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THE TRIBUNE

# Sports & Leisure

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## Spartans fastball team having another vintage campaign

It may not be time to start the calls of break up the Spartans just yet.

But the way the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) boys' fastball team has been ripping apart its York Region Athletic Association opponents over the past three years, it could be the beginning of the end for the Spartans and for fastball in the York Region high school athletic scene.

So suggests Bill McKnight, head coach of the SDSS nine.

He points out that in years gone by the Spartans could always count on a game from the likes of Newmarket's Huron Hts. S.S.

The two teams were neck and neck back in the days when Scott Evans was pitching for the Spartans against Huron Hts. ace chucker Glen Cole.

But that's all changed.

The Spartans haven't lost a game - exhibition, tournament, regular season or playoff - in three years.

The way they're going this season, they're likely to go the entire season without surrendering another run.

They dumped King City H.S. 5-0 behind "third string" pitcher Mark French May 13.

All French did was strikeout 15 of the 21 batters he faced.

Last Wednesday ace lefty Paul Koert had 15 whiffs of his own in his six-inning complete game as the Spartans annihilated Bradford 18 zip.

### SPARTANS SEEK CHALLENGE

"I'm waiting for somebody to come along and give us a hard time," said McKnight, who was hopeful the old rivalry between his team and Huron Hts. could lead to a competitive contest when they meet this week.

The Spartans were scheduled to travel to Bradford for that school's annual tournament which was to be played on Friday.

The outcome of that event could help dictate the future of fastball in the region.

"The writing could be on the wall for fastball



### Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

in York Region," said McKnight.

"You need two or three strong teams for it to work."

McKnight said part of the problem is that more and more teams are switching to hardball.

Stouffville, however, remains a fastball centre which has been long respected throughout the province, while towns like Newmarket and Richmond Hill have been pulling away from the game in recent years.

"Stouffville is still the hotbed for softball in York Region. And when you go to other fastball centres around Ontario, our kids are respected," said McKnight.

For fastball to be viable in YRAA, the level of competition must be elevated, said McKnight.

"We have such a good ball club, but everybody else has maybe three or four good players."

But McKnight isn't giving up just yet. He was hopeful games played this past week may just surprise him.

"We still haven't played everybody yet. We play Huron Hts. Wednesday (game played on May 21), then go to the Bradford tournament Friday. Hopefully there'll be some good competition there," he said last Tuesday.

For the record, Dan Tardella had a pair of triples in the Spartans win over King City on May 13.

John Lowrie also swung a hot bat. Against Bradford, it was a team effort offensively.

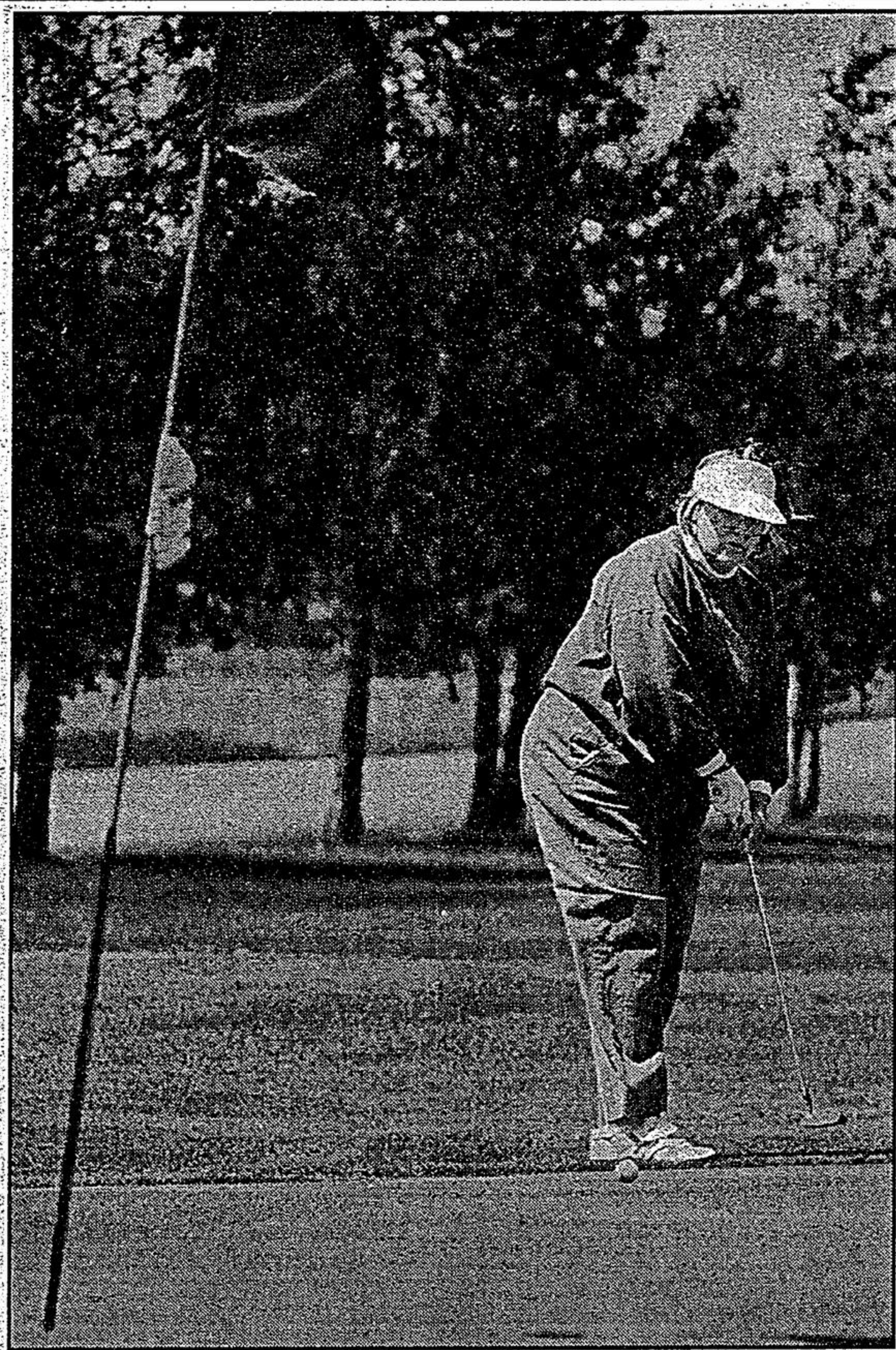
Brett Boyd had the only triple for the Spartans.

