

# Sports

## Merchants remain a strong force

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Correspondent

The Stouffville Merchants are back in business.

The local junior men's fastball team, which captured the Ontario junior crown in 1990 and '91 and placed second at last year's provincial tournament held in Stouffville, will remain virtually intact for the coming season.

The team's 1993 fate was decided when the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) voted to raise the junior age ceiling at its annual meeting last weekend in Markham.

The age for junior eligibility was raised from 21 to 22 for the current season, and will go up to 23 for the 1994 season. Also upped was the midget ceiling, which went from 18 to 19. The juvenile category was also reinstated and will include players 20 and under for the 1993 season, and 21 and under for 1994.

All other categories remained unaffected.

With many of last year's Merchants having reached the age of 21, coach Howard Burkholder's team would have lost its nucleus for the '93 campaign had the age not been brought in line with most of the other provinces in Canada.

"I would imagine we'll have the core of last year's team back now," said Burkholder. "But I'm not certain. Most of the players are still at university or elsewhere. However, we should have most of them signed within a week or so. I couldn't act until the age increase went through."

Burkholder confirmed that the team's pitching ace Byron Baranieski will be with the team once again. Burkholder's sons and team mainstays Chris and Rich will be returning, he said. His younger son Ryan may also be with the team.

"And I would think we'll have Darren Crawford, Keith Piette, Bill Pride and Rob Parcels back as well," he said. "And maybe Ryan McIntyre and Bob Speers. Jason Yoshida is still in Tasmania (where he has been playing ball all winter)."

Burkholder was hopeful Gary Yoshida and Bill McKnight would be back as coaches. Hubert Basilio, who backed Baranieski last season, has signed with the Oshawa Juniors. The Merchants' third pitcher, Rob Gray, is also being courted by Oshawa.

Burkholder suggested the team would have a hole to fill with both hurlers gone. "It could be a problem but I'm not too worried about it. We may use some of the guys we've already got. Chris (Burkholder) has done some pitching, and I hear Jason Yoshida has been pitching in Tasmania. And Darren Crawford could pitch as well."

Burkholder said the team would once again play in the Oshawa City and District Mens Fastball League. While not ideal, he said the league was the best available for the Merchants.

Another change brought about in the off season will see the top two teams in Ontario going to the national championships, which will include 16 squads this year.

"It's one year too late for us. We would have gone last year. Although the funding (from Softball Canada) won't be as much for the second team."

The Ontario Junior Eliminations are to be held in North Fredricksburg in July.

## Painters whitewash opposition

The Edwards Murphy Painting Bantam Clippers got out the whitewash to finish off their post season exhibition schedule last week.

The Clippers blanked Uxbridge twice, 6-0 and 7-0, before closing out the campaign with a 9-0 thumping of Markham.

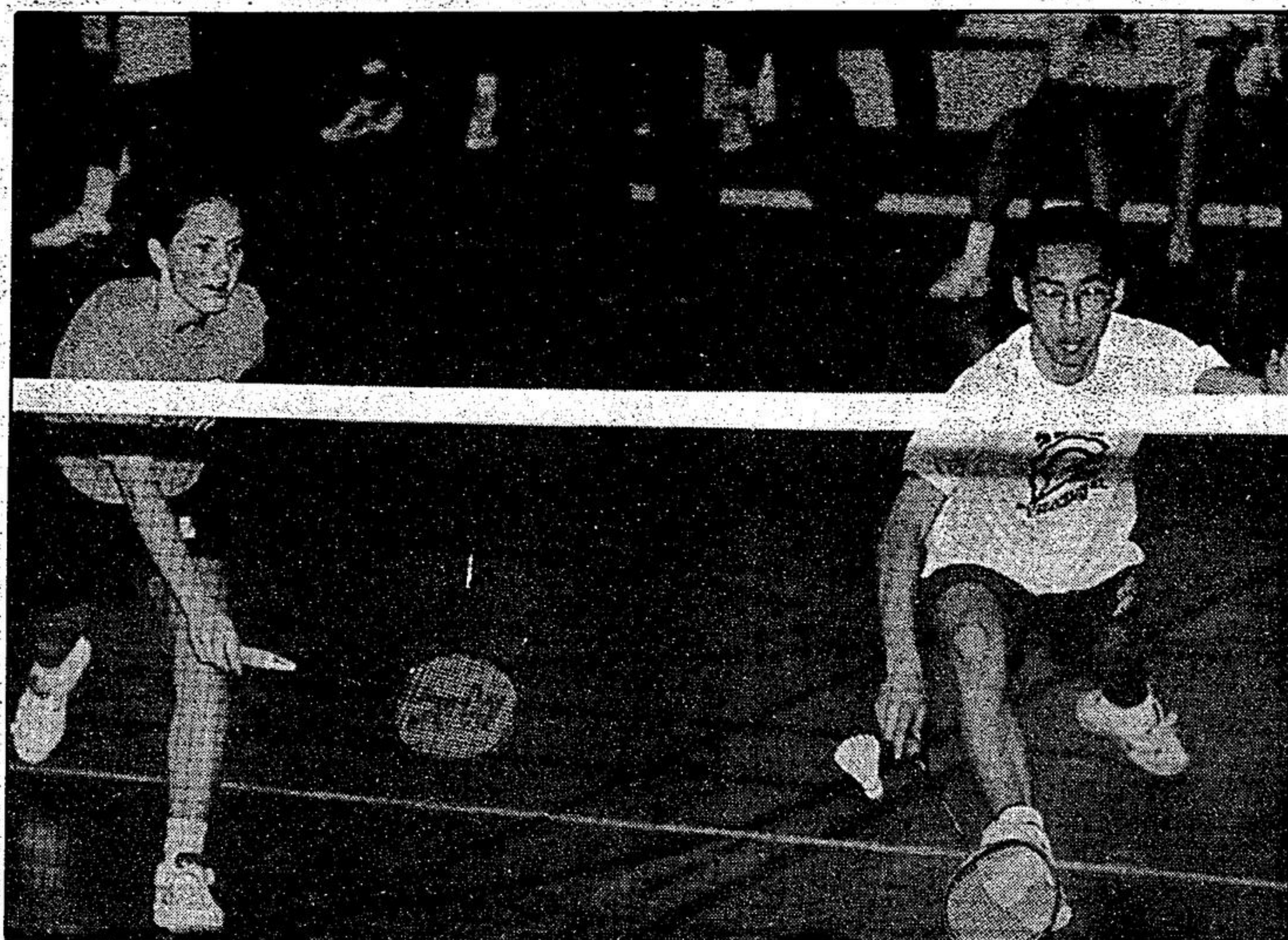
Goal tenders Brad Hackert and Evan Boyd shared the trio of shut outs.

