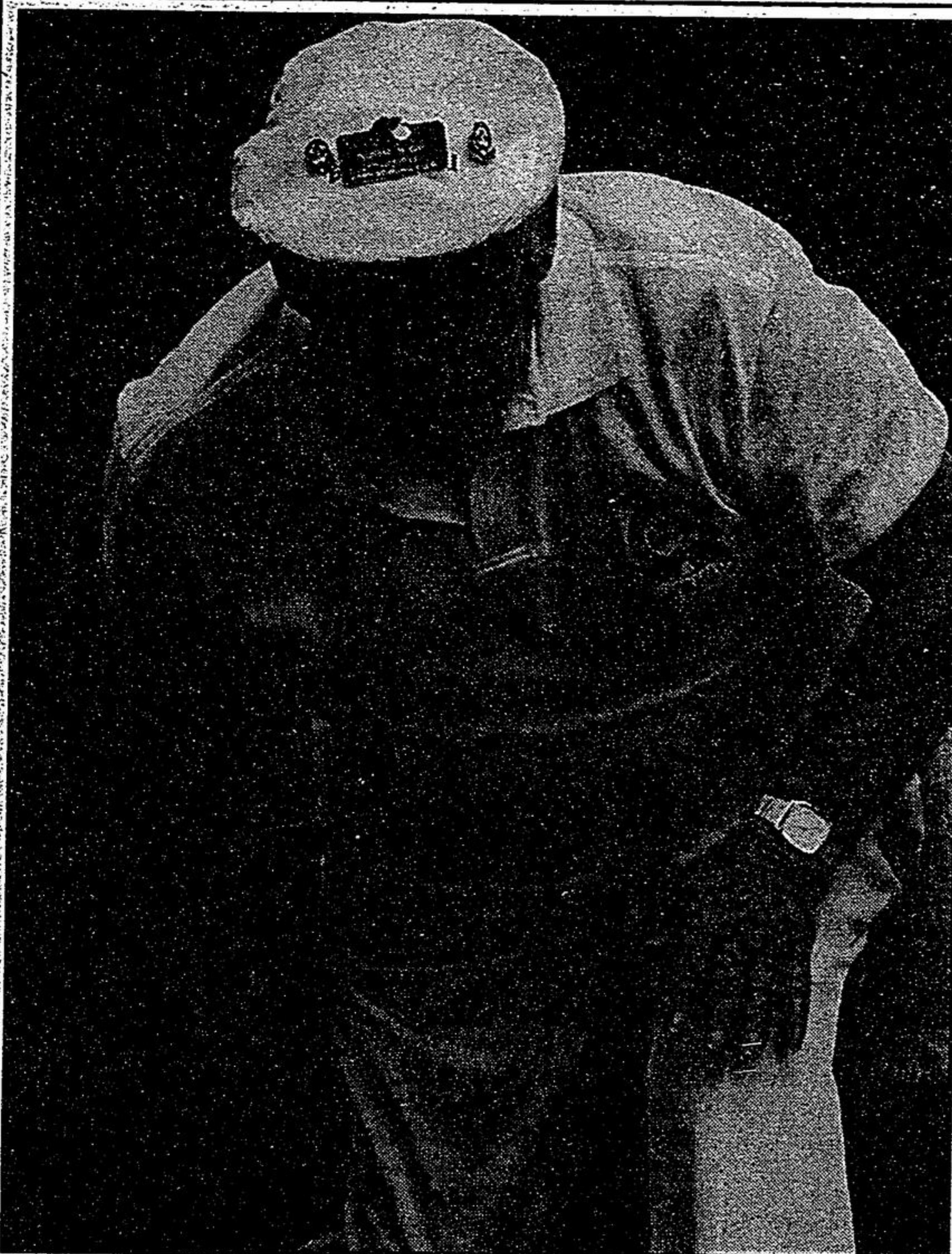


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LETTIN' LOOSE: Norm Nigh shows good form as he gets set to toss his bowl in the area lawn bowling tournament at the Stouffville Lawnbowling Club on Wednesday.
Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Fastball Spartans win another YRAA crown

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Call it a dynasty. The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans boys' fastball team captured their fourth consecutive York Region Athletic Association crown Thursday, while putting the cap on a third straight undefeated season.

Pitcher Kevin Hackert was masterful as the SDSS outfit blanked Markham D.H.S. 17-0 in one-sided title tilt played at Newmarket's Ray Twinney Complex.

Hackert struck out 15 batters while giving up just three hits. The righthander snuffed the only Markham threat in the final inning when he struck out the side after surrendering a lead off triple.

The SDSS attack was spread throughout the lineup, with Brett Boyd and Ian McDougall coming up with run scoring triples.

