

stouffville sports

1991 -- looking back on a sporting year

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Stouffville reaffirmed its status as the softball capital of Ontario in 1991.

And if things go according to plan, the town may become the national focal point for baseball in the new year.

The Stouffville Merchants stole the sports spotlight, repeating as Ontario Junior Men's champions in July, then claiming a bronze medal at the Canadian Junior Men's championships in St. John's Newfoundland in August.

The Merchants went undefeated in their first six games at the nationals, then ran out of offence in the finals. They lost 2-0 to the eventual repeat champions from Lloydminster Alberta, then were eliminated by virtue of a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Newfoundland.

The Merchants finished out their season by emerging victorious at the OASA A eliminations in Markham.

Merchants coach Howard Burkholder was the first winner of the Carl Myers Memorial trophy to be given annually to the WSSA coach who best exemplifies dedication, leadership, and sportsmanship.

The trophy was named after the man who founded the Merchants in 1990, Carl Myers, who died in early January of last year.

Stouffville was announced as the site of the 1992 Ontario Junior eliminations, fulfilling Myers' wish.

The Choko Design Squirts made it three OASA-B titles in a row, sweeping their four games played while outscoring the opposition 46-1 at the title tournament in Simcoe on the Labor Day weekend.

The Stouffville Mites Buttermakers won their third straight provincial crown as well, coming back after losing their tourney opener to take four games in eight hours to win it all.

The Dean Myers Pee Wees fell just short of giving Stouffville a fourth provincial title.

Long time Stouffville sports volunteer Cliff Dunkeld was named volunteer of the year by the Provincial Women's Softball Association in November.

The town's Amanda Crowder was named top Mite level female pitcher of the year by the PWSA.

Bob Abbot, the assistant coach of the Stouffville Stingers Intermediate Ladies' softball team, was named president of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association.

Hardball returned to Stouffville in 1991 with the formation of the Stouffville Indians Pee Wee rep team, which experienced considerable success in its initial season.

Stouffville made a bid for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The hall, which had to evacuate its location at Ontario Place, would set up in the building which houses the Stouffville Fitness Institute, then eventually move into the present municipal offices once a new town hall is found.

The hall executive is expected to make its decision regarding the new location presently.

In hockey, it was a memorable year for Stouffville Markham son Brad May. The 19-year-old left winger caught on with the Buffalo Sabres and scored a goal in his first ever NHL game Oct. 4.

May had started the year by playing on the Team Canada unit which won the World International Junior Championship in Saskatoon in early January.

May scored a goal and earned an assist in the annual Ontario-Quebec Junior A-all star game played near



Angle's Pee Wees of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association captured the Ontario championships in Mississauga in mid-April, going undefeated in four games at the big tourney.

Montreal. He played on a line with Eric Lindros and Team Canada junior standout Rob Pearson.

He also starred for his Niagara Falls Thunder club in the OHL playoffs in the spring.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association enjoyed perhaps its finest hour when four of its teams qualified for their Ontario Women's Hockey Association championship tournaments in Mississauga in mid-April.

The Angie's Pee Wee girls hockey

team captured their provincial crown, going undefeated in four games at the big tournament.

The Stouffville Credit Union Atoms were edged in their provincial championship final the same weekend, while the Ringwood Variety Intermediate Cs were downed in their title match as well.

The Angie's Senior Ds also qualified for the championship tournament.

The Neil and Ken Patrick Novice Clippers won their second Lakeshore zone championship in three years in March. They swept Bowmanville in the regional semifinals, then took the broom to Cobourg in the finals.

It was the Stouffville Travel Canucks edging the A&S Construction Flames in overtime to win the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League over-30 crown.

The Smurthwaite Heating Bruins took the over-40 title with a one goal victory over the Canadian Tire Blackhawks.

In the Stouffville Intermediate Hockey League finals, it was the Williamson Kings besting the Dave Blow Canadians.

In soccer, Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club (WSSC) pioneer Casey Van Maris was named president of the Ontario Soccer Association in November.

Van Maris had previously served as president of the WSSC and the York Region Soccer Association.

The WSSC had its first ever interlocking club champion, as the under-14 squad went undefeated against their Port Perry and Uxbridge opponents.

It was another winning year for Stouffville District Secondary School athletes and teams.

