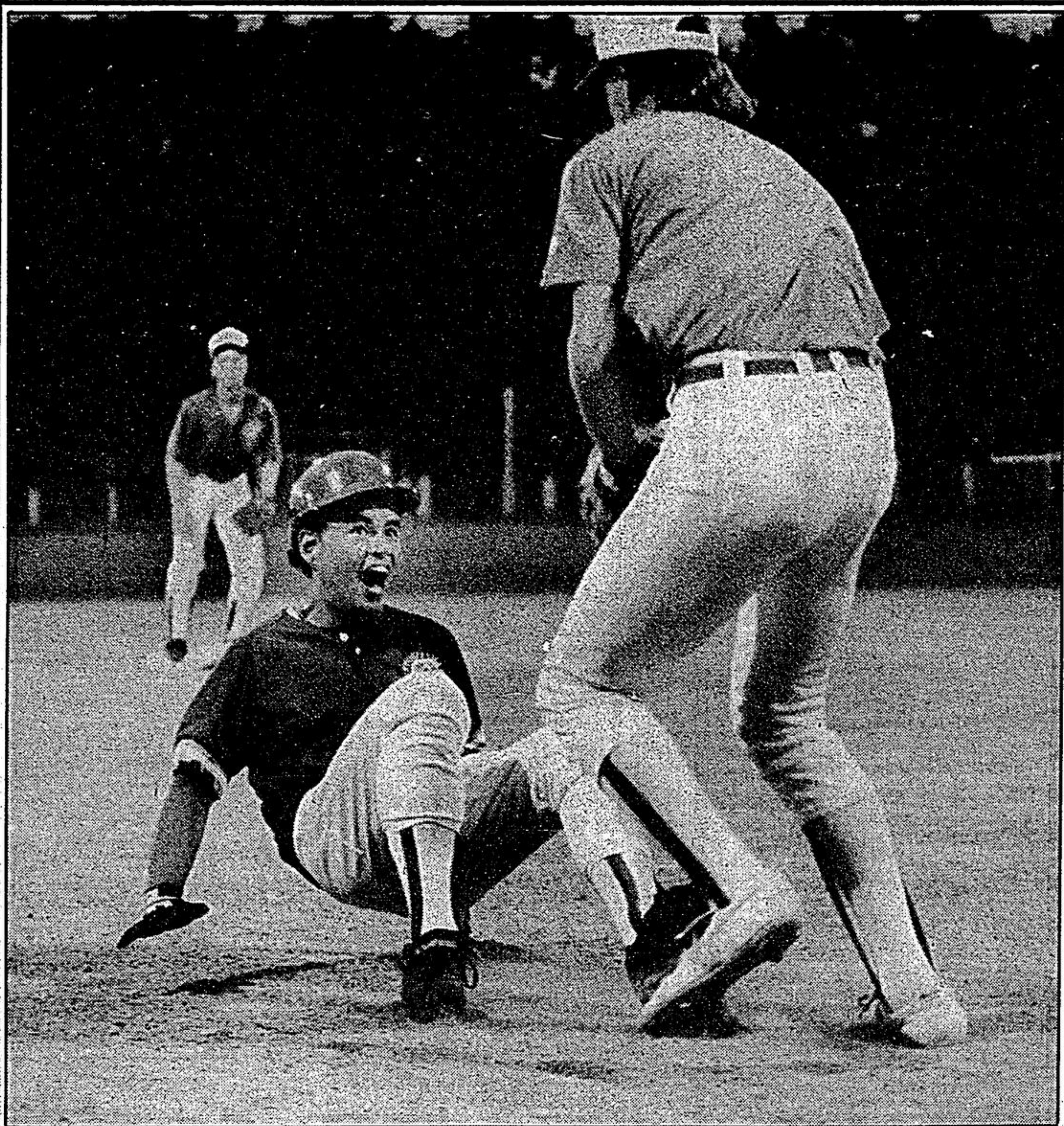


# Sports



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Gotcha!

Stouffville Merchants' baserunner Jason Yoshida (left) tried to make a quick retreat from third base but was eventually tagged out by Port

Perry third baseman Larry Pilkey during action in Wednesday's junior fastball contest at the Town Park diamond.

## Merchants seek provincial title

The Stouffville Merchants are in North Fredericksberg this weekend for the 1993 Junior Eliminations provincial fastball championships.

The Merchants began the 25-team showdown on Friday with a game against Smith Falls.

Merchants' head coach Howard Burkholder said the team should be back to full

strength. Rich Burkholder was nursing an ankle injury while Byron Baranieski had a sore neck. Burkholder was hopeful those ailments would pass.

The team had hoped to have Rob Grey rejoin them for the Eliminations. Grey, who was with the team last year when they were Ontario finalists, has been involved in a bitter dis-

pute involving the Merchants, the Oshawa Juniors, and the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA). The OASA ruled in a meeting held in Stouffville last week that the Merchants still have Grey's rights. Grey, however, wants to play with Oshawa.

Burkholder said it's a matter of principle.