Boyd and Mark Meyer each scored three runs. The Spartans got all the runs they needed when they scored three times in the first inning. They completed the rout with a seven run fifth.

The Spartans advanced to the finals after drubbing Holy Trinity C.H.S. 12-1 in Monday's semi-final.

"The kids played well all year," said Spartans coach Bill McKnight after the game.

McKnight noted that despite his team's endless string of successes in recent years, the desire is always there.

"We've always had a strong team, and sometimes it's tough to keep them up. But you've got to pick your own motivation, and ours was to win a fourth straight championship this



YORK REGION CHAMPS: The Stouffville District Secondary School boys' fastball team, coached by Bill McKnight (back row, far left), staked its claim to another York Region Athletic Association title, Thursday in Newmarket. Holding this year's championship trophy is co-captain Dan Tardella (front row, centre).

Photo by BRUCE STAPLEY

year." McKnight noted how the Stouffville school has been fielding top level fastball teams for decades, pointing to several prominent stars from years gone by.

"Fastball is a Stouffville tradition. We had Scott Evans pitching for us in the late 1980's, and before that there was Jim Chilvers and Paul Boynton."

For McKnight, the win marked his last as the team's coach. He has announced he will step down after 10 years at the helm, with a total of six YRAA championships to his credit. His teams were finalists three times.

"This is a nice way to go out," said McKnight. He dedicated Thursday's win to co-coach Tammi Waters, who missed the game so she could be with her father in hospital. "This one's for her."

McKnight wore sweater number 10 for the championship game as a tribute to the late Dan McNeil, who wore the same

number when he gave the Spartans a YRAA title with a clutch home run in 1990.

GIRLS COME UP SHORT

The Stouffville District Secondary School girls' slow-pitch team fell short in its bid to go after a third consecutive YRAA title this week.

The SDSS squad topped Sacred Heart C.H.S. 8-2 Monday to finish the regular season in first place, but were edged 11-9 by St. Robert's C.H.S. in their playoff semi-final Wednesday at the town park. Sacred Heart went on to down St. Robert's in the YRAA championship game that followed.

The SDSS crew fell victim to a couple of costly errors as St. Robert's tallied five runs in the fourth inning to take a 9-4 lead in the finals.

The Stouffville outfit came back with five of their own to tie it as Amanda and Alison Crowder both socked home runs. But St. Robert's scored twice in the final inning to take the title.

Pitcher Danielle Timms came up with a commendable performance for the SDSS crew.

Stallions stampede their way to title at Waterford tourney

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Stouffville Stallions mite boys' fastball team is stampeding the opposition in the early going of the 1997 season.

The Stallions, who have won their first three league contests, ran roughshod over the field as they took the championship at a tournament in Waterford on May 31.

The Stouffville crew combined razor sharp pitching, outstanding defence, and an unrelenting attack in racking up four one-sided victories to claim the title.

They started off with a 9-2 win over Waterloo, then dumped Paris 10-1 before dominating Vaughan in their third contest.

The Stallions rode the pitching arm of Devon MacDougall and the home run bat of Justin Reesor in a come-from-behind 11-2 triumph over Kitchener in the final.

MacDougall and Shayne Paterson combined to give the Stallions stellar

pitching throughout the tournament. The Stallions also won a base running contest held during the tournament.

Reesor, Kevin MacMillan, Christopher Chase and Kurtis Paisley were the fleet footed Stouffville contestants.

Stallions coach Steve Martin is happy with his team's performance in the early going, but concerned by a lack of strong opposition.

"Our pitching is strong, we've been getting lots of strikeouts. And the defence is good. But I'm not really pleased (with the lopsided results)," said Martin.

"Hopefully we'll get some challenges later on."

Rounding out the Stallions' roster are: Nathaniel Martin, Matthew Martiniello, Alex Bruno, Landon Wideman and Stefano Durante.

The Stallions, who are sponsored by IBEW Local 353 and by the Williamson Leasing Buttermakers mens slo-pitch team, are also being coached by Eugene Reesor and Don Paisley.

Chilvers' return a success as Rebels rout Waxers

Jim Chilvers made his return to the pitching rubber after a year layoff Wednesday night, and it soon became apparent he hadn't missed a beat.

The veteran national level right-handed pitching ace hurdled four innings of outstanding ball to help lead the Claremont Rebels to a 5-1 win over the Markham Waxers in an Oshawa City and District Fastball Association

contest at Claremont Park.

Chilvers, who struck out seven batters while surrendering a run on just two hits, also chipped in with a mammoth two-run homer in the third inning.

Tim Evans came on to pitch the final three frames for the Rebels, shutting down the Waxers' offence on two hits while recording seven

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