The SDSS Senior Boys volleyball team won to the Ontario OFSAA high school finals for the fourth straight year in November, settling for consolation.

long jump. Beecher finished fourth in the senior girls long jump at the provincial championships, while Crothers was tenth in the midget girls 400 metre race.

Crothers was third in both the 400 and 800 metre races at the DYSSAA meet. De Roo was third in javelin throw. Beecher took the silver in the senior girls long jump.

Mike Morrison and Christie Henderson had seconds in discus. Kelly Forsythe had a second, third and fourth.

At the OFSAA regional meet, Forsythe claimed a second, Beecher a third, and Crothers a fourth as the three advanced to the OFSAA finals at Sud-

bury.

Beecher finished fourth in the senior girls long jump at the provincial championships, while Crothers was tenth in the midget girls 400 metre race.

In basketball, the SDSS midget girls basketball team, led by the heroics of Andrea Crothers, captured the York title with a stunning, come from behind victory over Richmond Hill in November.

Thirty-four year veteran SDSS coach Jim Rehill retired in June. Rehill was the engineer of the school's volleyball program, having established SDSS as the volleyball power in York Region.

At the school's awards banquet in June, Beecher was named the school's senior female athlete of the year, with Karam Amer earning the senior boys award. Crothers and Mike Green were given the junior girls and boys honors respectively.

Rich Burkholder was the first recipient of the Jim Rehill Sportsmanship Award.

SDSS physical education head Dave Connell was named Whitchurch-Stouffville sports personality of the year for his role in building the new community track facility beside the high school.

The track was officially opened as part of the SDSS reunion '91 celebration over the July 1 weekend.

The 23-year veteran teacher headed up the school's fundraising drive, and was instrumental in planning the layout of the facility.

In the fall, the SDSS duo of Jason Reesor and Andrea Crothers gave the school its first regional doubles tennis championship since 1972.

The school's girls golf team repeated as York champs.

Stouffville area public schools produce five golds at the regional public school track and field event in June.

Lindsay Upton, Tracy James and Stephanie Hobbs of Summitview Public School all won firsts in their events, with Orchard Park PS's Amy Sled and Dickson Hill PS's Brandon Barlett also claiming firsts.

The SDSS midget boys team struck gold at both the regional and DYSSAA cross country meets in October. The school team was second overall at the York event, with the midget girls earning a second in their flight.

The midget boys finished 15th at OFSAA.

In the field of equestrian events, former Toronto Hospital administrator Michele Leroux replaced former Canadian Olympic equestrian Martina Pracht as general manger of the Eglinton Equestrian Club in February.

The Davis Drive club, which is the oldest pony club in North America, went on to suffer two setbacks later in the year. The first was when Toronto lost its bid for the 1996 Olympic games. The club had been earmarked as the site of the equestrian events had Toronto been awarded the games.

The club then lost the man who had worked so hard to put it on the map internationally when Hans Pracht died in August.

Stouffville area equestrians Andrea Zemp, and Holly and Tim Garbutt enjoyed considerable success in 1991, riding to victory at several horse shows in the area.

Stouffville's female tennis queen Sally Coles became the first woman ever to repeat as over 35 Ladies Senior Indoor Nationals tennis champion in early March. She also was a part of the winning doubles team. Coles was named the No. 1 ranked Ontario Tennis Association singles and doubles player.

In swimming, 12-year-old Michael Brett won four gold medals, and was part of the relay teams which won a pair of golds at the Ontario AA Team championships in St. Catharines in February. Brett was swimming as a member of the Richmond Hill Aquatic Club.

He swam to a silver and bronze finish at the Ontario Age Group championships in February as well, falling just short of qualifying for the Ontario Tour Swim Team.

Brett went on to earn four golds, a silver and two bronzes at the Ajax Long Course Invitational swim meet in April. In the skating arena, Stouffville's Michael Pride took the gold in the junior silver men's event at the Scarborough Skate competition for the third straight year in late April.

And finally, on the links, 68-year-old duffer Arne Frederiksen proved that the world of sport can still hold the odd wonderful surprise for the occasional participant.

The Gormley area resident won himself a flight to anywhere in the world Air Canada flies when he fired a hole in one at the Multiple Sclerosis Charity Golf Tournament at the Maples of Balantrac Aug. 26.