

# stouffville sports



Photo/LORI EMMERSON

## Force out at second base

Suzanne Robichaud (right) prepares to unleash this ball to her first baseman after forcing out Dave Fleming (centre) at second

base during Saturday's sno-pitch tournament contest at Goodwood. Watching the action is Terri Mullin.

# Negotiations continue for junior A franchise

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

Stouffville is "within an eighth of an inch" of becoming the home of an established Metro Junior A League hockey team for the 1993-94 season, says a local promoter.

Brad Gordon, who along with fellow Stouffville resident Bernie Leighton have been looking to bring a Tier 2 junior A squad to town for the past month or so, confirmed Sunday the Weston Dukes are the team being pursued.

"The negotiations are in the final stages," said Gordon, who was general manager with the Wexford Raiders junior A club in the 1970's and 80's. "Bernie is putting together all the financial finishing touches."

Gordon said negotiations would probably go on for "another week or a week and a half."

"We hope to make a formal announcement by March 31."

Gordon said plans to have the Dukes reschedule a home game for the Rec Centre this season would not materialize, as the team was to finish its regular season this past weekend. He said there had been talk the Dukes might make the Rec Centre the site of their playoff home games if the team made the playoffs.

Gordon reaffirmed his earlier position that the purpose of bringing the team to Stouffville would be to further the minor and junior hockey careers of local players.

"There will be a minimum of one local boy on the team the first season, and more if the ability is there to fill the extra spots."

Gordon said the team would be affiliated with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, with home games on Saturday nights.

Season ticket information will become available immediately after the deal to bring the Dukes to Stouffville is finalized, said Gordon.

## Ringette league hosts provincials

Stouffville's Linda Tartiff scored several key goals to help the Stouffville/Markham team to the silver medal at the recent Recreation Division Regionals in Caledonia.

The local team was edged 4-3 by Scarborough in the championship game.

The Stouffville/Markham Ringette League is to host the 1993 provincial finals on Easter Weekend at Centennial Arena in Markham. Ten teams will be participating in two divisions at the event. Proceeds will be donated to research on spinal cord injuries.

In other ringette news, the Best in Show Awards team finished first in the house league season standings with 23 points.

Stouffville area women will be

given a chance to try their hand at ringette this Friday night at the Mount Joy Arena.

The league is offering free

ringette from 9-11 p.m., with interested parties asked to phone Anne at 640-7089 for further information.

## Action bantam girls play a perfect game

The Stouffville Action Signs bantam girls' hockey team got goals from Lori Howes, Stephanie Summerhill, Julie Comito and Jennifer Williams in a 4-0 win over Leaside in a recent North Metro Women's League game.

Nicole Robinson had a trio of assists for Stouffville.

The Stouffville novice, peewee and bantam squads are all preparing for the Brampton tournament, to be held over the Easter weekend. All three teams will also contest the Provincial Championships the weekend of April 23.

A mixed peewee-bantam unit will host a CITY-TV team at the Rec Centre on March 27. Tickets cost \$4 each and are available in advance at the Rec Centre or at the door.

# Woods aims to turn a big Triple Play at new site

SPORT NOTES

bruce stapley



Glenn Woods, Stouffville's walking encyclopedia of sports trivia, will move his Triple Play Sports Cards and Clothing store from the hidden environs of the Earl's Court plaza on Freel Lane to a higher traffic location at Stouffville Place Mall April 1.

Woods will take over the store between Card's Hardware and Stouffville Fish and Chips. Those who go back as far as the early to mid-1980's in Stouffville might remember that a certain Tribune sports correspondent was the original tenant of that store, peddling pine and oak furniture, and using the company typewriter to fire off letters to the Toronto Sun's 'The Fan Says' section.

Woods decided to make the move after it became obvious he just couldn't draw the heavy Saturday traffic into his Freel Lane spot any more.

With a Main St. location, he's confident he can attract sports buffs from Stouffville and from outside of town.

He plans to offer even more of what has made him a hot item to Stouffville's collectors of cards, collectibles, and trendy sports clothing. He'll install a big screen TV which will play old videos of sports legends such as Lou Gehrig and Hammerin' Hank Aaron.

He is looking to use the high walls in the new location to hang 16 by 10 blow ups of classic pictures taken of the Cincinnati Reds 'Big Red Machine' team of the early-1970's.

The pics were taken by one of Woods' many friends in the wide world of sport, a former Reds photographer.

As for what super athletes are attracting all the attention with their cards these days, Woods said Orlando Magic (NBA) rookie sensation Shaquille O'Neill has brought basketball cards back to the forefront. O'Neill is the first NBA player since Michael Jordan to start in the league's all star game in his rookie season.

In hockey, it's Alexander

Mogilny of the Buffalo Sabres, Temu Selanne of the Winnipeg Jets, and the Leafs' goaltending phenom Felix Potvin, who are in demand.

Sales of Blue Jays clothing "went crazy" after the Toronto team won the World Series last fall, says Woods.

"We sold 100's of t-shirts," he recalled.

"We went through 25 Blue Jays winter jackets in a week."

Woods anticipates the Blue Jay fever to accelerate once again come spring.

He plans to bring in quality Blue Jay clothing for kids, which has been missing in the market place up til now.

With the resurgence of the Toronto Maple Leafs, he has also noticed a huge interest in Leafs paraphernalia.

What else is hot?

Woods said the trend in professional sports team sports clothing that began with the Oakland Raiders (NFL) and was then picked up by the Chicago Bulls (NBA) has been carried on by teams like the San Jose Sharks (NHL).

The Charlotte Hornets, a recent NBA expansion team, have also been extremely successful in the sports clothing stores because of their nifty hornet logo.

All that's needed to guarantee a high level of continent-wide sales is vibrant colours and a catchy logo, he suggested. Woods just shakes his head when he thinks about how much money is being made on sports clothing by these professional sports teams.

Asked about the new Anaheim Mighty Ducks NHL franchise, he said he has a theory on the team, which is to take to the ice next season.

"I can't imagine a team being called the Mighty Ducks," he said.

"There's going to be a sequel to the Mighty Ducks movie where the kids are older and the team gets a new name.

That's what the NHL team will then be called. That's how Disney operates."

And it's hard to argue with a guy who called the Jays to win the World Series as early as last spring, stuck with the Maple Leafs through the hungry decades, and who still has a hockey card of Stouffville and ex-Maple Leaf Bob Hassard in his showcase.