

Sports

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Horse show celebrates glorious Appaloosa

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Correspondent

Equestrian enthusiasts from all across Canada have gathered at Cedar Valley's Eglinton Equestrian Club this week to celebrate a breed of horse whose glory dates back to the days when aboriginal people had free reign across this continent.

The 35th annual Appaloosa Championship Horse Show kicked off Tuesday at the site with opening ceremonies including a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer and a representative from the Metropolitan Toronto Police mounted unit.

Since then, over 200 horses, with riders of all ages, have competed for upwards of \$50,000 in cash and prizes. And while most horses will have competed in six or seven events by week's end, such is the versatility of the renowned Appaloosa that one horse has been entered into a total of 24 events over the course of the five day show.

The show, which was last staged in Ontario in 1976, is a mix of competition, exhibiting and camaraderie. Normally held in Western Canada, where the majority of Canadian Appaloosa Club members reside, the event is oriented around Western racing. It also includes various games which offer an exciting challenge to horse and rider alike.

The Appaloosa itself is technically a western breed, which in the 18th and 19th centuries contributed greatly towards the substantial natural and material wealth of the Nez Perce Indians of the north-west.

The week's schedule has seen such events as free style reining, pleasure driving,

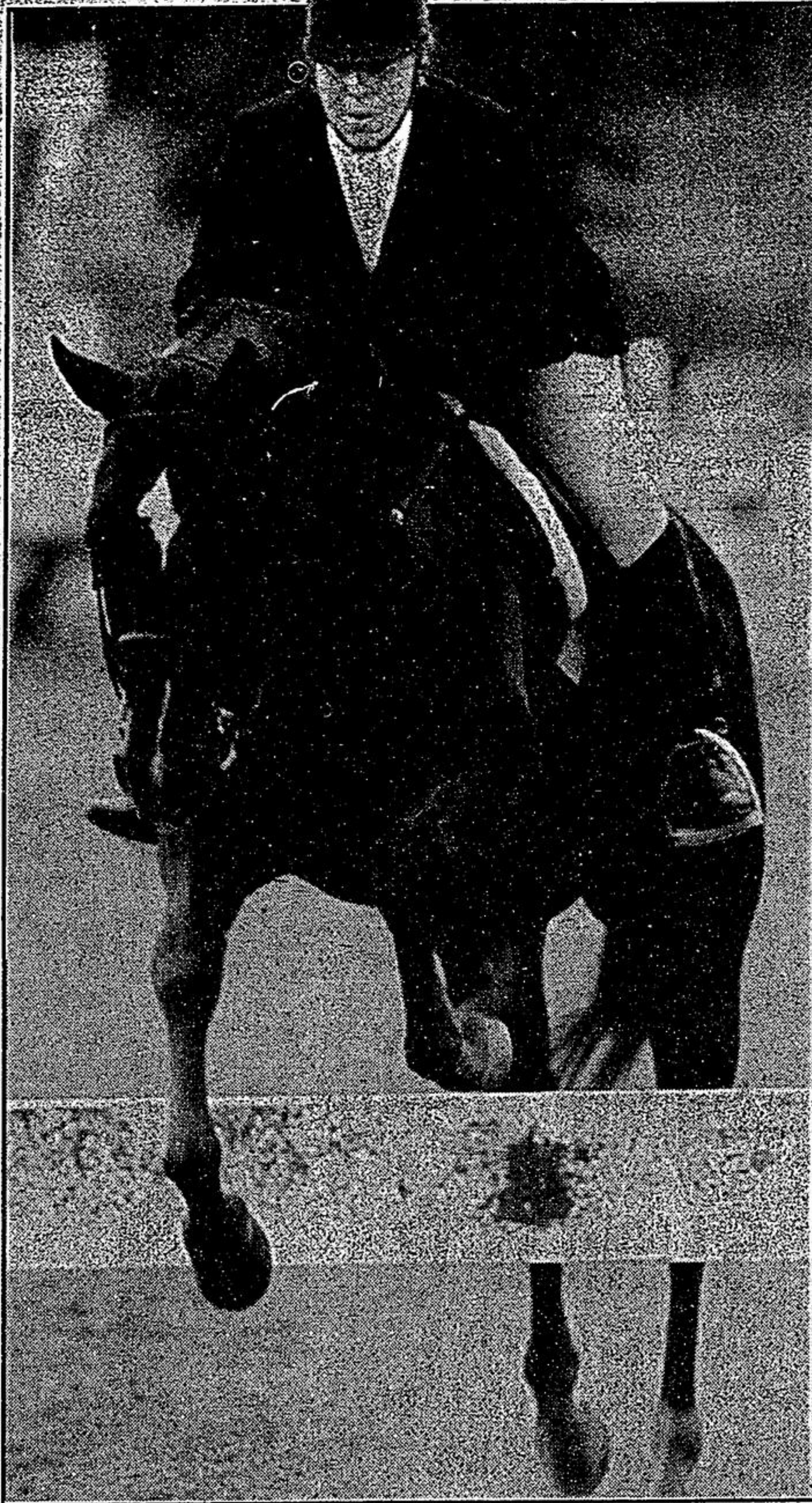


PHOTO: JOERD WITTEVEEN

Kim Murray-Perrault of Mount Albert rides IMA Contender at the Appaloosa Canadian Championships held this week at the Eglinton Equestrian Centre.

equitation, showmanship, and western discipline, where horse and rider follow a pattern similar to that used for

dressage purposes.

The show has sometimes offered spectators as much visual entertainment as it has competition.

One event had themes which included Batman and Robin, complete with a green horse with a cape. Another included a father and son team, with costumes and music depicting the song "Me and My Shadow".

The theming has been carried through to the paddock areas of youth teams from New Brunswick, Manitoba, and even the state of Illinois. Stall decorating contests resulted in lobster traps and netting, among other motifs, hanging from stable doors.

Deborah Marshall, the director of the Eastern Ontario Appaloosa Club which is in charge of sponsorships for the championship show, said the event has been a huge success.

"The wide range of people here from all over makes it all worthwhile," she said Wednesday.

"There is a terrific spirit of co-operation, with competitors borrowing things from each other, and pretty well all the workers are volunteers."

