

# stouffville sports

## Kemptville makes a big pitch for Baranieski

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

The Stouffville Merchants may have again fallen short in their bid to qualify for their third trip to the Canadian Junior Men's Fastball Championships in four years, but the team will still be represented at the national showdown.

Byron Baranieski, the Merchants' ace right handed pitcher with the easy going attitude, will accompany the Kemptville Juniors to the 1993 finals scheduled for Summerside, P.E.I. Aug. 23-29.

Baranieski, 22, was picked up by the Kemptville squad in accordance with a rule which allows qualifying Ontario teams to claim up to three players from other junior teams for the national tournament.

It will mark the third time Baranieski has participated in the tournament. He was with the Stouffville teams which contested the national titles in Quebec and Newfoundland in the 1990 and '91 seasons respectively.

The hard throwing hurler told the Tribune recently he was happy to be going to Summerside, although he would have preferred to have been playing in a Merchants' uniform. "It's always nice to have a shot at the national title, and I'm looking forward to it," said Baranieski. "But my first goal would have been to go with our team (the Merchants). That's what we were all shooting for. But it should be fun meeting some new guys."

Baranieski said the national finals represents a chance to an amateur softball player to experience the type of situation normally reserved for professionals.

His most memorable recollection of his two national tournaments past is of a game the Merchants lost 1-0 in extra innings to Newfoundland in the 1990 competition. In that game, Barry Ellerbeck, whom the Merchants had picked up for the tournament, threw a no hitter and lost on a wild pitch in the second extra inning. Ontario's Andy Jackson pitched for the Newfoundland team.

"That was one of the most exciting things I've ever seen in softball," said Baranieski, who will be teamed up once again with Ellerbeck on the Kemptville team. "It was a great game, but it was just unfortunate we lost."

Baranieski, a resident of R.R. 2, Newmarket, hopes to continue on with the Merchants next season when the Junior age of eligibility goes up a year for the second season in a row. After that, he will probably join a senior men's team.

