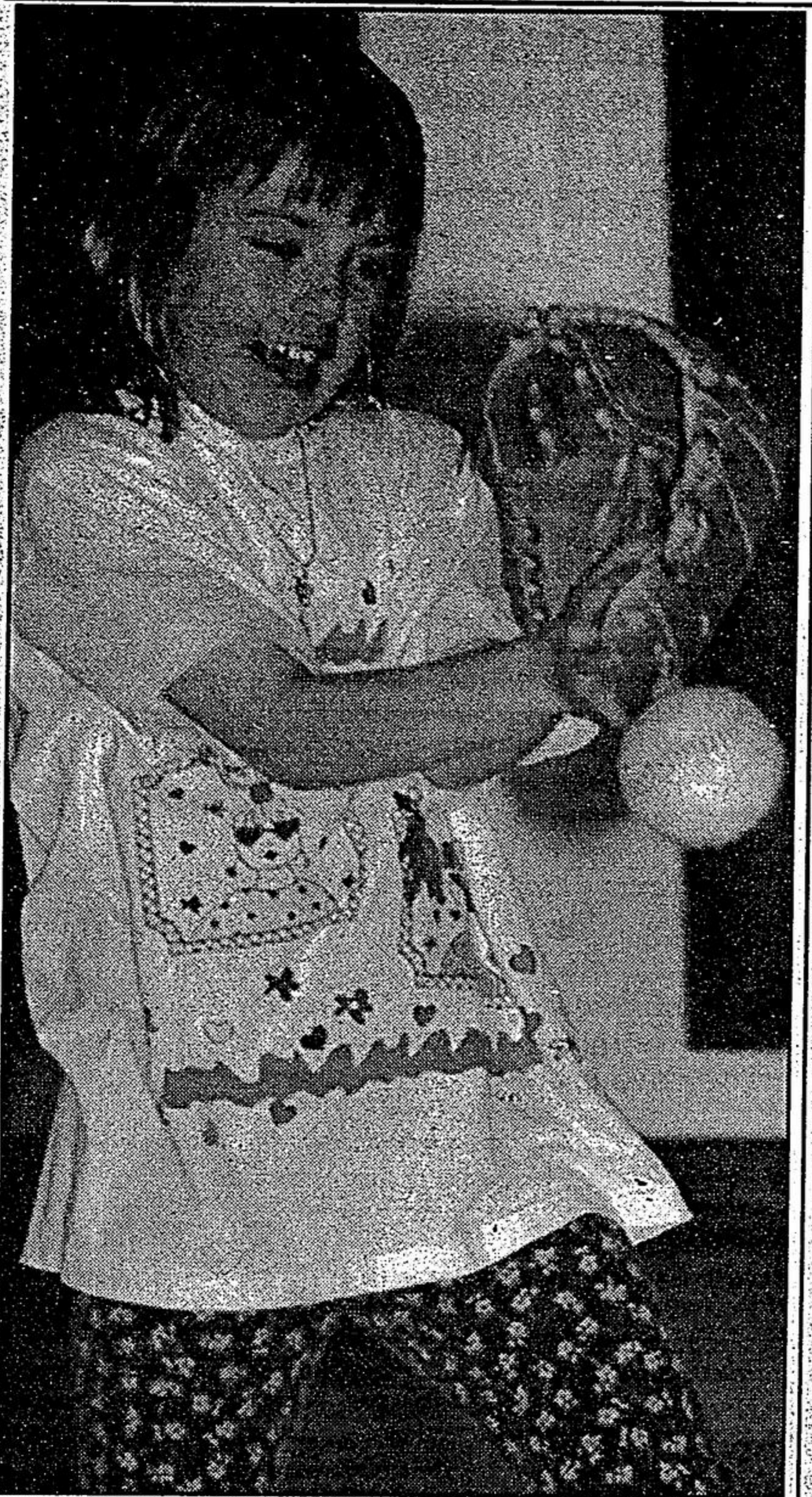


The Works
 Fitness & Aerobics Centre
 190 Bullock Drive • (905)471-7871

Sports



Practice makes perfect

Although the weather outside is still a little on the cool side to be playing baseball, some mite-aged girls have been diligently preparing for the upcoming campaign by partaking in an indoor clinic staged at Summitview Public School on Monday evenings. During a recent session, one of those participants, Carrie Marshall, makes an attempt to improve her fielding, throwing and catching skills.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Maples of Ballantrae getting bigger and better

The folks running the show at the Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club believe that if you want something done right you do it yourself.

