

Sports & Leisure

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A Spirited ice deal still has to be worked out



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

In true Mark Twain tradition, it would appear that reports of the demise of Saturday night as the home date of the Spirit of Stouffville, or at least the switch to Thursday night, was an "exaggeration".

Apparently a story in Tuesday's Tribune announcing the changeover triggered a mini-twister among the various ice user groups, with a resulting flood of phone calls aimed in the direction of Spirit executive director and would-be diplomat Pat Madigan. With ice time allocation still an extremely touchy topic - prime time is all gone for both ice pads come the fall, councillor Cliff Dunkeld told me at the official opening of the second pad Monday - I agreed to help douse the flames forthwith.

As it turns out, Pat said the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) recently okayed a move from Saturday to Thursday. The Spirit directors immediately asked the ice allocation committee to approach the major ice user groups (men's hockey, figure skating, minor hockey, girls hockey) about a possible swap of ice hours.

This process has just begun, said Pat, with a meeting of the user groups to be called. The groups will take back the Spirit request to their respective directors, and hopefully a deal can be made to grant the club its wish. Then, and only then, will it become official.

Pat said it should be finalized soon, although he stressed the Spirit understands it will be up to the user groups to voluntarily agree to switch hours.

"This process must be completed very soon, for each group has major scheduling that must be completed as soon as possible," said Pat.

Pat hoped by making the whole process clear via this column that things could be settled down, preventing an upheaval that would only serve to set back the cause of Junior hockey here in town.

The appointment of Pat, along with nine other new directors, is part of an effort on the part of the Spirit to mend some fences and gain support from the people of Stouffville.

"We realize our relationship with major user groups and the town over the past two years has been tainted," he offered. "We are trying to be more professional on and off the ice. Our goal is for this team to be community based and supported by everybody."

Pat said promotional opportunities are being priced aggressively as the club tries to induce support from the community. He added the club wants to succeed where other Junior organizations have succeeded, working hand in hand with the local minor hockey system.

"It will take a large effort on everyone's behalf to make this work. We're thinking of our kids future. This year coming we hope to have a number of Stouffville kids on the Spirit roster."