Against Uxbridge, it was David Hutchison leading the points parade with two goals and four assists. John McKinnon had two goals and three helpers; Roger

McMann, Graham Crowder, and Peter Smith each had a goal and three set ups; Tim Smart scored twice and added an assist; Ian Ellis had a goal and an assist; Craig Wood picked up two goals; Steve Wilcox had two assists; Mike Underwood set up one score.

McKinnon scored twice against Markham, with single scores going to Hutchison, Underwood, Peter Smith, Lucas Anderson, Graham Crowder, and Don Wilkie.

The three wins enabled the Clippers to finish out the season with an overall record of 47-16-6.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Return to sender

Andrew Leung (right) of Stouffville District Secondary School makes an effort to return this shuttle to an Uxbridge opponent in a mixed pairs' tune-up match at Stouffville on Monday. Looking on is teammate Leanna Milos.

## Angie's peewees ice title

The Angie's Peewee girls' hockey team combined pin point execution with strong goaltending to sweep to victory over Mississauga in the recent North Metro League playoff championships.

The Stouffville girls prevailed 3-2 in the opener March 31, a close-checking affair at the Rec Centre.

But it was all Angie's in game two Saturday, a 5-1 Stouffville win in a match played in North York.

Deanne Hibbert, Gina King, and Morgan Dubkowski scored for Angie's in the first contest. Assists went to Kellie Cornell (2), King and Dubkowski.

Dawn Williamson and King each scored twice in game two, as Angie's dominated with passing and positional play. Cornell added the fifth Stouffville marker.

Hibbert picked up a pair of assists, with Sarah Abrahams, Lauren Clarkson, Williamson, King, and Cornell each setting up one goal.

## Spartans spike bronze at Guelph volleyball tourney

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan mixed volleyball team hung tough to pick up the bronze medal at the Guelph Invitational Co-ed Tournament last weekend.

The Stouffville squad placed second in its pool, advancing to the championship round.

The Spartans defeated Glenview Secondary School (Galt) in two straight games in the quarter finals.

But they dropped a closely contested semi-final match, taking the opener 15-8, before falling 15-13, 15-13.

In a one-game showdown for the bronze medal with Midland Secondary School, the Spartans emerged with a 15-13 win.

Stouffville's Brian Snooks was named to the tournament all-star team.

Chris Jackson, Nicole Ellis, Stacie Patten,

Leslie Palmer, Julia Johnstone, Tim Lavell, Jason Cowan, Kelly Sheridan, Kevin Cargill, Kevin Nicholls, and Marcus Milos also played well for the Spartans.

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A Stouffville District Secondary School boys' duo went all the way to the consolation finals at the York North Badminton finals Monday at Sutton District High School.

Lindsay Haylow and Jason Whitelaw showed good form throughout the tournament, finally losing but amid stiff competition in the boys' doubles event.

The Stouffville team of Chris Lightfoot and Nicole Bardell went as far as the semi-finals in the mixed doubles category.

In all, 16 Spartan students took part in the competition.

## Raiders to host slo-pitch tournament

The A and S Raiders will host their 11th annual Slo-Pitch Tournament at Stouffville's Memorial Park over the Victoria Day weekend.

Tournament organizers are still accepting applications from teams interested in participating.

The event is to consist of 12 C level teams, 16 Men's Recreational squads and 12 Mixed teams.

The C flight champs will take home \$600 in prize money, with the Men's Rec and Mixed victors each earning \$500. Prize money will be given to the top

four teams in each division.

The tournament is a qualifier for the Labatts provincial championships to be held in August at London, Ont.

For applications or further information, contact Paul Murray at 640-1074 or Gord Stowar at 640-2181.