornhill.



Close watch

Jacque Stevens and Bob Hammond, both of Stouffville, keep a close eye on the bowls during Thursday night action at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Tai-chi, yoga and karate courses start

A martial arts school offering a traditional, non-competitive program is to open its doors at the Green River Community Centre Sept. 9.

The school is to offer Tai-Chi, Samadhi Yoga, and Karate-Do Shotokai.

The school, the first of its type in the area, is to be headed up by Ostad Amin Nasr, who has operated a similar program in Richmond Hill for two years.

Nasr, who also ran a martial arts school in Nova Scotia for 15 years, is the Canadian representative of Karate Do Shotokai.

He claims to have developed a method of practice in Tai-Chi which is suitable to people of all ages.

A third degree black belt in Karate, Nasr suggests his program is based more on discipline and meditation than competition and commercialism.

"It's a different approach," Nasr told the Tribune. "It is non-competitive, and it's more for mental and physical discipline. It is more like traditional Karate Do and it is very meditative. It has a soft style, with beautiful movements."

The school will run on an ongoing basis, with a monthly fee of \$40.

Those interested in further info should call Cheryl Laffey at 640-4942 or Mr. Nasr at 737-6693.

Hockey leaves some room for softball

As hard as this may be to believe, this Sunday is kickoff, or 'faffoff' day, for the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League.

But the six a.m. opener between the G&R Flooring Jets and the A&S Construction Flames doesn't mean an automatic switch from softball to shinny.

For, just as the SAHL has come to provide the opportunity for men over the age of 30 to continue to play competitive, low risk hockey, along with the excitement of an annual playoff championship series, the town's adult slo-pitch and fun softball leagues allow the 'oldsters' to keep on playing.

And while the Stouffville Merchants Junior Men's fastball team has dominated the Stouffville softball scene this summer, along with the quest of the town's Squirt and

SPORT NOTES
by **bruce stapley**

Mite teams to repeat as provincial champs, the house leagues have been once again giving the everyday youngsters a chance to get in their swings.

This weekend marks the wrap up of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association season, as teams from the Mite level on up compete in the annual closing tournament. There will be lots of good grass roots softball to be observed, with four diamonds to choose from at

Next weekend (Sept. 14 to 15), it's the grownups' turn to strut their stuff. Saturday sees the eight Monday Night Men's Lob Ball League teams finish off their season with a gruelling all day toumey.

Each team plays four games, with the top teams squaring off at 4 p.m. to decide the overall champion. The league started the playoff round Aug. 26, with Saturday's games finishing out the round robin.

The action begins at 9 a.m., with games being played all day on both diamonds one and two. Granted it won't have the same razzle-dazzle as the various slo-pitch tournaments you've been watching at the park this summer.

But the pace is quick, and the sense of fun is a pleasant alternative to the drag 'em down, knock 'em out, fall 'em still so often seen dur-

ing ball tournaments.

And it might just be fun to see how many of the old guys can still manage to stay on their feet after playing four games in one day!

Sunday, Sept. 15, will see the men's counterparts take over the park for their season ending toumey.

The Monday Night Ladies Fun Softball League consists of six teams, which will be all charged up and ready to go, according to league spokesperson Nora Dowcott.

Nora says she has been working on her batting stroke and that she's going to exchange her usual pop gun hitting tendencies for that of Babe Ruth-style slugger in the tournament.

Don't forget to point to the centre field fence with your bat before you take your cuts, Nora!