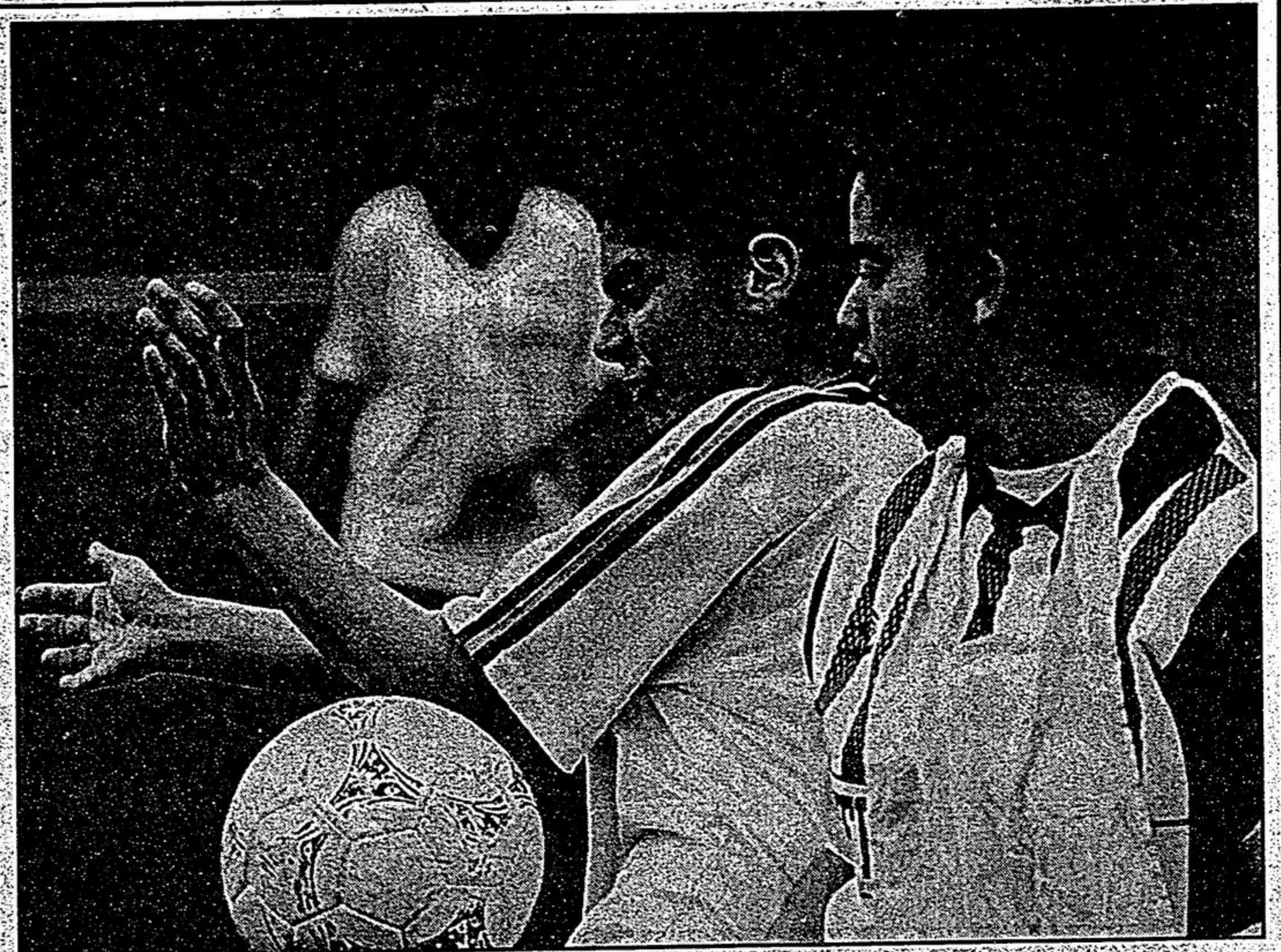
REBELS' OPENER DELAYED BY ONE DAY

The federal leaders' debate in Ottawa wasn't the only competitive activity to be rocked by an unexpected "bombshell" Tuesday night.

The Claremont Rebels had their first ever Oshawa City and District Fastball Association game scrubbed when a bomb scare resulted in the evacuation of the Durham College campus, with everyone ordered off the adjoining Durham Field as well.

The Rebels were to have sent former Stouffville Merchant Junior Scott Evans to the pitching rubber to face the Oshawa Juniors in the Claremont team's season opener.

The Rebels will once again play their home game Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. at Claremont Park.



TAKING A HANDS ON APPROACH?: Middlefield Collegiate's Amina Qureshi (left), tries her best to avoid touching the bouncing ball while being closely guarded by Stouffville District Secondary School's Alex Chacinski during Wednesday's YRAA soccer contest at Stouffville District Secondary School. The host Spartans won the game 5-0 on goals by Michelle Zafairopoulos, Lillian Boyd, Laura Boyd, Dana Cox and Chacinski.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Fullerton's team is right on target by winning title

It was Fullerton's 2 taking all the laurels as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Darts League held its season ending awards banquet May 3 at the Stouffville Legion.

The Fullerton's squad was honoured for finishing first in the regular season standings, as well as for capturing the playoff title. The Town Crier 2 crew won the consolation 'B' playoff side.

The Fullerton's team is made up of: Peter Haley, Zoltan Szebedinszky, Kevin Rogers, Colin Fullerton, Pat McPherson, Charlie Lawson, Ray Defaye and Dave Parker.

Charlie Lawson was installed as the league's new president, replacing past president and founder Shirley Hellyer. Lawson will head up the league's first executive. The league,



CHAMPIONS: Members of the Fullerton's 2 team that captured this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Darts League title include (from far left): Peter Haley, Zoltan Szebedinszky, Kevin Rogers, Colin Fullerton, Pat McPherson, Charlie Lawson, Ray Defaye and Dave Parker.

which plays out of six Stouffville area bar-restaurants, is expected to expand from 11 to at least 15 teams next season.

Raiders slow pitch event on this weekend

The boys of summer returned to the town park on Friday evening as the A & S Raiders began their 15th annual slow pitch tournament.

Upwards of 24 teams are slated to take part in the competition, with divisions to include Men's C, D, E, and Co-ed.

The Men's D and E categories will be made up primarily of local squads, with the top rated C division to include Stouffville's Williamson Leasing, Buttermakers, the Uxbridge Paramedics, and outfits from Peterboro, Barrie Pickering and Markham. None of the defending champions from last year's tourney have returned.

The action continues all day today. The finals are slated for Sunday afternoon.

Rebels prevail in season opener

The lights came on late, but they went out early for the Aurora Mud Hens Wednesday night at Claremont Park.

Scott Evans was in mid season form as he pitched the Claremont Rebels to a 6-1 win over the visiting Mud Hens in the Rebels' opening game of the Oshawa City and District Fastball Association season.

The start of the game was delayed over a half hour while the players waited for the diamond lights to come on. The Rebels were to have opened at Durham Field in Oshawa Tuesday but their game with the Oshawa Juniors was cancelled due to a bomb scare in the adjoining Durham College cam-

pus. Evans pitched five innings of one hit, shutout ball. He racked up 13 strikeouts, fanning the side in the third, fourth and fifth frames. Tim Evans finished up, surrendering a run in two innings.

Rob Parcels had two hits, including a triple, and scored a run while adding an RBI. Dave Jones and Jim Closs each had two hits for the Rebels, with Jones scoring twice. Scott Evans had two hits and an RBI. Tim Evans chipped in with a hit, a run and a RBI. Cliff Herbert banged a triple and scored, while Jim Chilvers knocked in a run.

The Rebels are in Uxbridge to play the Bandits Monday night.