

Sports

Junior Merchants Gamble and lose

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Correspondent

The face was familiar but the uniform had changed as Jim Chilvers returned to the pitching rubber at Memorial Park's main diamond Wednesday night.

Chilvers, the Stouffville resident who pitched the defunct Betz Pools men's fastball team to the provincial title in 1987, hurled two innings for the Greenbank Gamblers as the G-men hung on to edge the Stouffville Merchants juniors 3-2 in the local squad's frigid Oshawa and District Fastball League home opener.

For the hard throwing right hander, it was his first game with the Gamblers since joining the team this spring. He played for an Oshawa men's team last season.

Chilvers put the Merchants down in order in the first inning, then proved he could still handle the bat in the second when he sliced a wicked liner to right field which eluded Ryan MacIntyre and rolled to the fence for a home run.

But Merchant starting pitcher Byron Baranieski avenged Chilvers blow in the home half of the inning, as the lean hurler hammered a rare home run of his own to tie the score at 1-1.

Baranieski, who struck out two Gamblers after giving up a one out triple in the first, fell victim to some early season fielding miscues as the visitors plated a pair of runs in the third.

With Mark Goreski taking over on the pitching rubber for Chilvers in the third, the Merchants' bats fell silent until the sixth when Jason Yoshida legged out a

double. Jamie Showers, who has returned to the Stouffville squad after a stint at slo pitch, drove home Yoshida with his second single of the night.

Rob Parcells and newcomer Bob Ferguson of Uxbridge both reached base on infield errors to load the bases but the Merchants couldn't bring in the tying run.

In the Merchants' seventh, Goreski was as hot as the night was cold, striking out the side to end the game.

Darren Crawford was impressive pitching the final two innings for the Merchants giving up just one hit.

In their season opener in Oshawa Monday night, the 1992 All Ontario finalist Merchants were done in by an old nemesis and a former teammate as they fell 2-0 to the Oshawa juniors in eight innings.

Oshawa pitcher Phil Yah, who pitched the Juniors to victory in a best of three Junior A provincial playdown with the Merchants last August, showed he hadn't lost his mastery over the Merchants. Hubert Basilio, who played with the Merchants last year, decided the game with a two run homer in the eighth inning.

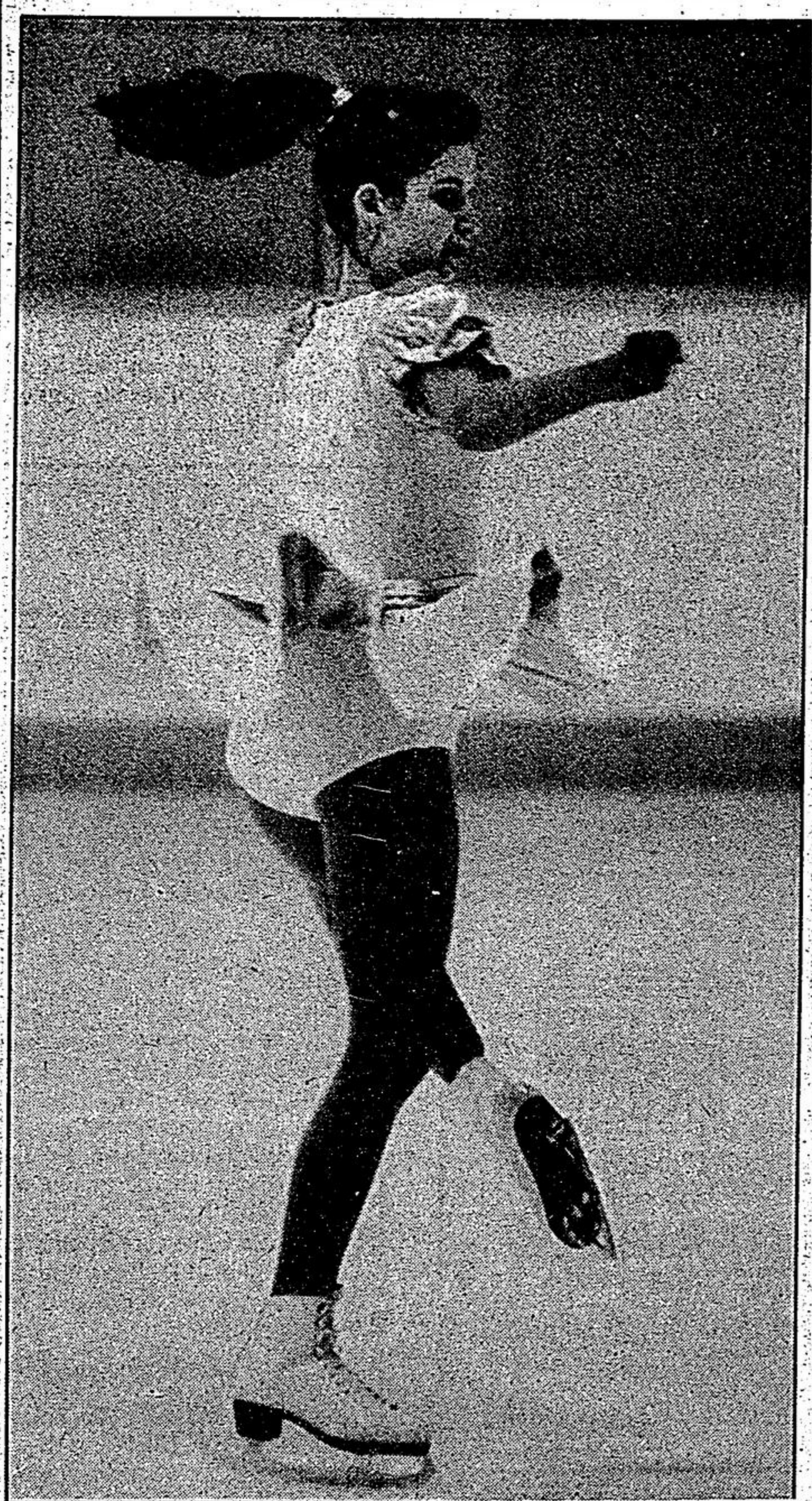
Baranieski had a no hitter through five innings, with Jason Yoshida pitching the last three frames for the Stouffville outfit.

