

# stouffville sports

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

An all-Ontario Bantam hockey championship, a Senior D women's hockey crown, and a provincial Squirt softball title were among the Stouffville sports highlights for 1992.

But the year may be remembered more for the ones that got away. The Stouffville Merchants Junior men's fastball team fell just short of claiming a third consecutive Ontario Eliminations championship at the tournament held at Stouffville's Memorial Park in July.

The town's hopes for two other sporting coups were dashed, or at least delayed, in '92. A bid to bring the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to Stouffville went up in smoke when it turned out that the Hall's operators were mired in administrative difficulties which may see the shrine closed for good.

A group of local businessmen's efforts to bring Junior B hockey to Stouffville for the 1993-4 season met road block after road block as the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) underwent a turmoil of its own.

### JANUARY

The Thunderbirds and the Best of the Nest entries braved mud, snow, and a stiff wind as they shared the championship winnings at the Spring Lakes Tigers Sno-Pitch Tournament at the town park Jan. 11-12.

The Boyd's Sports Atom Clippers captured the Uxbridge Atom Tournament, and the Edwards Murphy Bantam Clippers began their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) playoffs by sweeping their four game round robin set with Ajax and Pickering.

### FEBRUARY

The Best of the Nest had it all to themselves this time as they took the title at the fourth annual Legion Sno-Pitch Tournament Feb. 8-9.

The Bantam Clippers knocked off Kingston in the provincial playdown series between the two teams. The Bants then advanced to the provincial semi-finals when they swept Scarborough in three games.

The Pee Wee Clippers continued their playoff juggernaut as well, downing Kingston in their OMHA playoff set to qualify for the OMHA semi-finals; the town's Ringwood Variety and Video girls' hockey team won the Belleville Girls Intermediate Hockey Tournament, and the Stouffville Classics old-timers hockey team skated to victory at a tournament in Woodville.

In high school volleyball action, the Stouffville District



PHOTO/BRUCE STAPLEY

The Stouffville Bantam Clippers won the provincial Single-A hockey title when they defeated Leamington in the final game of the OMHA provincial championships in March of this year.

Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Midget girls won the York title for the second straight year. The school's Junior and Senior squads settled for the silver in their regional championships.

(SDSS) Junior boys Spartans went as far as the York semi-finals, losing to Richmond Hill H.S.

### MARCH

Local entrepreneurs Ed Hakonson, Doug Todd, and Don Anderson made an official application for a Junior B franchise for Stouffville March 2. Anderson is a part owner of the Kingston Frontenacs Junior A team.

The Pee Wee Clippers were finally stopped by Orangeville in the OMHA semi-finals, losing the last two games of the best of five set to go down three games to two.

In girls' hockey, the Action Signs Bantams, Ringwood Variety and Video Intermediates, and Angie's Seniors girls' hockey teams were all qualifying for the Ontario Provincial Championship Tournament in Mississauga in April.

It was on to the OMHA finals for the Bantam Clippers as the Stouffville outfit bested Orillia three games to one in the semi-finals. The Bantams then swept to the OMHA A Bantam title when they disposed of Leamington in the championship series.

Stouffville skater Chris Weatherill, 12, finished first in the men's solo dance category at the Central Ontario Sectional Interclub Competition in Hanover March 7.

Stouffville equestrienne Holly

Garbutt was presented with the 1991 Canadian High Point Youth Driving award at the Canadian Morgan Horse Association's annual convention in Edmonton March 28.

### APRIL

Stouffville gymnast Ryan Joyce won four gold medals at the Metro East/West Men's Gymnastics Second Provincial Qualifier. The 11 year old went

on to represent the Metro East Region at the provincial finals.

The Angies' Seniors won the Ontario Women's Hockey Association D championship April 12. The town's Intermediate girls' team won the silver medal in their championship tournament the same weekend.

The A&S Construction Flames, who finished last in the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League (SAHL) Over 30 standings captured the divisional playoff crown April 12. In the league's Over 40 flight, the Stouffville Travel Whalers emerged victorious in playoff action.

The Bantam Clippers proved they were truly All-Ontario Bantam A champions when they prevailed in a four team showdown the weekend of April 17-18. The competition included winners of the other provincial Bantam A crowns.

### MAY

Ryan Joyce struck gold at the Provincial Men's Gymnastics Championships, as the gymnast finished first overall in the Argo B category at the May 2-3 event.

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club finished the season by putting on its bi-annual carnival, Ice Revue '92, in front of three packed houses May 8-10.

SDSS's Laura Holder broke the York Region Midget girls' shot put record at the York Track and Field finals May 12. Twelve SDSS track and field athletes advanced to the Durham-York (DYSSAA) championships.

The school's Kelly Forsyth, Andrea Crothers, and Phil De Roo' all finished in the top five

at the DYSSAA meet to earn tickets to the provincial (OFSAA) regional finals. Forsyth was fourth at the regional meet, giving her the chance to compete at the OFSAA championships.

The Stouffville Buttermakers won the C division title, and the Claremont Classics took the DD crown, at the 10th annual A&S Construction Raiders slo-pitch tournament over the Victoria Day weekend.

