

# stouffville sports

## Doner hopes to make the grade

When you picture an 18-year-old female English major attending York University, the last thing that would come to most people's mind is that such a young lady would want to spend her summers between the white lines of a baseball diamond.

But for Gormley's Lori Doner, there isn't any place she would rather go to wind down after sifting through the works of William Shakespeare and other literary heavyweights all school year long.

Lori has taken on the task of coaching the town's midget boys' softball team, bringing the team back after a one-year hiatus.

Granted, this year's crew is a far cry from the star-studded outfit Howard Burkholder entered in a junior league in hopes of preparing for the Ontario Midget Championships back in 1989.

There's no Byron Baranieski firing bullets from the pitching rubber. And this collection of bantam graduates and houseleague hopefuls, with the odd player with some genuine midget experience thrown in for good measure, is hardly expected to challenge for the provincial title.

But the team is off to a positive start, and the rookie rep level skipper is looking to have some fun during her summer holidays this year.

Lori is no stranger to the diamond.

She is a fourth-year carded umpire, who has just completed

### SPORT NOTES

bruce stapley



her level two coaching requirements. Her previous experience as a coach has come at the houseleague level, where she has worked with a few of the players on this year's Buttcon Ltd. midget squad.

Lori is also an instructor for Softball Ontario, helping that organization with its grass roots program designed to teach new coaches the mechanics involved with coaching kids.

Lori insists she isn't hampered by the fact that all her players are bigger than her, or that several of her charges are friends or at least acquaintances - not to mention the presence of her own brother, Paul, on the team roster.

She would rather talk about the enthusiasm shown by the players, the pitching and hitting of Jody Infurnari, and the hitting of Rino Dambrosio, who was a bantam houseleaguer under Lori's coaching last season.

All Rino did was sock four hits in the team's recent season-opening victory.

Lori's summer project can be seen Tuesday evenings at 8:30 at the Vandorf diamond. It looks like it's going to be an assignment which will net her top marks.

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Stouffville's Ken May, father of Buffalo Sabres player, Brad, is organizing this year's sixth annual Uxbridge Blackhawks Scramble golf tournament.

The event will be held on Saturday at the Fox Bridge Golf Course in Uxbridge.

May, a veteran Blackhawk, assured me Brad would be one of the 175 or so participants in the tournament, which is looking to raise about \$2,000 for the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and the renowned Uxbridge Swim Club.

The scramble format sees teams of four playing together, with only the best tee shot counting.

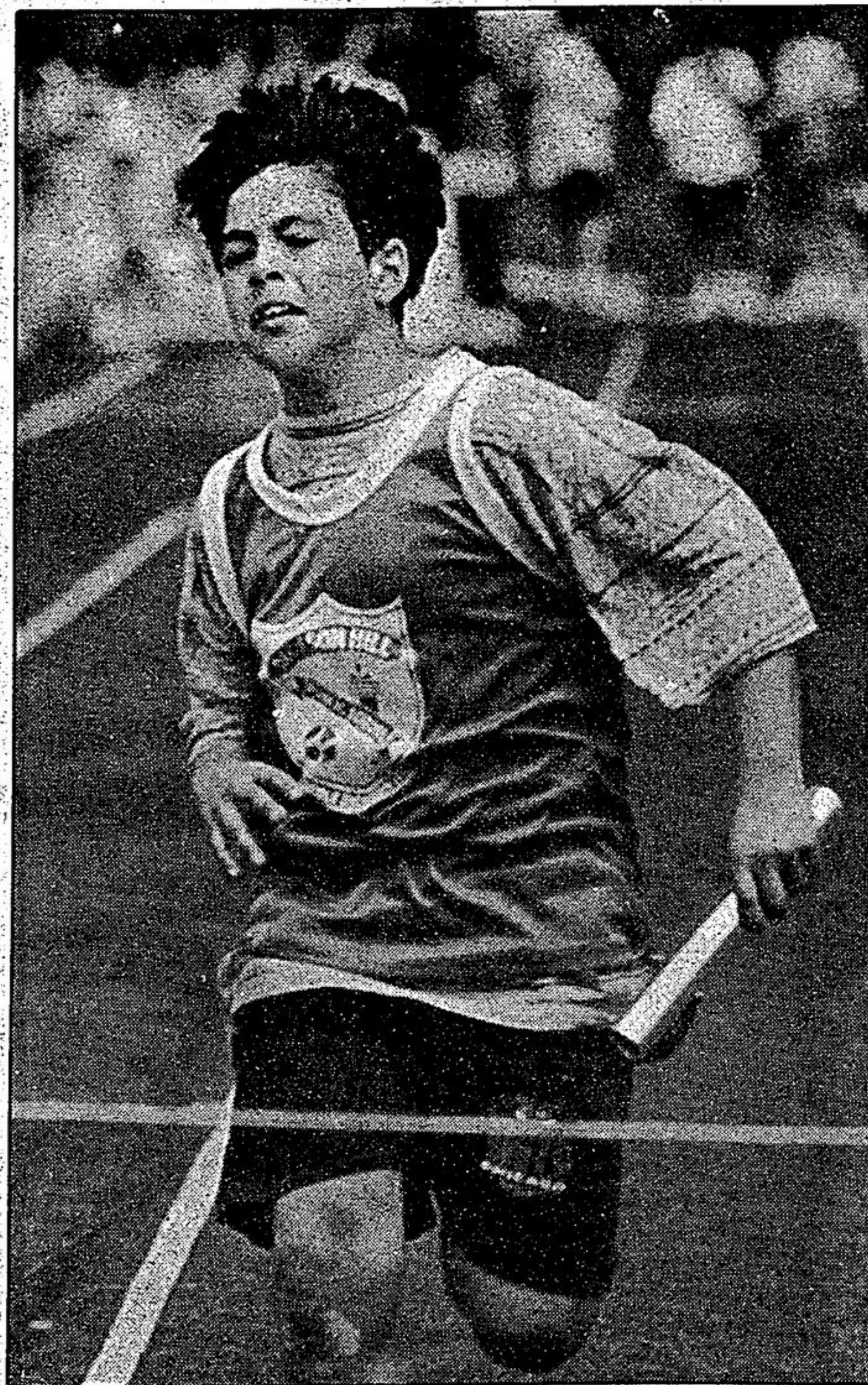
All four players then place their ball at the spot where the best blast landed, and they all flail away again, counting on in this fashion until the ball goes into the hole.

