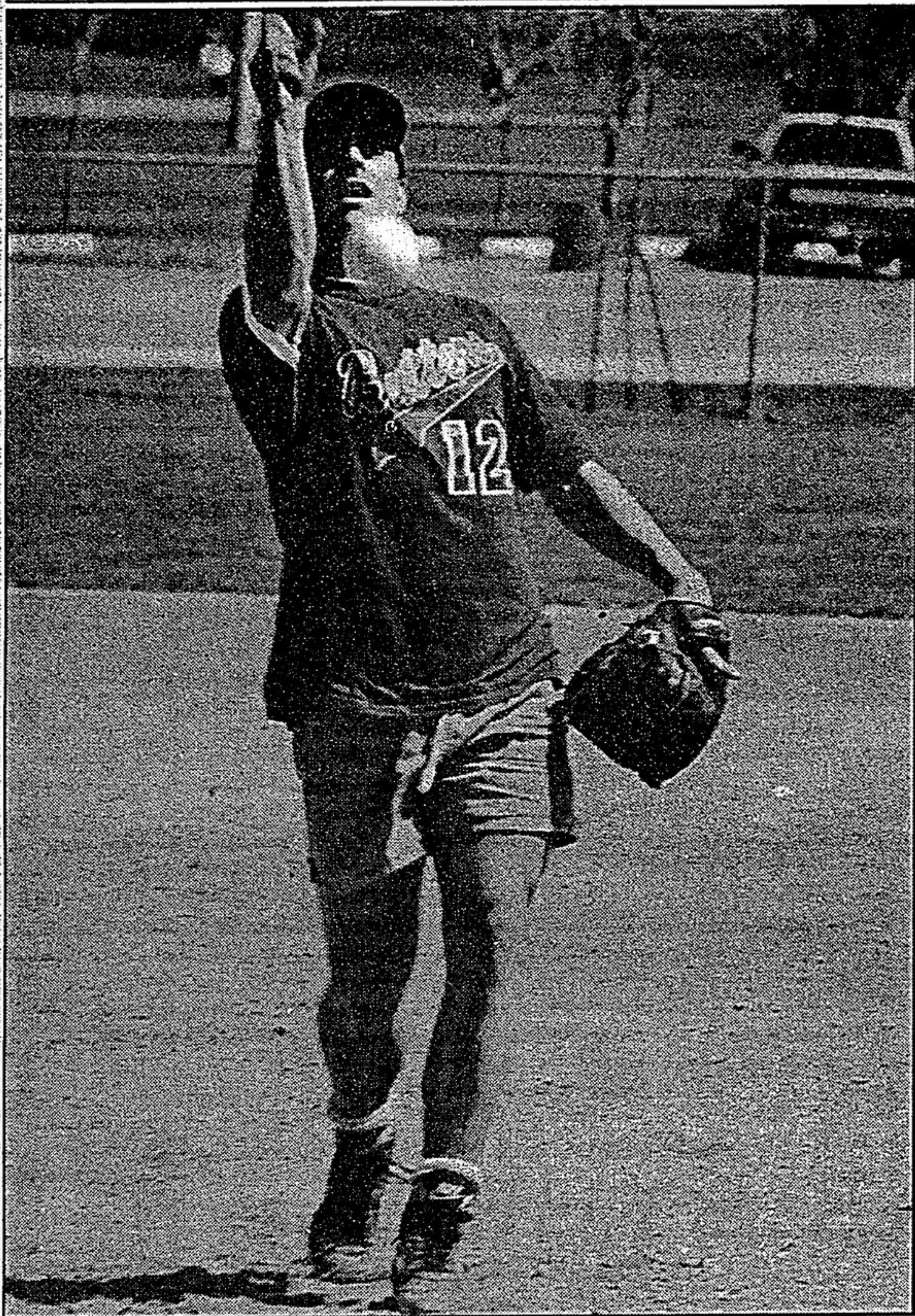


# Sports & Leisure

Got a score?  
Call our Hotline  
at 640-2100



**SPECIAL DELIVERY:** Buttermaker's pitcher Chris Doyle delivers this offering to a Barrie batter during action Saturday in the annual A and S Raiders Slo-pitch Tournament at the Town Park diamond. The Buttermaker's team won this game 23-10.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

## The time has come for a new pool



### Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

While the grinders, the politicians and the kids showed up to celebrate the long-awaited second ice pad Monday evening, there was a look towards the future and the next recreational need by several in attendance.