## Hornettes kick up a storm

Krystle Palmer, Jessica Franklin, and Nicole Aldcroft looked after the scoring as the Cabletech under-13 Hornettes girls' soccer team came from behind to defeat King City 3-1 in a recent contest.

Michele Zafiroopoulos stood out on defence for the Stouffville squad, holding the Hor-

nettes in the game until they found their offensive touch.

The Cabletech crew tied the game late in the first half, then fought determinedly to add another pair of scores in the second, despite injuries to Amanda McLelland, Ashley McPherson, and Rebecca Davis.

## A Select win for Myers

Dean Myer's Select squirt boys' softball team glided to another tournament victory in Newmarket on Canada Day.

The Selects dominated the tournament with victories of 9-1 over Newmarket, 9-0 over Innisfil and 11-1 in the championship game over Scarborough's Meadowvale.

Superb pitching by Jamie Alston, Shawn Barton and Adam Ferguson allowed only one earned run in the tournament. Great defensive efforts were made by all.

The previous weekend in East Gwillimbury, the Selects once again cruised to the championship final with victories of 25-1 over East Gwillimbury, 13-5 over Newmarket and 23-1 over Richmond Hill, but lost in the final to Malvern.

## Reed races to victory

Musselman's Lake resident Dave Reed finished ahead of the pack in the inaugural Strawberry 10 K run held July 4 in Stouffville.

Reed, 38, ran the course in 35 minutes and 49 seconds, putting him ahead of second-place finisher Fred Robbins of Stouffville, who clocked in at 36:50.

Karen Strugar of Stouffville was the first woman finisher in the open category with a time of 44:12.

Stouffville's Terry Neprily was first in the over 40 men's division with a time of 43:32. Alice Kearns was the top finishing over 40 female with a time of 53:02.

A total of 22 runners competed in the event.

# Annual Canada Day Triathlon a big success

## SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

The triathlete mailman from Stratford regained his crown in this year's sixth annual Canada Day Recreation Department Triathlon, as the pros who made a travesty of last year's event decided to give the thing back to the amateurs for whom it was intended.

Town officials were considering changing the name of our fair village to Mandersville after Gary Manders traded his mail bag for a Speedo bathing suit and raced to victory in the 30-39 year old men's class, giving him the overall title as well. It was his third overall championship in the past four years.

Manders said his time of one hour, eight minutes, and 33 seconds, was a good two minutes slower than his previous best, something to do with the stiff breeze blowing up Durham 30/Tenth line for the cycling segment.

Rick Manders, Gary's Oshawa-based brother who won the whole thing in 1989, was third. Susan Flynn of Toronto, who was also competing in the 30-39 age group, was top overall female with a time of 1:18:12.

Ballantrae's John Bellerby, the tanned and fit 24-year-old brother of local councilor Steve, clocked in at an impressive 1:13:10 to take the 20-29 male class. John was also the fastest overall Whitchurch-Stouffville male entrant, edging 45-year-old Dave Derry, who won the 40-49 male flight, by a mere minute and 25 seconds. It was the third straight year as age group champ for Derry, who only took up the triathlon event four years ago.

Andrea Thomas was the fastest local female with a dazzling 1:22:03. Stouffville District Secondary School runner Chris Lamont took the under 20 male honors with a time of 1:21:33.

But while these amateur aces did themselves proud, this reporter's heart goes out to the occasional athletes and

one time wonders who see the annual triathlon as an opportunity for a personal victory. With the likes of Brooke Jones and Sandy MacKenzie unable to go this year due to ailments, and myself and my son Shane deciding that once was enough, it was up to the likes of Susan Tufford to carry the flag for the pluggers.

Susan, who keeps herself in shape with regular exercise, had never attempted such an undertaking. She took her training seriously, doing the route four times prior to race day, substituting a swimming pool for Shadow Lake.

Competing in the 30-39 female class, she posted a creditable time of one hour and 40 minutes. But like most first times, she was devastated by the 750-metre swim around Shadow Lake which begins the event.

Susan used the words like "scary", "intimidating", and "just awful" to describe what it was like to be a part of a 100 swimmer scrum. Her sentiments are similar to those expressed by capable athletes and lesser lites alike since the triathlon moved the swim to the Ninth Line mini-lake a few years back.

She suggested the presence of a motorized boat would have given her a little reassurance when she started coughing and spluttering upon entering the weeds at one point.

But other than that, Susan enjoyed herself and said she would definitely try it again. Her words backed up my argument that the event should eventually become a strictly local competition. The real fun, she said, was had by the people like herself who were just out there doing it. The camaraderie enjoyed by those folks was rewarding, she maintained.

Sponsors including Adidas, Bell Cellular, Leader Sports and Spring Valley Water also played a big part in the event.

The triathlon has proved once again that it is a worthwhile and well run recreational event. The next one's a full year away, and this reporter urges casual athletes and fitness adherents of all ages to mark down July 1, 1994, from 8-10 a.m. on your calendar.

Because in this race, you just can't lose.