### JUNE

Nicole Ellis and Derek Sheahan were named top SDSS Senior female and male athletes of the year at the school's annual Awards Banquet June 3. Jason Reesor and Andrea Crothers were given the top Junior athlete honors, while Kelly Sheridan took the Homestead Trophy.

Kellington Gardens took the C division at the annual Buttermakers Slo-pitch Tournament the last weekend in June. The Claremont Blazers won the town's Recreational Division title.

Holly Garbutt was named champion in the English Pleasure Junior Exhibition category at the Ontario Morgan Horse Championships held at the Markham Fairgrounds the last weekend in June.

Bob McKinnon, coach of the All-Ontario Bantam Clippers, was named Stouffville's Sports Personality of the Year.

### JULY

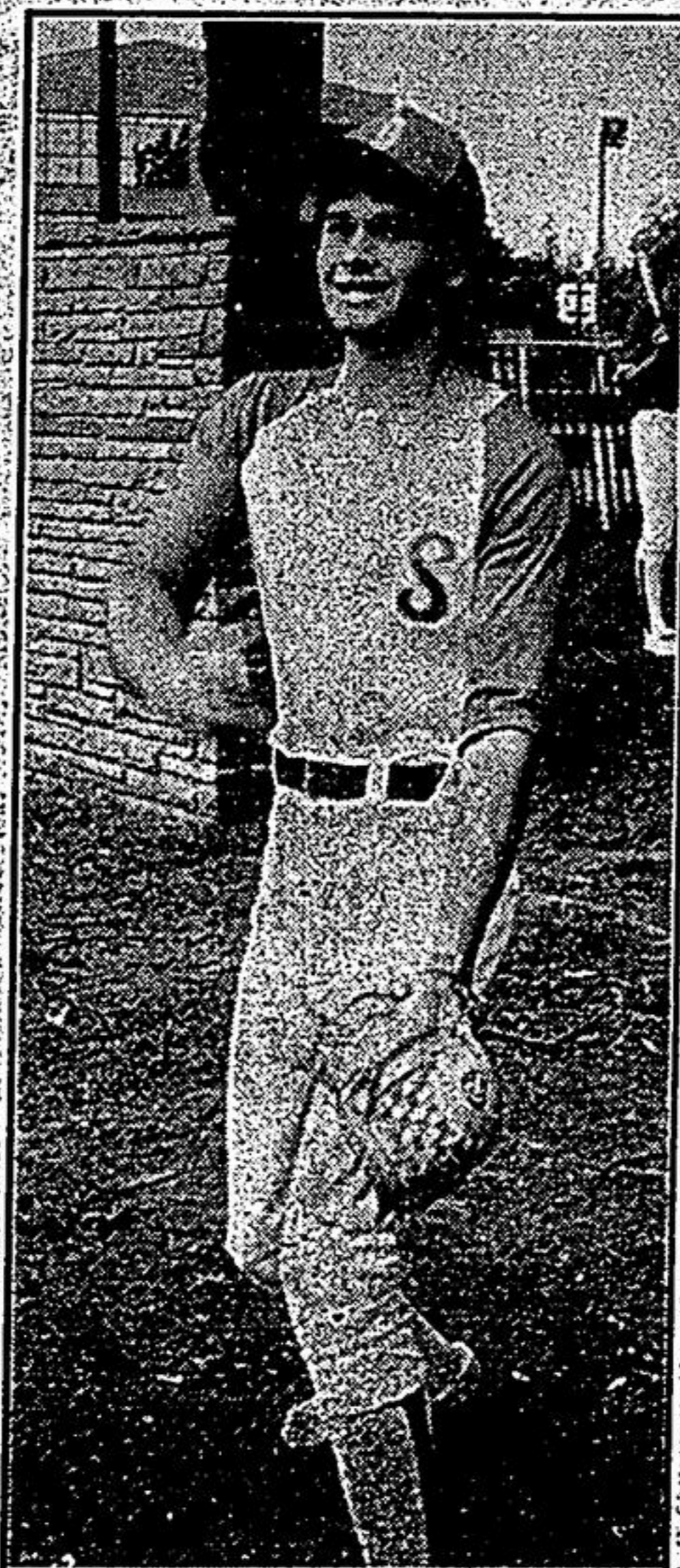
Also on Canada Day, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club's Senior division held the first ever Five-A-Side soccer tournament at the Rec Centre. Stouffville teams took the silver and bronze medals at the event.

At the All-Ontario Junior Eliminations tournament held at Memorial Park the weekend of July 10-12, the two time defending champion Stouffville Merchants couldn't quite put the finishing touches on a third provincial crown. The Merchants advanced to the championship round after winning their first five games.

But the Merchants then lost two straight games to the Catharines A's, the second match being played in Bramalea the following Wednesday after rain forced cancellation of the contest on the closing night of the competition in Stouffville. Later in the month, the Merchants would drop a best of three set to Oshawa in the zone playdowns for the Ontario Amateur Softball Association A title.

The Stouffville Bantam girls rep team qualified for the provincial championship tournament when it came second at the provincial qualifier in Kingston.

(Please see page 13)



Byron Baranieski pitched the Stouffville Merchants to a second place finish at the Ontario Junior Men's Eliminations fastball championships at Stouffville's Memorial Park in July.