Merchants coach Howard Burkholder said Wednesday his team was still a little rusty.

"We're still not there yet," said Burkholder.

"We've only had four practices. The Gamblers are a good ball club and we wanted to make a good showing against them but they scored three unearned runs. Our guys' heads were somewhere else."

The Merchants will try again Wednesday when they entertain the Oshawa Waltzing Weasels at 8:30 p.m.



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

An encore performance

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club conducted its annual season-ending open house at the Stouffville Rec Centre on Thursday. Here, club member Zoe Liadis gives a performance in senior bronze freeskating.

Stingers take a bite out of East Gwillimbury in season opener

The weather was cold but the Stouffville Stingers were hot as the town's intermediate ladies softball team trounced East Gwillimbury 20-6 in their season opener at the town park Thursday night.

The Stingers set the tone for the game when they struck for eight runs in the second inning, with veteran Lisa Arsenaault's bases loaded triple the key blow. Pam Evans' double also drove in a pair of runs.

Leanna Hughes socked a three run homer in the third as the Stouffville outfit put another seven runs on the board.

Stingers third baseman Sheila Fockler marked her return to the team by scoring four runs while contributing some key singles.

Linda Belisle stroked a triple and scored twice for Stouffville while Candy Brown, Hughes and Evans each scored three times.

Stingers pitcher Tammy Gorge held the East Gwillimbury bats in check for most of the game, while supporting her own cause with three runs scored.

Arsenaault chipped in two runs.

The Stingers are being coached by Marty Brown with Ted Lowery acting as team manager.

Gorge will be backed up on the pitching rubber by Brown and Fockler. Jen Gold, sister of former Stinger Deb Gold and Tammy Wray should add to the team's depth.

Big cash up for grabs in Raiders Slo-pitch event

A total of 40 teams from three divisions will take to the Memorial Park softball complex over the Victoria Day weekend for the 11th annual A&S Raiders Slo-pitch Tournament.

Twelve squads are to contest the \$600 Men's C flight first place prize money.

Out to defend their title are the Stouffville Buttermakers.

Also scheduled to compete in this division are the Bridlewood and Unionville Slugs outfit. Both of these entries were in the competition last year and placed in the top four.

A team from Rochester, NY is expected to round out the C group.

Sixteen teams are to chase after the \$500 Men's DD Recreational division top prize.

The Claremont Classics, the 1992 winners, will not defend their crown as they have moved up a division this season.

The tournament will also include a 12-team Mixed Recreational division.

A first-prize package of \$500 is up for grabs in this division.

It is also the first time for the co-ed class at the Raiders tournament.

The top four finishers in each division will each receive a cash prize, as well as qualifying for the Labatt's Provincials in London in late August.

