

# Sports

## French has a ball on the diamond

SPORT NOTES



When Mark French returns to the ball diamond next spring, he's going to have a gigantic mountain to climb in terms of topping what he accomplished this season.

The 13-year-old Stouffville resident and son of Bob French, the well known softball coach and umpire, has picked himself up a reputation in softball circles as far away as the Atlantic provinces. His talents were evident during the season in league play, at the provincial and Eastern Canadian levels. When it all wound down, he had the hardware to prove it.

French, who has an Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) championship to his credit while playing in Stouffville, opted to play with the Richmond Hill A pee-wee rep team this season along with Stouffville players David Anthony, Andrew Eagar and Ian McDougall. The Richmond Hill squad, which was coached by Bob French, experienced great success during the regular season in league play.

With French pitching two shutout victories, the team placed third in the OASA Pee-wee Eliminations in Kemptonville in July.

French was then picked up by the championship

team from Waterford to accompany them to the Eastern Canadian Pee-wee Fastball Championships in Enfield, N.S. the last weekend in August.

In Nova Scotia, all French did was pick up three wins, as well as the batting trophy with an incredible .700 average, as the Waterford crew won the silver medal, losing out to Ontario's other entry in the 12-team competition. He was named Most Valuable Player for his all round play and needless to say, was one of nine players out of the 180 participating to be chosen to the tournament all star team.

In game one, French knocked in both his team's runs with a double as they edged Prince Edward Island 2-1. He came in to hold the opposition hitless over the final five innings as his team overcame a 5-1 deficit to down the Nova Scotia-1 team 6-5 in game two. In game three against New Brunswick 2, he took to the pitching rubber in the fourth with his team trailing 6-0, but surrendered only two hits in four innings as Waterford came back to win 19-6. He also banged out a triple, a double and a single.

With the round robin completed, each team faced the prospect of elimination in the single knockout playoff round. The first playoff contest saw French's team mercy Newfoundland 9-0. In game five, he pitched four innings of two-hit ball in

another mercy-shortened affair, a 12-0 win over Nova Scotia 2.

French played third base in his team's 19-1 romp over New Brunswick 2 in the next match, which qualified them for the championship tilt. French was brought in to pitch with his team trailing 3-0 in the big one and while he allowed only two hits the rest of the way, the damage had been done as the score remained the same.

### TOURNAMENT DAY

Close to 170 seasoned hacks will take to the diamonds at the town park today for the annual Monday Night Men's Lob Pitch League finals. This is a must for people who get tired of all the rah rah, win at all costs, dump on the umps stuff which often occurs in other ball leagues. Even for the championship tournament, there are no umpires in this league. It's just like when you were a kid playing work ups when outs and safes were decided by the pitcher and the catcher.

The league, which has been in operation in Stouffville since the mid 1970s, is a shining example of what can happen when adults decide that just to be on the field is the important thing.

Sure, you get the occasional bit of tension and players have been known to express frustration at their own shortcomings. But it's a delight to play in the league and a fun, fast moving spectacle to watch.

See you at the park.



### Arriving safely

Ashlane Farms base runner Kaitlyn Smith (right) makes a safe arrival at second base as Kaitlyn Wild receives a relay throw during action in last weekend's Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association house league play-offs at the town park diamond.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Squirts settle for second in tourney

Claremont Barkey's Auction squirt boys team won four of its six games played to take the silver medal at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA) season ending tournament at the Stouffville town park Sept. 9 to 10.

The Barkey bunch were finally stopped 13-12 by Vandorf in the championship final.

Strong hitting efforts came from the bats of Adam Tran (double, single), Danny Wilk, Mike Lehman, Levi Barkey, Josh Wiles, Chris Bennett and Adam Kelly (singles).

The team started off with a 12-4 win over A&S Construction,

Mark Carruthers tripled, with Chris Carruthers banging a double.

Wiles had a triple and double and Wilk singled, to key a 5-4 win over Betz Pools in game two.

In their third outing, the Claremont crew bounced Tim Horton's 13-2 with triples coming from Barkey and Wiles.

Bennet contributed with a double.

Claremont fell 13-4 to Vandorf in game four, but bounced back to down Betz Pools 8-2 in their fifth outing as Chris Carruthers homered and Tran tripled.

The win put Claremont in the final against Vandorf.

## Porter cycles his way to the top of the mountain

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Terry Porter is out to get the wheels turning in Stouffville.

The 38-year-old area resident is an avid outdoors enthusiast with a keen interest in mountain biking. While he has experienced considerable competitive success on an individual basis since taking up the sport 14 years ago, he is just as dedicated to drawing others to the

trails.

Porter's credentials as an advocate for this growing recreation and fitness activity are impressive. He has competed in numerous Ontario Cup and Canada Cup series events, and was second in the veterans 35 and over class at the annual Canada Cup event this year.

As part of a team that included Jon Barnes and Jube Leonard of Stouffville, and Rob Clements and Ian Montford of

Markham, Porter placed second at the recent second annual 1995 Gatorade "24 Hours of Indigo" mountain bike competition.

Porter's squad was one of 149 teams that took part in the event, which included 777 riders. The team, called Boyd's Nite Riders, was named after Porter's employer, Boyd's Source for Sports in Stouffville. Assembled just weeks before the race, the Nite Riders com-

pleted 320 kilometres in 24 hours and 13 minutes in what turned out to be the Woodstock of mountain biking.

The team competed without Porter at the provincial championships at Beaver Valley over the Labour Day weekend, with Barnes placing second in the senior 19-26 age category.

Leonard recently won the overall 26-35 age group title in the Ontario Challenge Race Series, winning two of the four

trails in the series.

The Nite Riders plan to hit the trails again for a 12-hour team event to be held Oct. 28 at Cedar Grove.

Along with his wife Loren, Porter has been running a competitive-social mountain biking series on Tuesday nights for several years at the Cedar Grove site, which is located off Reesor Rd. south of Hwy. 7. The weekly outing routinely

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