Ken told me it's not uncommon to end up with a score that's well under par using this team concept, where mulligans are the rule rather than the exception.

The event gets under way at 8:30 a.m., with both Fox Bridge courses to be utilized. It costs \$180 per team to enter (\$45 per person), with all golfers guaranteed a hat, a prize, and a steak dinner when they come in off the course.

There are still openings for teams and individuals.

Call Ken at 640-5119 (residence) or 642-2223 (business) to book your tee time.



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## And the winner is...

Mike Sousa of Dickson Hill Public School was first to cross the finish line in this heat of the 400-metre boys' event at the York Region Elementary Schools Relay Meet at the Stouffville Track Facility on Monday.

## Ice time shortage, higher rates dominate meetings

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Rising costs and inadequate ice time were the dominant issues as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association held its annual meeting at the Rec Centre Lounge on Wednesday.

With a sparse crowd on hand that included Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld, the six association executive members present fielded questions relating to the organization's rep program, scheduling priorities, houseleague player ratings, and sponsor exposure.

The audience was told that the association was being hemmed in by increasing registration accompanied by ice rental rates which went up by \$38,000 in the season just completed.

The rental fees will rise from \$88,220 for the 1992-93 season to as much as \$120,000 for the 1993-94 campaign, predicted association president Wally Crowder. The current rental rate is \$85.60 per hour, including GST, said Crowder.

The association's Ontario Minor Hockey Association convenor, Gary Hutchison, said the shortage of ice time was reaching a crisis situation. The association was granted 38 hours a week during the past season, but with increased registration expected for the 1993-94 season, there is a danger players will have to be refused.

"We had 500 kids this past season, even though we

only have the facilities for 450," said Hutchison. "We will probably have 580 next season."

Hutchison said the association was being approached by players who have been turned down by the neighboring minor hockey associations they have been playing with in recent years. His people have considered all the options and have concluded their backs are against the wall.

"There's just no where to go. We've got all the early and late hours. We don't want to turn people down."

Several in attendance suggested the answer lay in convincing men's hockey groups to play late at night.

Dunkeld insisted the situation could only be resolved by building a second ice pad.

"I've been pushing for a second pad for years," said Dunkeld, who said the pad could be built as a part of the current facility for under \$1 million. A massive fund-raising campaign could be undertaken at no cost to the tax payer, he suggested.

"It would pay for itself."

Dunkeld said the town recreation plan did not call for a second pad until after the turn of the century, even though it could be proven the second surface was justified now, with out of town interests anxious to buy up any unused hours.

When Crowder expressed reservations about a second pad solving the problem due to the association's

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## Merchants get Weaseled

Pop goes the weasel.

That was the line being uttered at the town park last Wednesday as the visiting Oshawa Waltzing Weasel took advantage of some uncertain Stouffville Merchants' fielding to dance off with an 8-0 win in an Oshawa City and District Fastball League contest.

The short-staffed Merchants, who were forced to play several players at unfamiliar positions, were unable to rally behind pitcher Byron Baranieski, who didn't give up a single earned run.

Meanwhile, the Stouffville bats were as cold as the frigid night air, leaving runners in scoring position on several occasions.

Rob Parcells managed a triple and single for the Merchants, while Bill Pride had a pair of singles.

Merchants coach Howard Burkholder came to Baranieski's rescue, pitching the final two innings. Burkholder said it was a matter of keeping his ace hurler fresh for future games.

"Byron had pitched for the Markham Mennos on Monday, and he was scheduled to pitch in Port Perry Thursday, so I just thought it would be better to save him."

Burkholder, while showing concern for his team's early-season defensive woes, was optimistic things would come together by the end of the month.

"Our defence is usually our strong point, but it hasn't been so far this season," he said. "But we started late this season, and the boys are just getting out of school and into their jobs so our heads aren't really into ball yet. But we're going to an intermediate/junior tournament in Kemptonville next weekend (May 29 and 30), and that should give us a chance to get it together."

"I'm still positive," added Burkholder. "Once we get everybody out, and get our heads into it, we should be okay."

Burkholder said he was still looking for another pitcher to back up Baranieski, Darren Crawford and Jason Yoshida.