

Stouffville Sports



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Get those feet moving

Members of the Stouffville District Secondary School cross-country team began

preparations for their upcoming campaign by putting in some time on the track recently.

Annual Terry Fox Run is set for Sunday



SPORT NOTES

BRUCE STAPLEY

While top athletes are usually associated with clutch competitive performances, dazzling offensive thrusts and impressive defensive displays, the man The Sports Network dubbed "Athlete of the Decade" in 1990 was neither a prolific scorer nor a master of the slam dunk.

In fact, you may recall that Terry Fox was the individual upon whom the honor was posthumously bestowed.

We all remember Terry as the young man who dipped his artificial leg into the Atlantic Ocean on April 12, 1980, then ran the equivalent of a marathon every day for 143 days before being halted by his old nemesis upon reaching Thunder Bay on Sept. 1 that same year. All so that he could bring some attention and funding to innovative cancer research in this country.

Such was the effect Terry had on the country that he was the youngest person ever to be recognized with the Companion of the Order of Canada, which was granted him in his home town of Port Coquitlam B.C. on Sept. 18, 1980. He was also voted Canadian of the Year by the editors of Canadian Press member newspapers, radio, and television in 1980 and 1981.

Twelve years after his death at the hands of the same cancer he fought so bravely to bring under control, Terry's legacy continues throughout the world.

This Sunday, people in 34 countries will make good on their filled out pledge sheets and run, walk, cycle, or what have you, the 10 kilometre distance that comprises Terry Fox Runs everywhere. Among the thousands of runs to be held is the one being held in Stouffville.

At the Terry Fox Run press kick off at the Hockey Hall of Fame last Wednesday, Terry's mother Betty Fox confided that she had fully expected interest in the run to dwindle after a few years. She was delighted when that turned out to be an incorrect prediction.

The run has netted over \$100

million since its inception in 1981. In Ontario alone, the amounts raised annually have been building steadily since 1982, with \$3.42 coming in last year.

While Canadians have come to hold Terry up as a national hero, Betty has always insisted her son was just an ordinary teen who did an extraordinary thing. In fact, those who know her will tell you she was aghast when her son first told her about his ambitious plan to cross the country on one leg. It was crazy enough to attempt such a feat with two good legs, let alone one, she suggested.

She would soon come to understand the extent of her son's determination.

"Somewhere the hurting must stop," Terry wrote in October 1979. "And I am determined to take myself to the limit for this cause."

Today, the Terry Fox Foundation directs funds raised from the run to innovative research projects across Canada, as well as around the world.

The regulations governing the Terry Fox Run and the allocation of the funds are extremely stringent.

Commercialization of the run is forbidden, and corporate sponsors are to gain no commercial advantage from their involvement.

Expenses incurred when organizing a Run must be donated.

With regards to the expenditure of the money raised by the Run, the Terry Fox Foundation must be advised of all research undertaken with Foundation funding.

"As for the "race" which won Terry his national acclaim, while making him a symbol of hope for cancer victims and their families across Canada and the world, the Globe and Mail best summed it up on July 1, 1981, just over two weeks after his death on June 14:

"Terry Fox's race is over. In fact, he never finished his course; none of us do. What is important is the running. What is important is to set goals. What is important is not to quit; not ever. What is important is to run well and honestly, with as much human grace as possible - not forgetting, too, to take joy in the running, to laugh at life's absurdities as well as weep at its cruelties."

A fitting tribute to perhaps the bravest "athlete" this country has ever known.

Junior Merchants ball season comes to an end

Coach Howard Burkholder's clutch single gave the Stouffville Merchants a second life.

But it was not enough, as the local junior men's squad was eliminated from the Oshawa City and District Fastball League playoffs with a 3-2, extra-inning defeat at the hands of Oshawa O'Toole's on Thursday.

The loss, when coupled with the Merchants' 3-0 loss to the Greenbank Gamblers last week, put the Stouffville team out of the double knockout post-season playoff competition.

The Merchants recorded a 10-9 extra-inning victory over the

Oshawa Waltzing Weasel in their playoff opener.

Burkholder, who was forced to play when only eight Merchants suited up for the game, tied the contest at 1-1 in the seventh when his hit scored his son, Rich.

The Merchants then scored a run on a hit by Chris Burkholder in the eighth.

But O'Toole's came back with two runs of their own to win it.

Merchants' pitcher Byron Baranieski was outstanding throughout the game.

The loss ended the season for the Merchants, who were fifth at the Ontario Junior Men's

Eliminations, and third in the Ontario Amateur Softball Association Junior championships this summer.

Co-op outslugs Marianne's

Kim Esposito smashed a pair of home runs, but it was not enough, as her Marianne's Variety team was down 11-4 by Stouffville Co-op in recent Tuesday Night Ladies Softball League action.

In other league contests, Karen Lorenzen's round tripper was the big blow as Colley, Borland, and Vale edged Pink Flamingo 12-11.

In the finale, Terry Chapell and Sandy Ramer crushed homers as White Rogers outslugged Fullerton's Place 17-7.

Becky Bathurst had a home run for Fullerton's.

Waxers to invade the Rec Centre ice

The Markham Waxers bring their act to Stouffville for an exhibition hockey game against the Kalamazoo K-Wings on Sunday.

The Waxers, who made the

move to the Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Junior A League from Junior B, will take on the Michigan-based team at the Rec Centre at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 and \$1 for kids.

Minor mosquitoes are consoled in Markham baseball tournament

The Stouffville Indians minor mosquito rep baseball team finished the season on a winning note by taking the consolation championship at a tournament in Markham over the weekend.

The Indians recovered from a tough, tournament-opening 5-4 loss to the host squad to win three in a row, including a 7-2 victory over Maple in the consolation final.

The Stouffville crew downed Maple 10-4 and

defeated Uxbridge 12-3 on the way to the B title match.

Jordan Vanesterik, Andrew Seith, Michael Pennanen, Mike Hamilton, Andy Gibson, and Dylan Harrison shared the pitching chores for the Indians over the weekend.

Ryan Jackson, Johy Lyons, R.J. Chase and Shawn Burns contributed offensively, while Geoffrey Taylor and Richard Mulder made key defensive plays.