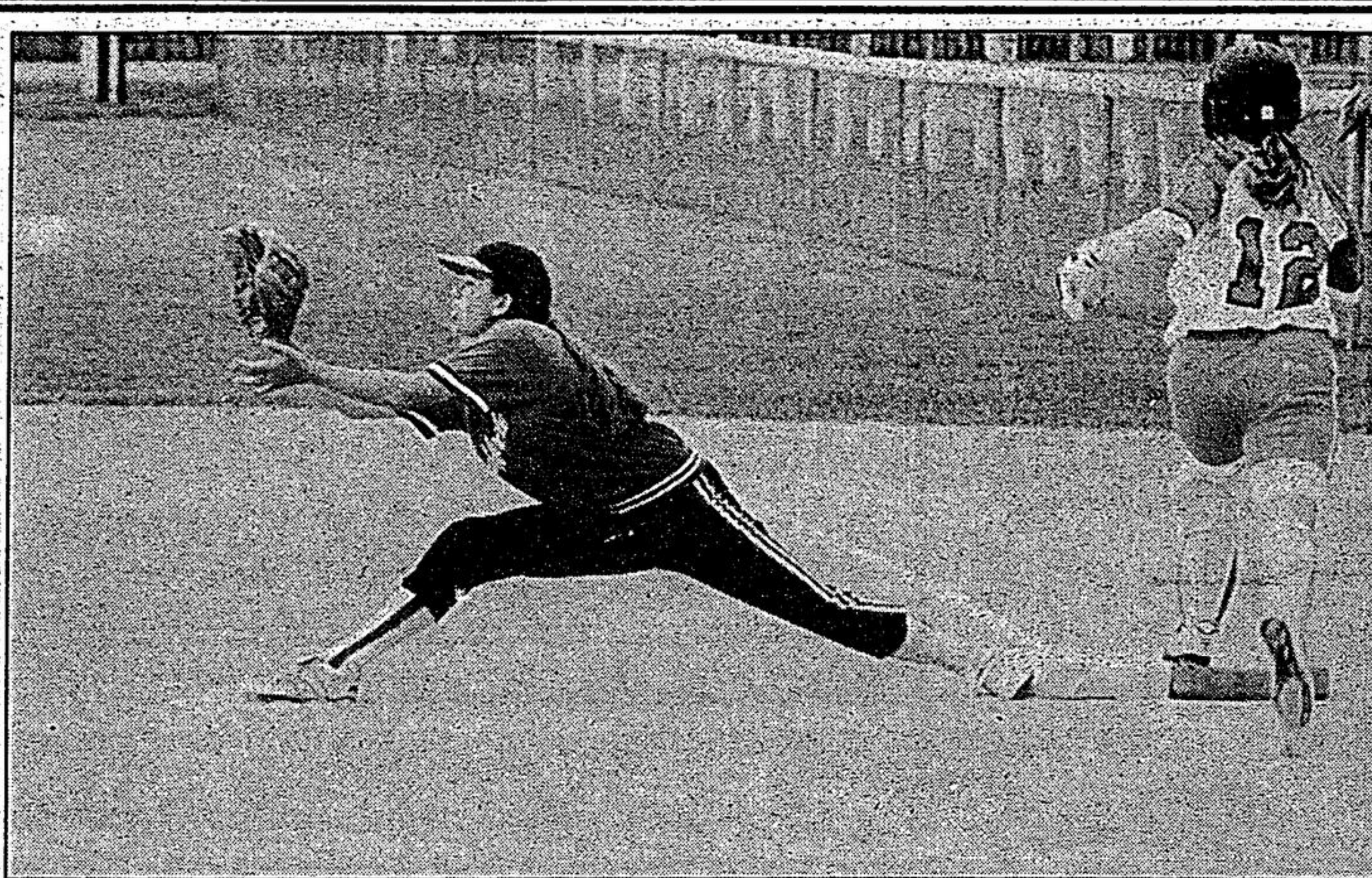
Baranieski started out as a squirt

level player in East Gwillimbury before coming to Stouffville for his final midget season in 1989. He has been with the Merchants since the team was formed in 1990.

Baranieski attributes his success as a pitcher to his ability to spot his pitches.

"The key to my game is to pitch location. If I'm putting the ball in the right spots, then I'm usually okay."

Baranieski considers it a privilege to have been selected to accompany the Kemptville team to P.E.I. "It's an honor to have someone interested in you."



Photo/LORI EMMERSON

### Stretching it out

Stouffville first baseman Amy Ball extends her body to the limit in an effort to catch this relay throw during preliminary action in Saturday's Provincial Novice Grand Softball

Championships against St. Catharines at Memorial Park. The base runner was called out. But St. Catharines won this game in extra innings.

## Timber Creek offers a mini golf adventure

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

With the recent opening of the third and final phase of the Timber Creek Golf centre, Stouffville area families now have an innovative new outdoor playground at their disposal.

The centre finally took the wraps off its imaginative 18-hole miniature golf course on July 24.

The course, when combined with the driving range and baseball/softball batting cages which opened in April, have made the facility the first attraction of its kind in the Stouffville area.

Lynn Reesor, who along with her brother Robert and sister Lois co-own Timber Creek, said the new undertaking has taken off since the mini golf course opened for business.

"It's a whole new ball game now," said Reesor, the only one of the three owners who works full time at the venture. "We're very busy now, especially on nights and weekends. People come here for parties, youth groups come out, and we've got local camps coming too."

Reesor said the miniature golf has suddenly turned the facility into a family attraction.

"Now, families come out and try the miniature golf, fathers go over to the driving range, and the kids try the batting cages. For many of them, it's the first time they have ever been to a facility like this."

Reesor points to the layout of the course as the main attraction. "Each hole has its own name, and there are waterfalls, water hazards,

and other obstacles."

The course has been designed with variety in mind. The first hole, 'Logger's Legs', challenges the player to try to shoot the ball through a maze of log posts. Hole three, named 'Timber Canyon', finds the golfer hitting the ball uphill, with large rocks placed at the top as obstacles.

The fourth hole, 'Shoot the Chute', is situated beside a would be log chute complete with running water. Hole five, 'Saw Mill', goes through a wooden structure which will eventually be turned into an authentic looking miniature antique sawmill. If the golfer is able to shoot the ball into the hole in a slowly spinning barrel, chances are good the ball will then drop out of the barrel and into the hole for a hole in one.

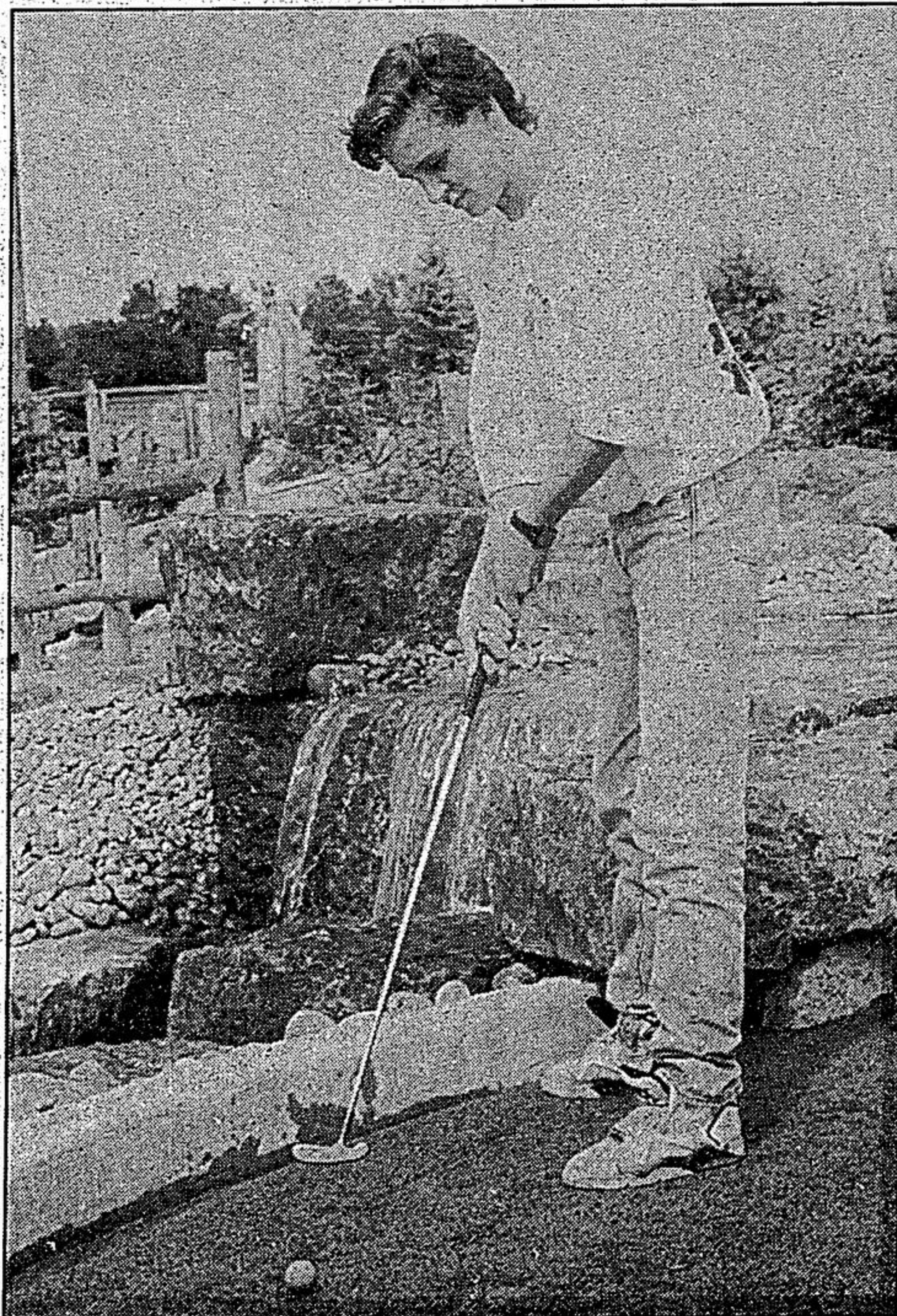
'Timber Steps', hole six, forces the player to hit the ball up a series of four steps, with rocks placed menacingly off to one side.

Players shoot under a door and into another wooden structure on the 11th hole, named Mik's Grubhouse for Mik Erskine, the carpenter who worked on the project.

Other attractions which follow through on the mini-course's sawmill and water theme include a water wheel driven by water which flows down from an elevated water tower.

Reesor said the facility is attracting people from as far away as Richmond Hill and Scarborough, and that the reception has been favorable so far.

"We've also been talking about putting in an arcade with video



Photo/LORI EMMERSON

Ballantrae resident Gary Bender tries his hand at one of the holes at the Timber Creek Golf centre.

games, but that would be some much finished (building the time in the future. We're pretty facility) for now," she said.