

Merchants shoot for provincials

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Just because the Stouffville Merchants failed to emerge victorious in last month's Junior Men's Eliminations tournament in North Fredericksburg doesn't mean the season is a write off, said the team's head coach.

Howard Burkholder's team will contest the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Junior "A" men's fastball championships in Owen Sound this weekend. While this tournament is seen by many as a lesser competition, Burkholder insists it is still a major event.

"We need to put more emphasis on the provincials (the "A" championships)," said Burkholder, whose team won the event when it was held in Markham back in 1991.

"Before the Eliminations were introduced, the provincial tournament was the big one," said Burkholder. "It's been a good season for us. You can't judge the whole year on one tournament. And we played well in North Fredericksburg, it could have had a different outcome."

The Eliminations are open to teams from all levels, while the provincials are restricted to the highest rated, or "A" teams. Most years, teams must qualify for the provincials, but the host Owen Sound exercised their option of opening the competition up to any "A" teams wanting to compete. There will be 16 squads contesting the 1993 championships.

The Merchants also plan to participate in the Oshawa league playoffs for the first time since joining the league three years ago. The week-long post season competition will take place the first week in September. The team pulled out in the past because of the high number of players returning to out-of-town schools.

"We'll still be short a few players," said Burkholder. "Keith Piette, Bill Pride, and Matt McKnight will be gone. But we may pick up a few players as well."

The Merchants decided not to travel to Wisconsin for last weekend's International Softball Congress Junior Men's Fastball Tournament. Burkholder cited players' summer jobs and a lack of financial resources as the reason.

On a separate note, Merchants' ace pitcher Byron Baranieski has been picked up by the Kempton Juniors for the National Championships in Summerside, P.E.I. Aug. 23-29.

Local lawn bowlers place at Uxbridge

The Stouffville tandem of Norm Swartman and Queenie Bound won high score for mixed pairs at a lawn bowling tournament in Uxbridge Aug. 4.

Paul Muir, Doris Farthing, and Anne Jackson, also of Stouffville, won second high for three games at the Uxbridge competition.

Elmer Farthing, Doris Farthing, and Andrea Corner of the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club took high three game honors at a competition held in Port Perry on July 31.

Paul Muir, Edna Mashinter, and Eleanor Crossen of Stouffville won two games at an event in Port Perry on July 29.

Three games winners at a James Garden tournament July 21 were Elmer Farthing, Mark Fabbi, and Norm Swartman.

On July 19 in Uxbridge, Elmer Farthing, Ed MacTavish, and Doris Farthing won high score for three games.

Strong finish for pony club

Durham Pony Club riders dominated the Prince Philip Games circuit this summer, finishing with two firsts, a second, and a third in the four meet series which concluded Aug. 2 at the Dreamcrest Equestrian Centre near Port Perry.

The Durham club placed first in both the B and Masters categories,

second in the C class, and third in the A competition.

The Uxbridge-Scugog Pony Club took second place in the Masters category.

The Durham B team now goes on to compete for the Eastern Canadian championship at the C.N.E. August 23.

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