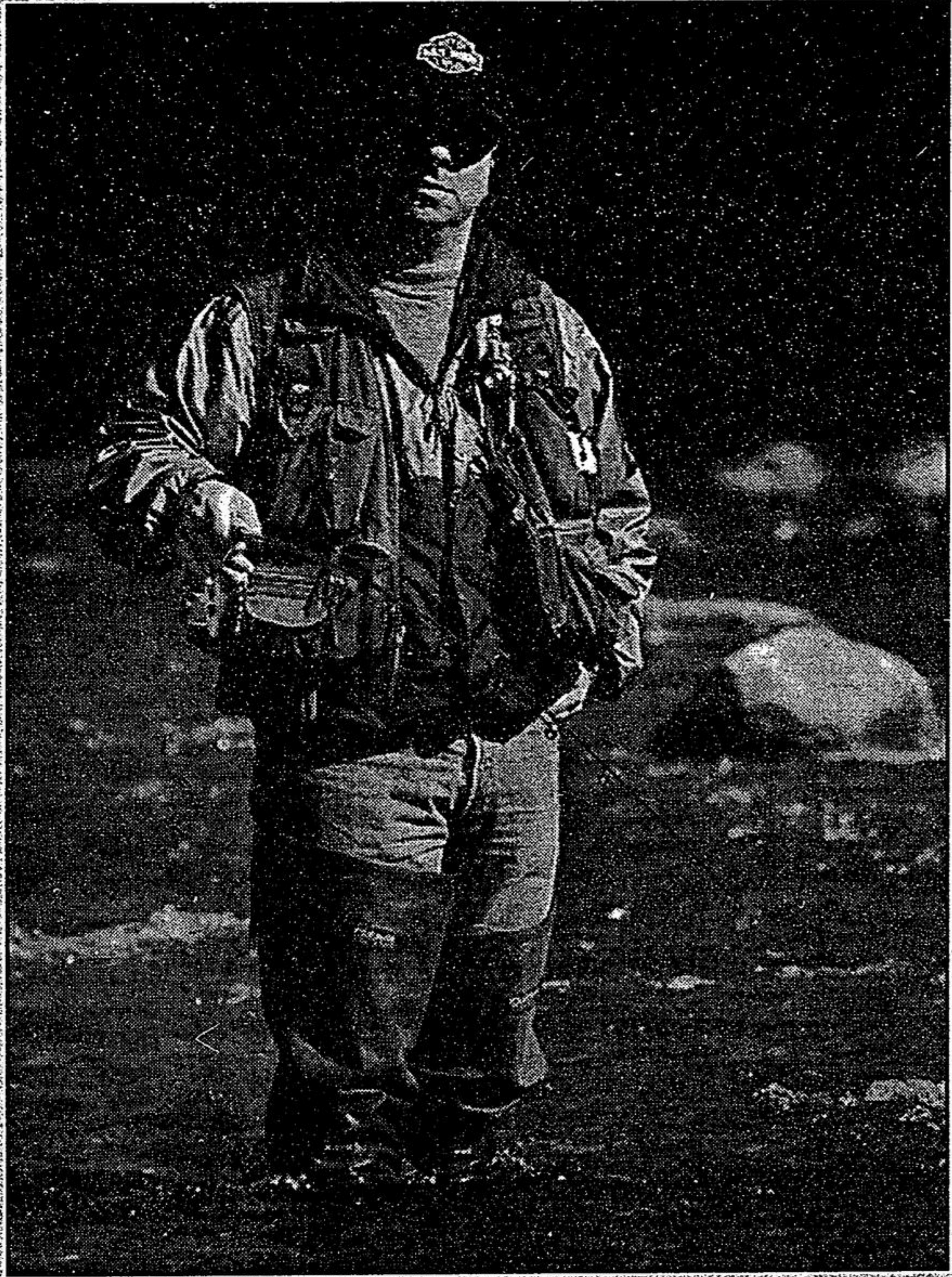


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Sports



Out for trout

Trout season is full swing for area anglers as the season opened last weekend. Here, Frank Ciarrocchi tries his luck on West Duffin Creek in Whitevale.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Goodwood wrestlers earn honors

It was a golden week for the Goodwood Wrestling Gators. Shawn Maynard, an 11 year old Goodwood Public School student and club member, was flawless as he wrestled his way to the gold medal at the Canada East Wrestling Festival held over the April 26 weekend in Sturgeon Falls. His performance helped the Gators achieve their first ever top three finish at a national event. The club's Kyle Martin won the silver, while fellow Gators Tyler White, Jack Holt and Matt Maynard each earned a bronze.

Erik Reid was fourth. Earlier the same week the team walked away with three regional titles at the Durham Championships as Cameron Allan, Jack Holt and Jeremy Bass took gold medals.

Gators coach Chris Fockler was ecstatic with the club's success in the two events, coming on the heels of Gator Brad Ballinger's silver medal showing at the Canadian Cadet finals in early April.



Stouffville lads pace all-star victory

A Stouffville quartet played a big part in the North York Hockey League All Star team's victory over the Unionville Jets last Sunday. The four, who play for the North York league's Stouffville Mites select squad, combined for three goals and four assists in a 6-1 win over the Unionville crew. Michael Del Zotto had a pair of goals, while Ethan Werek had a goal and two set ups. Jeffrey Kavluk chipped in with two assists as well, while Christopher Lombardo was sharp in goal for the winners.

Boston Marathon a memorable experience

In any other sport, a 598th place finish would give little cause for celebration.

But, as Stouffville insurance broker Kim Kavluk will attest to, marathon running isn't like any other sport.

Watching Kim run resolutely past my Main St. home office window on late afternoons in recent months, I knew the date April 21 was emblazoned in his mind, enshrouded by a host of hopes and expectations as well as a few haunting ghosts from years gone by.

That was when he would once again try to break the three hour barrier at the world famous Boston Marathon, running the gruelling 26 mile course that had repeatedly broken his heart, as well as the hearts of hundreds of thousands of other runners since the signal to commence was first given at the starting point in the Boston suburb of Hopkington 101 years ago.

But on this his fifth try at the unforgiving course, Kim had finally figured it out. And while his time of two hours, 57 minutes and five sec-

SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

onds was a full 47 minutes behind that of the lithe Kenyan who won the race, the medal Kim received for being a finisher was the equivalent of a gold medal at the Olympics for him.

For this had been a mission for Kim. The disciplined practicing, the extra weight and hill training during the past winter, it had taken on even greater significance because as Kim himself understood, the clock was ticking even before the race began.

"I'm not getting any younger," he told me a few days after his big breakthrough.

Forty-two may not be ancient by any means, but a 26-mile marathon is murder on a body of any age. It wouldn't get any easier as the years

wore on, he knew.

And while just to finish the arduous course is a huge accomplishment for many, Kim just couldn't see putting in all this effort and dedication through the years without achieving the goal he had set for himself.

He wasn't out to beat anybody, although he took pride in having passed over 1,000 competitors along the way.

But the only man he had in his sights the whole way was himself.

Finish under three hours and he could go home and drink champagne. Finish over three hours again and it would be just another long flight home.

His impressive time in a qualifying marathon had put him in a good position to get a quick jump.

While some in the huge race must wait minutes just to be able to finally begin, Kim lost only seven seconds due to his being placed 1,633rd in the 12,000-plus field.

And while heat and humidity can sometimes be a factor, the race was begun amid ideal 55 degree Fahren-



KIM KAVLUK

heit conditions.

However, a 12-mile per hour headwind proved the exact opposite of the tailwind predicted by the weather man.

But all Kim cared was that when it was over, he had finally realized his runner's dream.

Upon his arrival home he was still so pumped - he was out for a two mile warm up just two days later. "I felt great. Usually your legs are so battered you can't run for a while."

Amazing isn't it how a body responds when it was finally grasped the big brass ring.

Now that he's conquered his nemesis, will he return for an encore next year? "I don't know if I'll go back to Boston," he told me. Upon second thought, however, he found himself caught up in the perpetual appeal of this race of races. "But it's such a great event."

Spoken like the true champion that he is.