

Sports



A banner year on the diamond

It was a vintage season for a few Stouffville ball teams. Going clockwise and from top left, the Stouffville squirt girls ended its North York Girls' Fastball League season on a positive note by winning the playoff crown. The Stouffville Legion Buttermakers mites squad cap-

tured the Ontario Amateur Softball Association B title. In an upset of sorts, the Stouffville Stingers staked its claim to the South Lake Simcoe Ladies' League softball championship after finishing the regular season with a sub .500 record.

Merchants gain split in playoff ball action

The Stouffville Merchants managed a split in their first two Oshawa City and District Men's Fastball League playoff contests in Oshawa last week. The Merchants, who finished

third at the Ontario Amateur Softball Association Junior Men's A championships last month, edged the Oshawa Waltzing Weasel 10-9 in extra innings on Monday.

The Stouffville squad, however, was blanked 3-0 by the Greenbank Gamblers on Wednesday.

In Monday's game, the Merchants, playing without ace pitcher Byron Baranieski, jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the early going. But the Waltzing Weasels rallied to knot the

count at 6-6 in the sixth inning. The Merchants regained their composure and the lead in the seventh and eighth innings only to have Oshawa square the count on both occasions.

The Merchants finally won the game in the ninth after international rules called for each team to start the inning with a run-

ner on second base was applied. Baranieski returned for Wednesday's match, but the hurler fell victim to a pair of Greenbank home runs.

Each team was limited to just four hits.

The double knockout playoff round was slated to continue this week.

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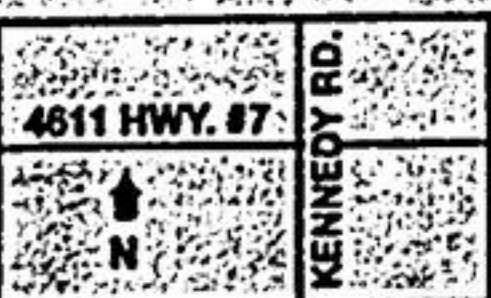
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