

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

THE TRIBUNE

Sports & Leisure

Got a score?
 Call our Hotline
 at 640-2100

Crossman is in the swing of things at Timber Creek

After 27 years spent giving more than 47,000 golf lessons across Canada and in 13 other countries, Gordon Crossman is as insistent as ever that the swing's the thing.

The 54-year-old ("I'm a young 54," he insists) veteran CPGA instructor has touched down for the season in Stouffville, and is working out of the Timber Creek Golf Centre on Ninth Line just north of Stouffville Road. He brings with him a host of experiences including a stint on the South American Tour, a variety of golf course consulting and management assignments, and a starring role in his own cable TV golf show. Not to mention a golf column he once penned on a regular basis entitled "A Voice From The Rough."

Understandably, Gordon is a firm believer in the benefits of lessons for beginner golfers right through veteran duffers. With 75 to 80 per cent of his students consisting of the ever increasing number of women who are taking to the links, he suggested his job is made a little easier by the readiness of this gender to learn. Apparently men who whose golf game has gone off the tracks are often as reluctant to seek help on the course as they are on the highway.

"A lot of men think they know more than they actually do (about golf), whereas the women are willing to learn," he said.

However, Gordon gets a little miffed when some of the women golf pros out there try to corner the ladies lessons market.

"They'll say that women should learn from women, but you ask them who they learned from and it was usually a man," said Gordon. "Find an instructor you like, one you're progressing with."

As far as Gordon is concerned, golf lessons should be kept simple, and they should be fun. He suggested an instructor is just asking for trouble if he attempts a complete overhaul of a student's existing swing - unless it is so far gone as to warrant such an extreme measure.

"The first thing golfers who have been playing the game for a while will ask me is 'Are you going to change my swing?' I tell them, 'No, I'm just going to work around the good points you already have to improve it. There's usually always good points in a person's swing.'"

However, if given the luxury of a new golfer to teach, Gordon said he



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

can start from scratch.

"With a new golfer, I get them swinging the way I think they should for their physical make up. For instance if someone weighs 300 pounds, they're going to have a much different swing than a light person."

While delighted with the effect Tiger Woods has had on the game in terms of attracting new young players to the multitude of public courses out there, Gordon also fears the down side. Golfers who suddenly try to go for Woods' home run shots of 320 yards are going to find themselves chasing after lost golf balls, he warned.

"People are so taken by distance when they see a golfer like Tiger Woods. But it's really a finesse game. The key is to keep it between the trees. The short game is vital - chipping and putting."

He insists the long drives will only come once a golfer puts it all together.

"Distance comes when you get the entire body working for you."

Gordon maintains the expression 'Different strokes for different folks' applies particularly to golfers. "Some people just like to get out there and play by themselves to be out side. Or you may want to improve your game, which means spending a lot of time at the driving range."

As for the obsessive golfer, the guy who's out there in the pouring rain trying to shave another stroke off his score, Gordon chooses to believe there's even a plus to that.

"Hopefully, they're enjoying it - at least a little."

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

People wishing to help out the Whitchurch-Stouffville Baseball Association's program to provide balls, bats and gloves to poor children in Cuba can drop their used equipment off at Boyd's Source for Sports in Stouffville's westerly approach. A cash donation of \$5 will result in a new baseball going towards the program, while \$25 will send a brand new bat.

■ Please see page 21 ■



GETTING HER KICKS: Stouffville District Secondary School's Amanda Boyd (right), tries to kick this ball out of harm's way despite the presence of her Brother Andre opponent, Christina McBeth during Wednesday's YRAA soccer contest at Brother Andre Catholic High School. The host Cardinals won the game 8-0.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Spartans winning ways continue on ball diamond

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans boys' fastball team kept a three-year streak alive when they travelled to Newmarket for their season opener May 1.



The Spartans were as hot as the weather was cold, blanking the host Sacred Heart C.H.S. squad 5-0 behind the 13 strike-out pitching performance of second-year Spartan Mark French.

The SDSS crew saw its offence spread throughout the

lineup, with each hitter contributing to the victory.

The Spartans enter the season with a winning streak that began three years ago.

The Stouffville team has won the York Region high school title three years running and has not lost in season, playoff, tournament or exhibition play along the way.

"That's our motivation," said head coach Bill McKnight. "We're looking strong again this year."

The Spartans will have a formidable pitching staff as they set out to make it four regional crowns in a row. In addition to French, the staff includes returning fireballing left hander Paul

Koert, as well as the capable Kevin Hackert. Dan Tardella, Mark Meyer and Ian McDougall have also returned, with a strong rookie contingent headed up by Shawn Boadway, Brett Boyd, Dave Clark and John Lowrie.

The Spartans play their home opener May 15 against Bradford's Holy Trinity C.H.S. The game, which is to be played on the main diamond, gets under way at 3:30 p.m.

The team hosts traditional rival Huron Hts. S.S. of Newmarket May 21 in what should be the Spartans first test of the season. The SDSS outfit will be out to defend its crown when it takes part in the annual Bradford Tournament May 23.

Atom selects downed in final

It took an overtime shootout to finally subdue the Stouffville atom selects at a season ending tournament hosted by the Stouffville team at the Rec Centre recently.

The selects started off the tourney with a 2-1 win over Oshawa as Danny Campitelli and Carlo La Duca scored for Stouffville in a well played match. Norm Fretz, Gary Balsdon, Stephen Cliff, Kyle Schell, Taylor Lougheed and Brandon Wild stood out on defence for Stouffville.

Campitelli, Riley McDowell, Joseph Zuccolin and Mark Sutcliffe scored to give the selects

a 4-1 win over Markham in game two, with the win sending Stouffville on to the final against Keswick.

In the title tilt, Stouffville goalies Danny Ronco and Nick Metauro held the opposition to just two goals after regulation time and a 10-minute shootout, while Gabriel Barnett and Fretz scored for Stouffville. But Keswick eventually prevailed in a game ending shootout.

Stouffville assists for the three games went to Campitelli (3), Ben Smith, La Duca, Barnett and Lougheed.