Marshall also had praise for the Eglinton facility, the home of North America's oldest pony club. "This is a beautiful spot. We looked all over, and we chose Eglinton because of the layout. The people here have also been great."

The show, which has been in the planning stages for 28 months, has meant a boom for businesses in the Newmarket area. Marshall estimated that 1.2 million dollars have been introduced into the local economy by way of hotel tabs, food, and other essentials.

Things wrap up today (Saturday).
(Please see page 20)

Squirts take two of three

The Kellington Gardens Squirt girls rep softball team took two of three games played at a recent tournament in Barrie.

The Stouffville girls dumped Newmarket 7-3 in their opener, with Allison Crowder hitting a single and a triple. Kari Sandiford and Lindsay Murray had two singles each for the Squirts, while Murray and Morgan Dubkowski pitched.

In game two, the Kellington crew held its own through six innings but surrendered seven runs in the seventh to lose 9-1 to Chinguacousy.

The Stouffville outfit finished off with an 8-5 win over Whitby as Jessica Watherill smacked a pair of home runs. Murray banged a triple, with Amanda Crowder and Dubkowski sharing the pitching assignment.

Kari Sandiford was named Stouffville MVP for the tournament.

In recent league play, the Squirts mercied East Gwillimbury July 6 as Amanda Crowder pitched a four-inning shut out.

The Kellington outfit then dropped its first regular season game of the year three days later losing 5-2 to Pickering.

Stouffville got right back on track, however, drubbing the Markham Tigers 14-5 July 13. The Squirts played Aurora to a 5-5 tie last Thursday.

Amy Ball homered twice against East Gwillimbury, with Jessica Smith and Kristin Woodley also banging round trippers. Anna Maria Durante tripled, while Dubkowski had a triple and four singles.

Smith homered again in the Markham game, with Amanda Crowder socking a triple.

In the tie with Aurora, Allison Crowder had a home run and threw out two runners trying to steal second base.

Mite girls win silver at Niagara Falls tourney

The Stouffville District Credit Union Mite Girls Selects, with just three previous games under their belts, took home the silver medal from a tournament in Niagara Falls last weekend.

The Credit Union crew won three and tied one in the preliminary round robin, before falling 11-6 to Brampton in the championship match Sunday.

The Stouffville girls found themselves trailing 11-0 after three innings in the final, which had a one-hour-and-fif-

teen minute time limit. The Mites fought back to within five runs before time ran out.

In the opening round, Stouffville started off with an 18-10 win over the host squad before playing the Brantford rep team to a 7-7 tie.

The Mites thumped Chinguacousy 17-2 Sunday morning, then scored seven in the first inning and held on for a 10-9 victory over Brampton.

