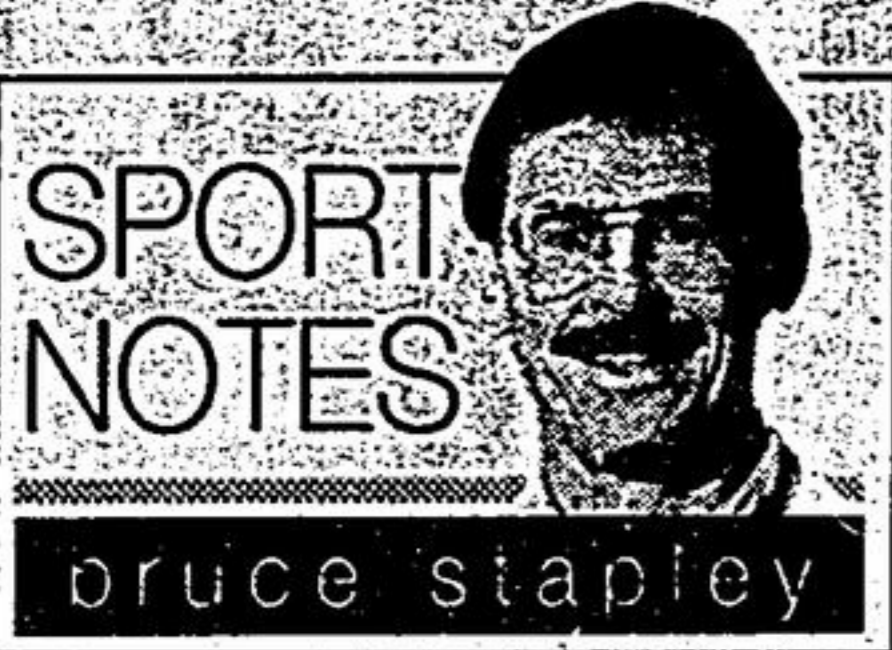


Stouffville sports

Local runners make their mark



SPORT NOTES

bruce stapley

The professionals from Stouffville went down to Syracuse, New York to teach their counterparts from south of the border a lesson in road running two Sundays ago.

And when Dave Reed and Fred Robbins finally left town, they made an impression that went far beyond frantic Fred's bellowing of "Stouffville! Stouffville!" as Dave's course record-breaking victory in the USATFA Northeastern United States five-kilometre race was being proclaimed to the crowd.

For Dave, the Musselman Lake resident who has been without a cartilage in one of his knees since he was 21 years of age, the triumph was further proof that life begins at 40.

Having reached the four decade milestone this past Sept. 3, he has wasted no time in making his mark on both sides of the border in the masters running class, which includes runners 40 years of age and over.

On Sept. 17, he won the OMTFA 5K Road Championship in Toronto's Sunnybrook Park with a blistering time of 15 minutes and 22 seconds.

And while his time in the Syracuse event was 20 seconds off the Sunnybrook pace due to blustering winds, it was still a good seven seconds better than the previous course record.

Dave even managed to finish one second ahead of the top-seeded American master runner at the same time!

Meanwhile, Fred, who is more accustomed to a longer distance, came charging in nine seconds after his fellow Stouffville Track and Field Club member.

But he saved enough energy to boldly cry out the proper pronunciation of his teammate's home town as it was being announced to an obviously bewildered throng after Dave had rewritten the course record book.

Because he was a Canadian runner, Dave was not eligible

for the prizes put forth because they were awarded to the top finishing American runners.

But Dave couldn't have cared less. He got what he wanted, and then some.

The bottom line is that Dave and Fred, who serve as a coach-trainer-runner tandem with the Stouffville club, have served noticed to the Americans that club members will be a force to be reckoned with at the World Masters Track and Field Championships in Buffalo, New York, next summer.

In fact, if the dynamic duo continue to improve the way they have in the past few years, they may have put even more distance between themselves and their masters opponents by the time the global classic occurs.

