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Sports

Robbins recalls the good old sporting days

SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

Fred Robbins brought back memories of local sports heroes of eras gone by at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society's Sportsmen and Champions evening held recently at the Parkview Village Auditorium.

Fred spent countless hours sifting through old Tribunes, books on local history, and records before presenting his findings to the small gathering. He extolled the multi-sport dexterity of the likes of Earl Cook, the "Lemonville Farmer" who played pro ball as well as playing hockey in the local "Bush League."

Fred also dug up information on a Stouffville checkers player named Fleming who held the Canadian championship for 22 years in the late 1800s.

He spoke of the town's first indoor arena on the site of what is now Main Street's Silver Jubilee Club, and how a natural ice curling facility was set up there to help Stouffville defeat their Markham rivals.

Fred recalled how another Stouffville resident played national level lacrosse for teams in Vancouver and Toronto in the 1890s.

He unearthed a program from the first ever Stouffville Clippers hockey team in 1948-49, and even found an original Clippers blue on blue jersey.

The hockey shirt, which belongs to one-time prominent Stouffville athlete Les Clarke, had a discernable 'M' behind the crest. "Les said they got a deal on the sweaters," Fred explained. "They were originally made for St. Mike's hockey team."

Fred related how William Lyon Mackenzie King came to town to present the Stouffville lawn bowling team with a championship trophy donated by King himself back in 1923.

He also recalled the ultimate victory parade where a Stouffville team which had just won a provincial championship on the

road was given the traditional fire truck ride up Main St. upon returning to town in the middle of the night back in 1971, courtesy of then-Tribune editor Jim Thomas.

JUMPING FOR JOY

Stouffville District Secondary School holds its second annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser at the school on April 10. Students have been out pounding the pavement in search of pledges for the event, which raised \$5,500 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation last year. Students who come up with a minimum of \$20 in pledges can take part. Participants will be skipping rope from 1-3:30 p.m. in the school gym. Hats off to phys ed teacher Jim Fletcher, he has the perfect attendance record, for organizing the event.

TITLES ON THE LINE

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association houseleague program will hold its championship day on April 12. The action gets under way with the Hockey School and Tyke season finales from 8 a.m. through noon. The novice, atom, pee wee and bantam/midget finals follow.

The action continues with the Challenge Cup pitting the Stouffville All-Ontario Clippers against the Uxbridge Bruins Alumni at 7 p.m. that same night.

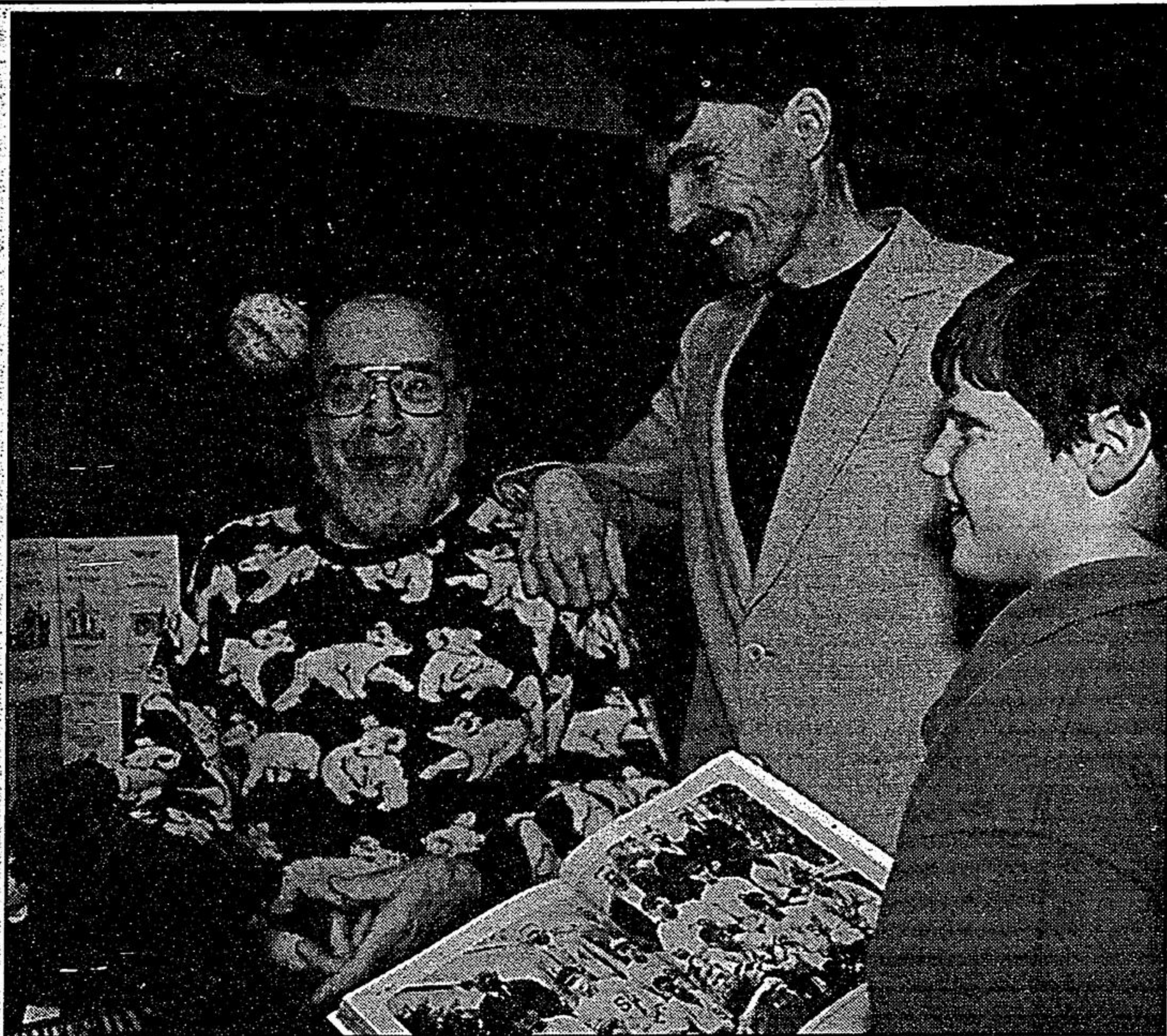
The Clippers will be out to make it five wins in a row. Once again all funds raised at the game go to the Children's Wish Foundation in memory of Dan McNeil.