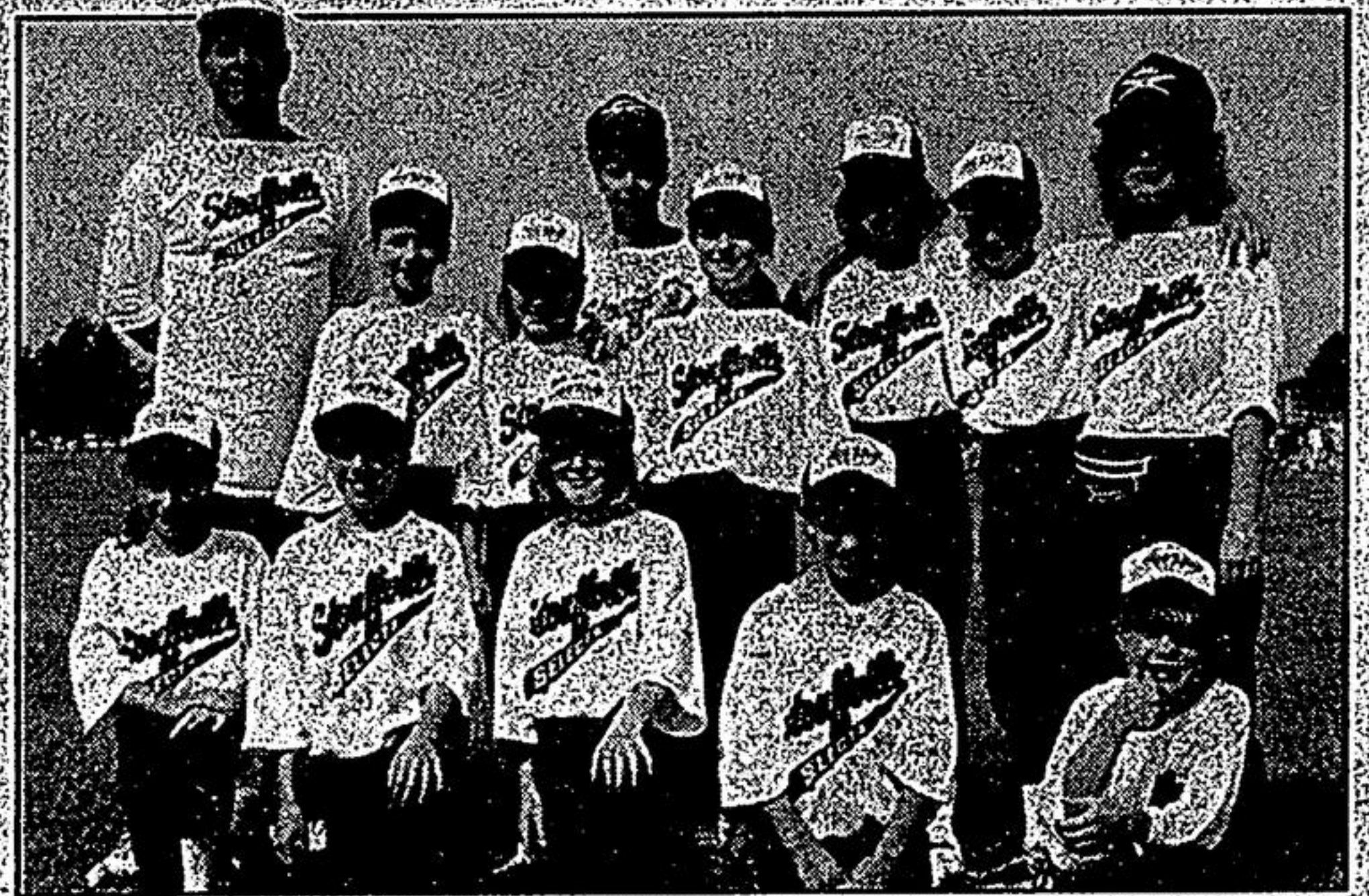
The win put Stouffville in the gold medal round as the only outfit in the 10-team tourna-

ment to that point.

The Mites roster includes Lisa Jacque, Hannah Smith, Kristy Assinck, Sarah Buck, Sarah Chuback, Meaghan Crowder, Lynn Harrison, Jacqui VanKoughnet, Michelle Dulude, and Marlee Johnson.

The team is coached by Jack and Kathy VanKoughnet.

The Stouffville Mite Select girls team ended up in the finals at a tournament last weekend in spite of having played only three games prior to the event.



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