"This is a start," suggested Mayor Wayne Emmerson in his ribbon cutting address. "Now we'd like to build a swimming pool."

York Region chairman Eldred King, who presided as Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor back in the days when the Rec Centre itself was just a vision, gave his own words of encouragement to those wishing to get into the swim of things.

"The pool will come," he offered. "You'll get there."

Chatting with former ward six councillor-turned-super-volunteer Jim Sanders, I couldn't help but think back to the excitement felt by himself and so many others like him when the Rec Centre was given the go ahead back in the early 1980s.

It would start with an arena to replace the outdated rink on Park Dr. S., the thinking went, with a pool to follow. One and a half decades later Sanders et. al are still waiting.

But for Susan Harmsen, fresh from her role as secretary of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Second Ice Pad Committee, the pool is an idea whose time has come.

Pausing just long enough to survey the culmination of the second pad people's five-year plan

Monday, she's now focussing her energies on putting the pool in place.

As chair of the committee advocating a pool, she pointed to the upcoming June 12 public meeting on the proposed facility, saying how she was hopeful the gathering would help give the project direction.

"The desire's out there," she told me. "We just need to sit down with the public and see what they want."

She said her group is currently doing the same type of legwork the second pad people did in the beginning, checking with other towns with pools to see how they've made them work.

She pointed to Milliken Mills and how they made an arrangement to have McDonald's Restaurants in on the action when they built their pool facility, which also included an arena. Susan said she doesn't want to have a whole bunch of pressure put on her to deliver the goods, but that the thing should be able to take off if the people behind the idea are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work the way the second pad folks did.

Then, allowing herself to revel in the moment of the coming to fruition of the second ice surface, she divulged the real motive behind her involvement in such things as pools and pads.

"For me the most satisfying part was watching all the kids come through here onto the ice when they cut the ribbon," she said, pointing to the youngsters out on the ice taking advantage of the free skate that was part of the grand opening.

Let's hope Susan Harmsen gets to take part in an official pool opening a year or so down the road. Given her yeoman service on behalf of recreation seekers in Stouffville, I think it only fitting that she should get to cut the ribbon while executing a double flip from the high diving board.

## Local ball teams come up short in Raiders tourney

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The weather was better suited to hockey than softball as local teams came up just short at the 15th annual A & S Raiders Slow Pitch Tournament held over the Victoria Day weekend at the town park.

Both the Williamson Leasing Buttermakers and the Stouffville Tigers fell victim to last-minute heroics as they were forced to settle for the finalists honors in the Men's C and D divisions respectively. The home town Huskies were bounced in the Co-ed D title tilt, while it was Keswick's Heads Up erasing the Imagers of Markham in the Men's E championship.

The Buttermakers were edged 10-9 in their final by Get A Grip as the Scarborough-Pickering outfit rallied after trailing for the first five innings. The win avenged an earlier 20-10 Butters victory over the 1997 national Coors Lite Men's D champions. Get A Grip spokesman Rob Vivian said it was a case of saving the best till last.

"We didn't hit at all in our first game against them (the Buttermakers)," said Vivian. "But we came back in the final."

The winners took home \$400 in first-place prize money. The Butters won two and lost one in the preliminary round, then advanced to the finals by defeating J.D. Billiards.

The Men's D championship match saw the Tottenham Chiefs explode for seven runs in the bottom of the seventh and final inning to steal a 14-12 victory from the Tigers. Randy Cooper's three-run home run put the finishing touches on the comeback.