For Fred, who joins his buddy in the masters division when he turns 40 this week, visions of victory like the ones Dave achieved recently are dancing in his head.

The time to go for the gold is now, said Dave, as the two men are among the youngest of the masters runners.

Dave, who was on cloud nine when he happened by the other day, said it's a case of absolute commitment to a goal.

Along with Fred, who still holds a high school running record at King City High School, the pair are determined to run as fast or faster than they did in their illustrious high school careers.

As Dave said, they are "trying to show that exercise is for life, and everyone should have lifetime goals of some sort."

Dave, who has 25 years of track club experience, is convinced that anyone who chooses to join either the Stouffville Track Club or Stouffville District Secondary School cross-country team, which Fred helps coach, is taking advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime in terms of exposure to top quality coaching.

There's nothing like a couple of fired up, goal-oriented role models to inspire a youth or an adult to new heights.

Only in Stouffville you say? If you're from Syracuse, you'd be inclined to respond by simply saying, "pity!"



Having a field day

Stouffville District Secondary's Lori Gincoulos (right), tries to take the ball away from Unionville High School's Christine Dorey during action in a recent York Region

Secondary Schools Athletic Association girls' field hockey game at Unionville High School. The final outcome ended in a 0-0 draw.

PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Spartans looking to spike it rich again this season

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

It's a familiar climb for the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball team.

The Spartans, who are looking to qualify for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association finals for the eighth straight year, dropped their regular season match with their most serious challenger, Sutton District High School last Tuesday at Stouffville District Secondary School.

But for veteran Spartans coach Jim Fletcher, that's no reason to worry.

Last season, the Sutton squad outscored the Spartans all season, and came within an ace of dethroning Stouffville District Secondary School. Sutton won the York Region Secondary Schools Athletic Association title.

But the Spartans, who were in a rebuilding year, peaked in time to win the all important Durham York Secondary Schools Athletic Association title.

With DYSSAA now a thing of the past, the focus is now on the YRSSAA showdown on Nov. 15. Fletcher sees this year's team as being right on track.

"They're going great guns," he said recently. "They're coming together, they've jelled. They have great enthusiasm, their spirit is terrific."

Fletcher refuses to put much stock in early season league games, where his team is up against other AA rated squads. He prefers to use as an indicator his team's performance at tournaments involving higher ranked AAA teams. At one such tournament played at Durham College on Oct. 1, he liked what he saw.

"They started slowly, but then became aggressive," said Fletcher.

The Spartans won five of eight games played in pool play, but failed to advance. East

Cobourg Secondary School, with whom the Spartans split a two-game set, got the nod because they scored more points in the two matches.

Fletcher said the 1994 Spartans are a different outfit than last year's unit.

"We lost Jamie Sheridan, who was our setter last year. But we've got some great role players this year."

Fletcher pointed to team captain Mike Green as an ideal example for the other players to follow. He also praised the work of Don Patten, Matt Brillinger, Jason Whitelaw, Shawn Seargeant, Kevin Morreau and Ryan Burkholder.

The Spartans, who have Nov. 25-26, the date of the OFSAA championships in Madoc, firmly imprinted in their minds, will go as far as their desire and their ability to play together as a team takes them, Fletcher suggested.

And if team work and attitude count for anything, he thinks his Spartans have more than a fighting chance.

RUNNERS IN FINE FORM

The Stouffville District Secondary School cross country team got a taste of what they'll be up against in the York Region finals as they travelled to Kitchener for the Oktoberfest Invitational Meet last Wednesday.

Sarah Cliff was the top individual runner, finishing fifth in the senior girls' event.

Chris Weatherill and Luke Anderson were 28th and 33rd respectively in the junior boys' event and helped the team to an 11th-place effort.

Ian Hazelwood was 19th in the midget boys' race, while Doug Richardson was 43rd.

Maran Lougheed was 38th in the junior girls' category.

Allison MacDonald, Katie Scorrar and Julie Gribbon had impressive results in the 225-runner midget girls' field.

