

Sports



Steady now

In an effort to gain some extra distance on this long jump attempt, Travis Barker tries his best to put all of his weight forward during a recent track and field meet conducted at Ballantrae Public School. In the end, Barker's attempt at gaining every last inch came up short as he lost his balance.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Rebels to ride the arm of Evans this season

SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

Fastball fans in this area are in for a treat this spring and summer as they get the chance to see the young man who established himself in recent years as Canada's top junior fastball pitcher.

Scott Evans has returned from a four-year western crusade to pitch for the Claremont Rebels, who will move from the North Durham Men's Fastball League to the North York Fastball League now that Evans has arrived.

The dominating power throwing right hander was unhittable as he led the Alberta provincial champion Lloydminster Liners to consecutive Canadian Junior Men's Fastball championships in 1992 and '93. He was named tournament MVP at both national finals, throwing shutouts in the deciding games each year.

Evans made a name for himself locally when he came up through the Stouffville minor ball system. He pitched and slugged the Stouffville bantams to the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) championships in 1987, then teamed up with Bryon Baranieski to pitch the Stouffville Merchants to their first of two consecutive OASA junior crowns in 1990. Evans went west and helped the Saskatoon Magic to the Saskatchewan title in 1991, then faced his former Stouffville teammates as the Merchants finished third at the nationals in Newfoundland.

The Magic finished out of the running. Evans signed on with the Liners in 1992 and almost got to play against the Merchants again when the Stouffville team came within a hair of three-peating as Ontario junior champs.

Evans played for a men's team in Washington State last season.

But he decided to come back east this year and is splitting his time between the Rebels and a team from Midland Michigan, which plays in the American Softball Association. Evans, who lives with his family in Pefferlaw, will be playing for the Rebels during the week, then making the trip across the border for weekend games.

With the arrival of Evans, the Rebels were ordered out of the North Durham league, says coach Frank Hendry.

The Rebels, who won the North Durham loop's consolation championship last season, made an impressive debut in the North York league when they posted a convincing 7-1 win over the North York Knights on the road May 16.

Evans was in mid-season form, striking out 19 as he twirled a two-hitter.

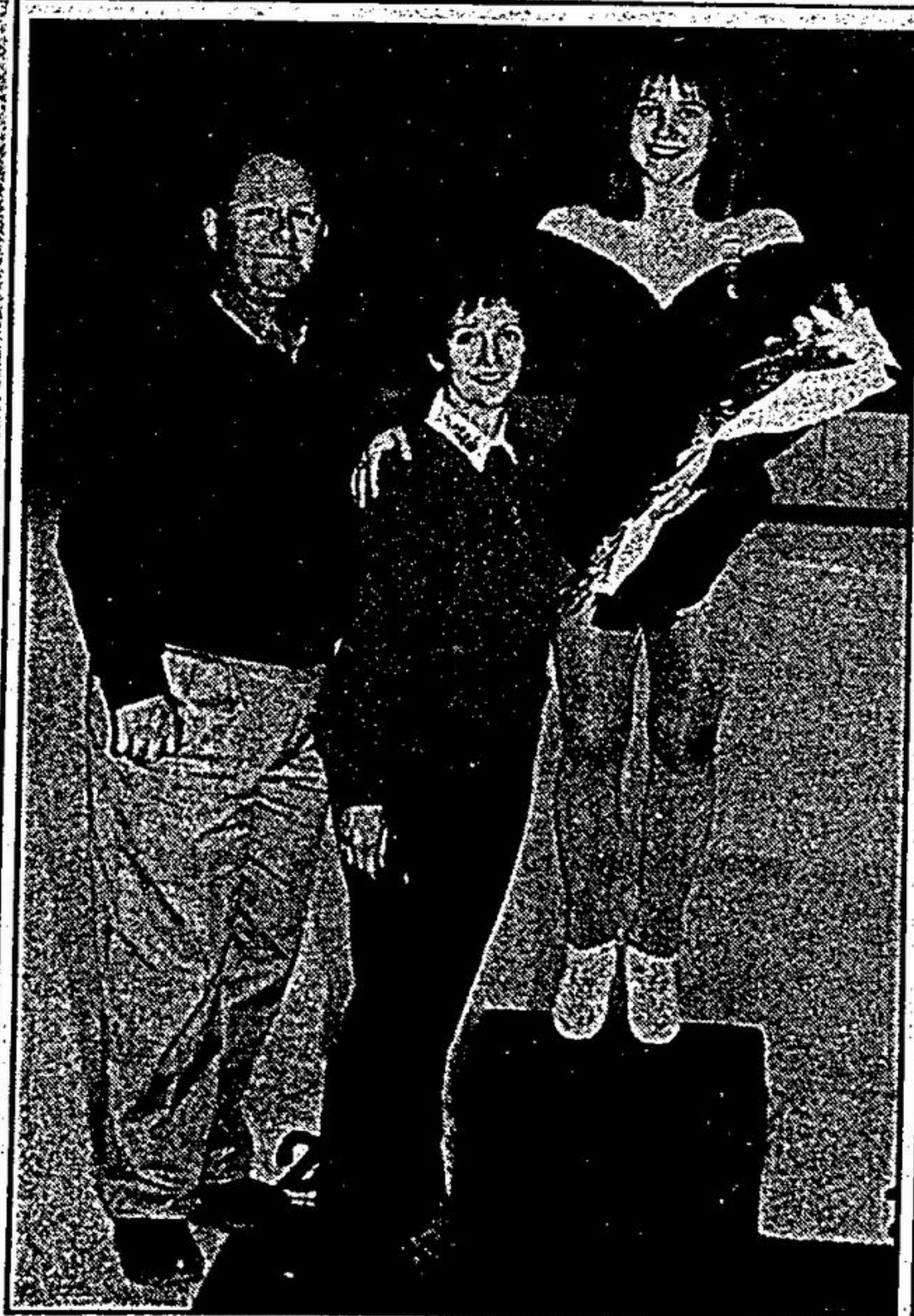
The only run against him came in the first inning and was unearned, as he was forced to strike out four batters because one of his third strikes was too hot for his catcher to handle.

Evans has been reunited with several of his old Merchants mates with the Rebels. Claremont's Jason Yoshida, along with former Uxbridge Bruin Jamie Showers and Stouffville's Rob Parcells, all go back a few years together in Stouffville.

Also on the roster are Bruins current assistant coach Tim Evans and former Bruins goalie Brian Harnden. Claremont's Rob Watson is a member as well, as is his brother Tom of Scarborough.

The Watsons are just one of three brother tandems with the Rebels. Dave and Dale Jones are on the squad and Tim Evans' brother Brad is there as well. The lineup is rounded out by Jim Closs, Jim Peddie and Derek Clausen.

Sylvia Ryan is team manager. The team's major sponsors are Williamson Motors and the Claremont Legion.



A golden moment

Stouffville Figure Skating Club coaches Hans Ahlgren (far left), and Judy Ahlgren pose with skater Jennifer Selwyn, who recently earned her gold award.

Photo/CHERYL JOHNSON

The Watson brothers are also spending their weekend south of the border, as they are playing for Boston's American Softball Association entry. In the Rebel's recent opener against the Knights, the Watsons supplied the bulk of the offence as Tom banged out three hits and Rob chipped in with a pair of safeties. Tim Evans contributed a two run double.

The Rebels will be playing the bulk of their home games Wednesday nights at 8:30 at the park in Claremont.