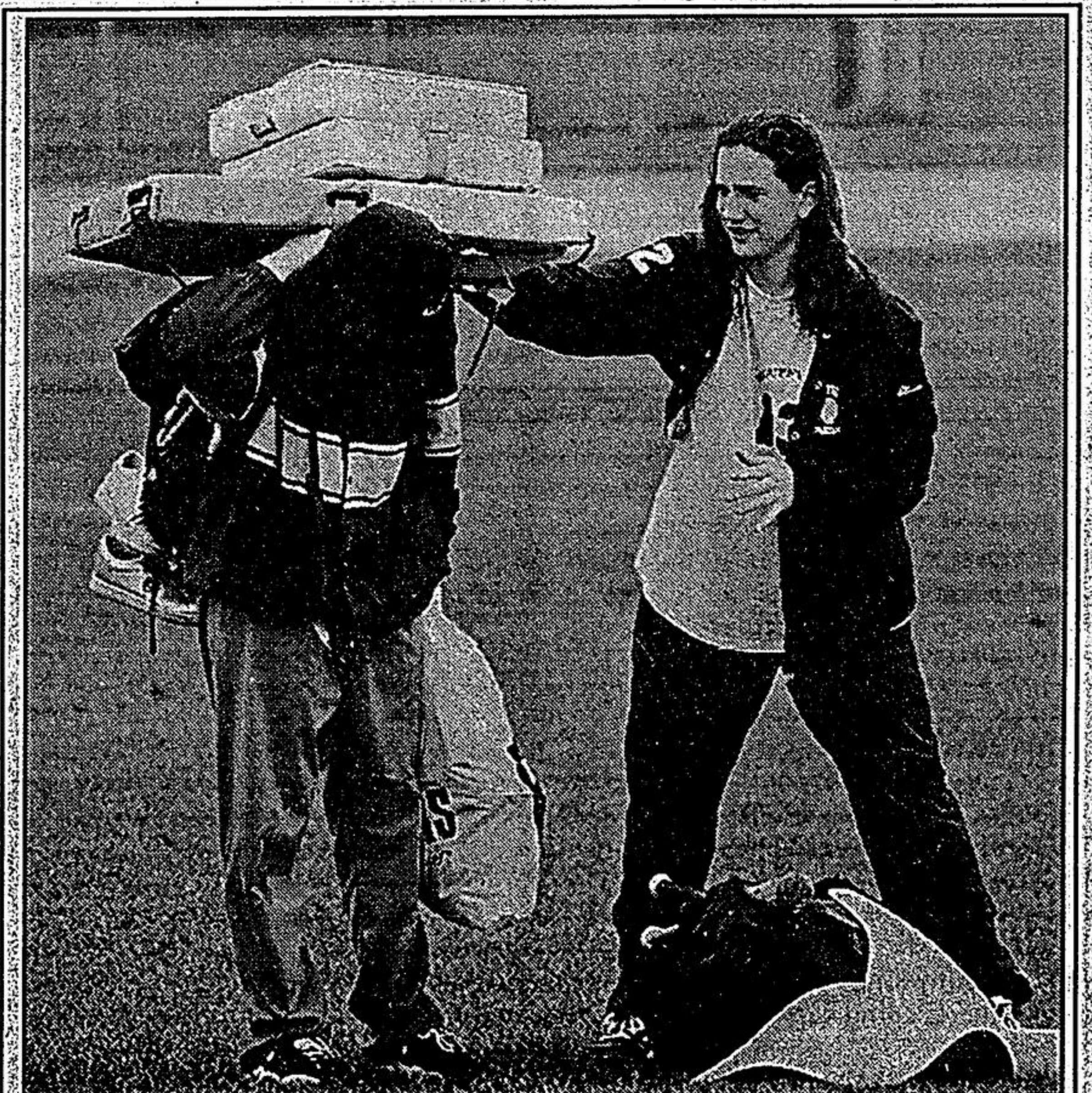
The Chiefs had trailed 5-0 after the first inning, then found themselves behind 10-0 after three frames. It was the Chiefs' first tournament outing of the season, with the win netting them a \$200 prize. The Tigers advanced to the finals despite a record of just one win and two losses in the round robin.

One of those defeats was a resounding 28-12 verdict at the hands of the Chiefs. But the Stouffville squad came to life in the semi-finals, edging the Liners 7-6 to qualify for the title tilt.

In the Men's E division, Heads Up blasted the Imagers 25-10 in their final.

The Keswick crew downed Stouffville's Formosa 13-5 in the semi-finals, while the Imagers got past Goodwood's Looney Tunes to advance to the final round. Heads Up earned \$250 for their big win.

The Huskies won two of three in the four-team Co-ed round robin before going to the finals by virtue of a 6-0 win over Stouffville's Misfits in the semis. But the Huskies were stopped 15-5 by Markham's Wild Cards in the finals. The Cards were awarded \$175 for their victory.



**CARRYING A HEAVY LOAD:** Stouffville District Secondary School students Tanis McKnight (left) and Alison Crowder carry an assortment of baseball equipment back to their teacher's car after their slo-pitch contest was cancelled due to rain last Thursday at the Town Park ball diamonds.

Photo by STOERD WITTEVEEN