Tardella was strong at third base and Mark Meyer stood out behind the plate.

### LADIES GOLF SCHOOL AT ANGUS GLEN

The inaugural Motorola Ladies Golf School will be hosted by Angus Glen Golf Club on Monday. Shelly Woolner, a teaching pro at Acton's Blue Springs Golf Club who also teaches golf on TV, will be chief instructor.

Call 1-800-461-4575 for more information.



TOUGH LUCK: Margaret Chisholm had a bit of tough luck as she rattled this putt off the pin on the 11th green at the John Evelyn Golf Centre while playing a round of golf with partner Dan Strong on Thursday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Rebels rout Bradford, capture third straight

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

It wasn't exactly a case of a game being called on account of the mercy rule Wednesday night at Claremont Park.

But the umpiring crew probably spared the visitors from Bradford continued embarrassment when they ejected a player for using profane language after three innings, leaving the Bradford team without a catcher.

Without a replacement backstop, the Bradford squad was forced to forfeit the match, giving the home town Claremont Rebels an 8-0 win.

The sudden termination prevented Rebels pitcher Scott Evans from pursuing his no-hitter.

Evans was masterful after giving up a lead off walk in the first inning, striking out seven of the 10 batters he faced.

Meanwhile, the Rebels took to the offensive in their initial at bat, with

the first four hitters scoring on Rob Watson's two-run triple, a double by Tim Evans and a single by Jim Chilvers.

Evans drove in a run with another double in the second frame, with the Rebels exploding again in the third on a two-run home run by Cliff Herbert and an RBI double by Dave Jones.

The win gives the Rebels three straight victories as they begin their first Oshawa City and District Fastball Association season. Coach Frank Hendy said he feels his team was adjusted well to the Oshawa league.

"It looks like we're going to have a good year," said Hendy, whose team went undefeated in the regular season before being edged out in the North York Major Fastball League last season.

"We won't win every game, but we'll win our share."

The Rebels travel to Oshawa to play the Blues on Monday, then return home to host Bramalea on Wednesday.

## Youngsters can kick up a storm at soccer camp

Aspiring young soccer players are being invited to take part in a special one-week camp this July.

The International Sports School Soccer Camp 1997 comes to the Rec Centre field July 7-11.

Camp director is Anton Skerritt, who was Toronto and District Premier Division

Player of the Year in 1992.

The camp includes over 25 hours of instruction under the direction of certified coaches.

There will be fun-filled game simulation activities, abilities evaluation, training tips and guest appearances by professional players from abroad.

Prizes will be awarded for

achievement, discipline and sportsmanship.

The camp, which is to open to players from 5 to 15 years of age, is being held in conjunction with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

The camp will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

The fee is \$110, with family and team discounts available.