The double knockout event is scheduled to begin May 21 in the evening.

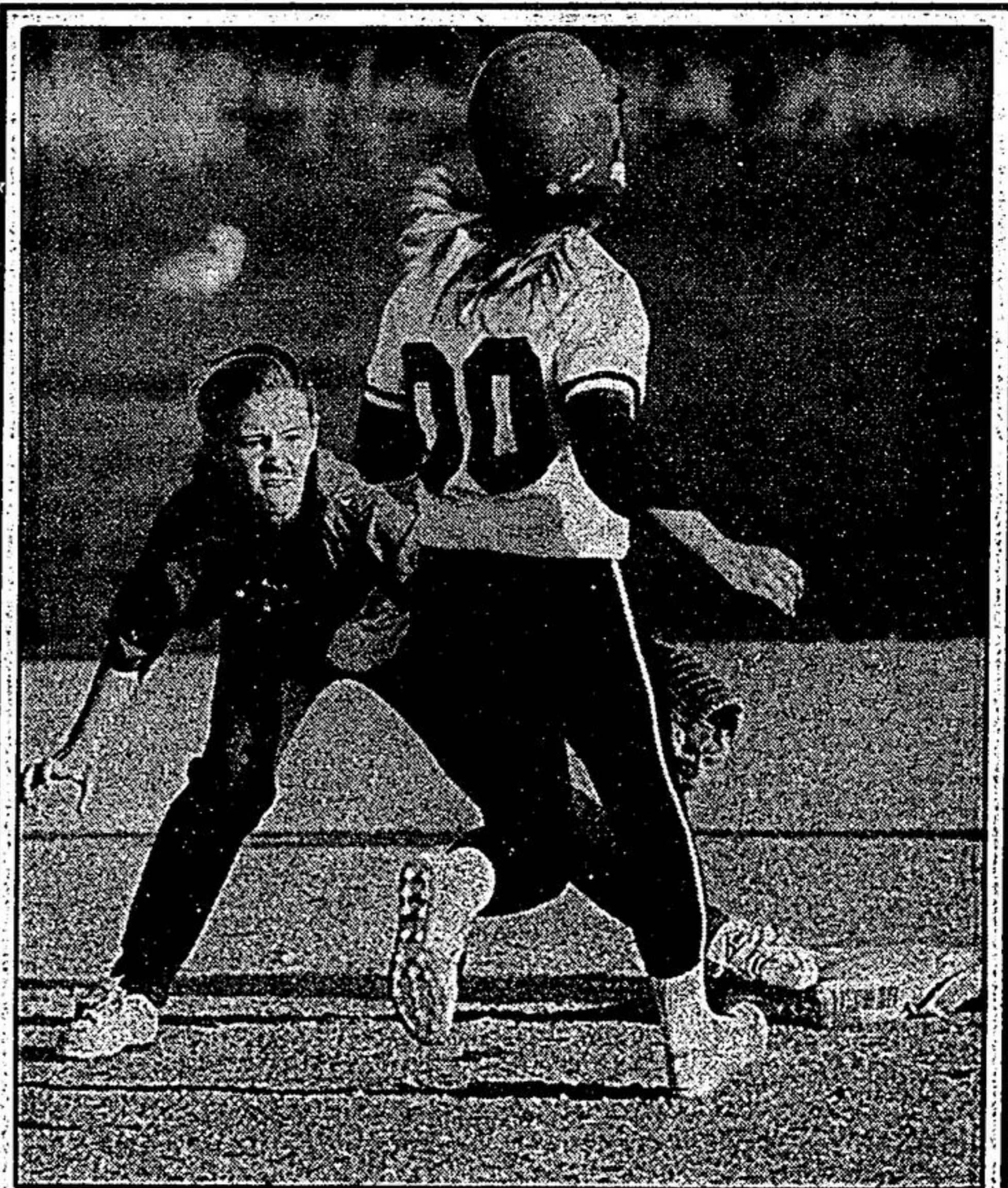
Contests will continue all day Saturday.

The championship contests will take place Sunday afternoon. The holiday Monday has been

designated as the rain date.

Free dances will be held Friday

and Saturday nights at Latcham Hall.



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Out at second

Stouffville shortstop Lianne McKay (left) tags out Markham Cougars' baserunner Danielle Amyotte at second base in a North York Girls' Softball League squirt exhibition contest at the Stouffville ball diamond on Tuesday. Stouffville won the contest 18-10.