KAVLUK ON THE RUN

Kim Kavluk has been racking up some impressive results as he prepares to take another crack at the Boston Marathon April 21. He was 18th overall out of 700 runners, and second in the masters 40 and over class, at the Peterborough half marathon Feb. 23, with a time of 1:19:56.

Two weeks later he placed 13th in a 600 runner field at the Grimsby half marathon, where he was the third place master, with a time of 1:19:36. He's nothing if not consistent. At the Burlington 10 Miler March 28, he was 15th out of 700 runners, and third in the master group, with a time of 59:25.

Go for it in Boston Kim!



Reminiscing about past glories

Three generations of sports aficionados including (from far left) Tom Huntley shows his son Fred Robbins and grandson John the glove that he used some 50 years ago when he was a youngster at the recent Historic Sports Evening hosted by Fred Robbins and the Stouffville Historical Society at Parkview Auditorium.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Clippers, Bruins to renew battle in Challenge Cup

The Uxbridge Bruins Alumni will be looking for their first ever Challenge Cup victory in five tries as they take on the Stouffville All Ontario Clippers April 12 at the Rec Centre in Stouffville.

The contest, played in memory of former Bruin and Clipper Dan McNeil, will see players from Bruins teams of years gone by face off against members of Clippers teams that won OMHA championships over the past two decades.

The Bruins lineup is to include Jason Underwood, Tim Evans, Paul Trentadue, Darron Baston, Greg Cook and Jamie Showers.

Wearing Clippers colors will be Ryan Burkholder, Graham Crowder, Brad Hackert and John McKinnon from the 1991-92 OMHA and OHF champion bantam Clippers. Organizers are hoping Jason Reesor, who was captain of the 1991-92 titlists, will also be in the Clippers lineup. Reesor was a member of the Guelph Gryphons team which recently cap-

tured the Canadian university hockey crown. The Bruins will be coached by Jack White, with Bob McKinnon behind the Clippers bench.

There will be door prizes and draws for merchandise including prop sports memorabilia.

Game time is 7 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$3 for students.

Proceeds from the event once again go to the Children's Wish Foundation in McNeil's memory. To date, the game has raised over \$8,000 for that organization.

Association to host ball skills clinic

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Baseball Association (WSBA) is offering a spring skills clinic at the Green Acres Day Camp on Kennedy Rd., south of Stouffville Rd.

The clinic, which was a success in its inaugural debut last year, is to run once a week beginning in mid-April. Sam Dempster, who runs the baseball program at the camp, will once again preside over the five-week program.

Dempster is a scout with the World Series champion New York Yankees baseball club, and also run the annual Best Ever Clinic in Toronto. He will be helped out at the clinic by college level baseball players.

The clinic, which is to be held indoors in the Green Acres gym, will centre around basic skills relating to fielding, catching, batting and pitching. It is open to male and female players from five through 14 years of age.

Enrolment is limited to 20 players. The cost is \$105, with registration forms available at Stouffville Travel, or by calling 649-3718.