So much so that when they decided to expand the course after 15 years of providing golfers with an attractive pay as you play facility, they opted to make the design and construction of a nine-hole executive course an in house project.

Maples owner Mike Wade, who also owns the Pines of Georgina and the new Oaks of Cobden course between Renfrew and Pembroke, has been his own contractor for all three of his courses. But while he has always used the services of Brampton's R.F. Bob Moot and Associates for course design, this time around he's pretty much taken on the whole thing himself.

"Moot outlined the new course, then Mike, Mark Elliott (Maples course superintendent) and myself finished the design," said the club's pro Tom Aird.

Aird, who has held his post for the past 13 years, said the new par 31-32 course should be completed by the fall of 1998 or the spring of '99. Work has begun, consisting mainly of cutting trees to this point. It will eventually take form on the 24 acres of land immediately to the south of the existing Hwy. 48 course.

In the mean time, Aird and his staff have been applying cosmetic touches on the big course in preparation for a season that was scheduled to take flight as early

SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

as April 6, but got caught up in spring's sudden retreat. The course sports new cart paths and some new trees in an ongoing effort to make it more interesting for the regulars to play.

Aird cringes when he recalls last year's debacle that saw rounds of golf down 3,700 due to bad weather.

"We had 60 rain days last season. That's well over average."

He said the damage could have been worse but for the fact the course has good natural drainage.

"We've got a sand-rock base, we're right on the edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine."

Aird hopes it will be blue skies and pleasant weather once the 1997 season finally gets into full gear. Once again, the course has scheduled a full range of tournaments, with 80-90 events on tap. The Maples is to host the CPGA Seniors Summer Championships July 7. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit, the Mayor's Challenge, and local Chamber of Commerce tourneys are also at the club this year. Aird says the key is to incorporate the events into the general flow of the club's pay as you play traffic so as to keep the course open as much as possible.

"We usually run the tournaments on weekdays, and we use a shot gun start for the bigger tournaments. Lots of our tournaments involve just 50-60 people so we can put them on at mid-day and you don't really notice they are out there."

When asked if the economy can affect the number of rounds played each season, Aird suggested die hard golfers will do whatever it takes to feed their addiction. "People always find the money to play golf."

LADUCA'S RULE THE ICE

It was a hockey season to remember for the Laduca family of Stouffville. Carlo Laduca, 11, was our Athlete of the Week for leading the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's atom houseleague playoff scoring race.

Little brother Ryan, 9, also made his mark, scoring 55 points during the regular season to finish on top in the novice house league points parade. Ryan helped his Swirlers Restaurant team to the title in this season's Christmas tournament. Both boys play on their respective select teams.

STUDENTS HAVE LOTS OF HEART

Stouffville District Secondary School students raised a whopping \$4,038 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with their second annual Jump Rope for Heart marathon April 10 in the school gym.

Congratulations to staff rep Jim Fletcher and his fit students!

Plenty of fastball to be played at Memorial Park

By BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

Stouffville's Memorial Park will be the place to be this summer as a local rep fastball team prepares to stage an international doubleheader, as well as a game involving a provincial all-star fastball team.

The Betz Pools midgets will host the New Zealand national midget team July 16 at the town park as the Kiwi crew tunes up for this summer's world midget championships.

On Aug. 7 the Betz boys are scheduled to take to the diamond against the Ontario Midget All-Star Team just days before the provincial outfit heads to Brandon Manitoba to contest the Canada Summer Games tournament.

Evan Boyd and Paul Koert, who play with the Betz team, have been working out with the Ontario team for the past three years.

The pair hope to be included on the Summer Games roster.

The second game of the July 16 twin bill will likely see the local midgets square off against the neighboring Uxbridge Bandits men's team. The Bandits will sport a distinctive Stouffville look this season.

Local residents Byron Baranieski, Chris and Rich Burkholder, and Rob Reesor have all signed on with the Uxbridge club, which plans to play out the Oshawa City and District Fastball Association this year.

The quartet played with the Greenbank Gamblers of the Oshawa league last year, then jumped to the Bandits when the Greenbank team disbanded.

Stouffville's Jason Underwood and Reno D'Ambrosio also plan to join the Bandits. The Bandits played with the Betz team in the North York Major Fastball League last sea-

(Please see page 25)



Now open for business

The long-awaited second ice pad at the Rec Centre opened for business on Monday evening. Christening the new playing surface was this men's pick up contest.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN