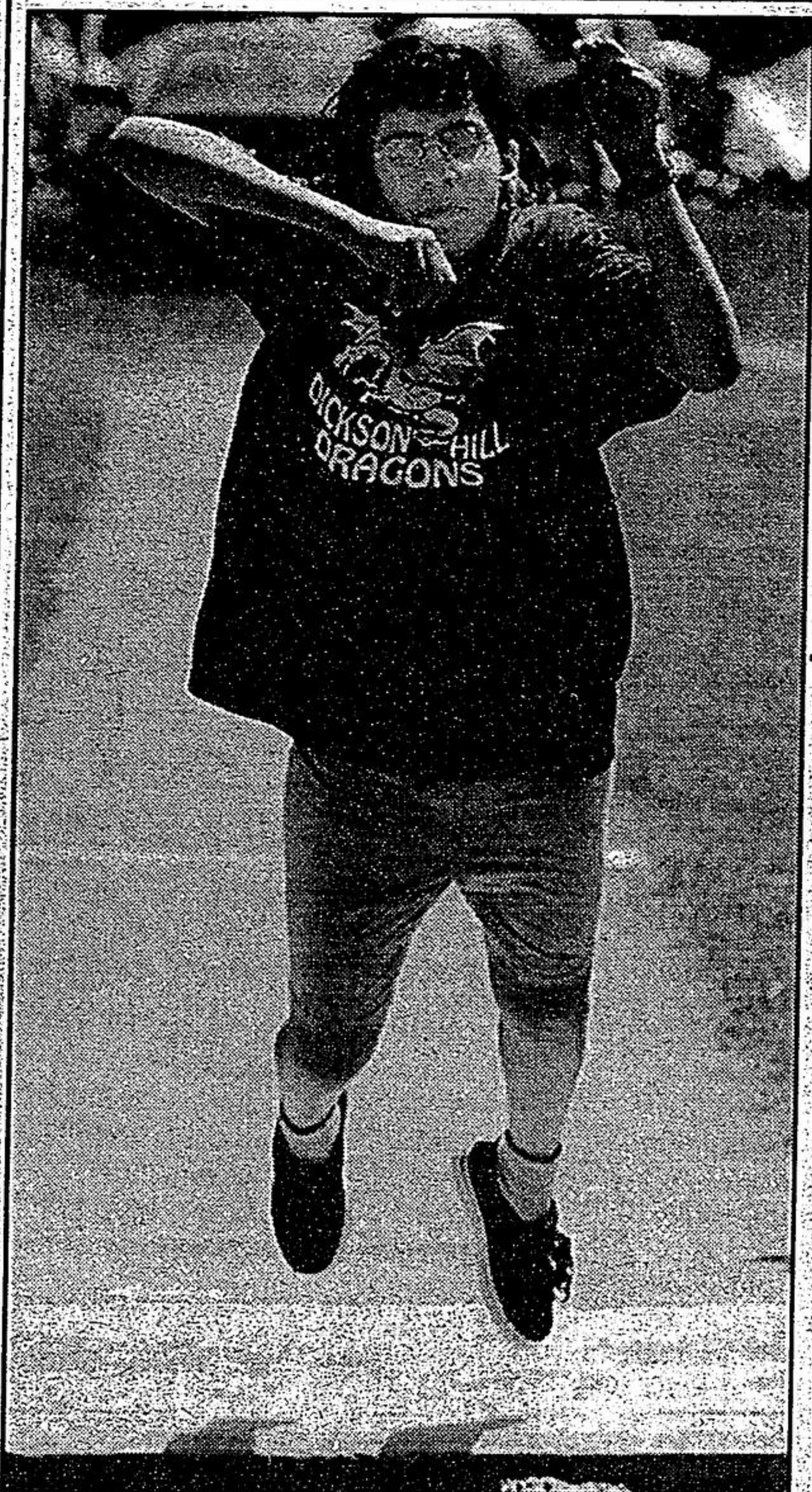


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JUMPING FOR JOY: Dickson Hill Public School's Farah Manji shows good form as she competed in the York Region Elementary Athletic Association north area standing jump competition at the Stouffville District Secondary School track on Tuesday.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stallions storm their way to two wins

The Stouffville Stallions peewee rep boys' fastball team racked up a pair of league victories while taking one of their three matches in tournament play in recent action.

Ben Bellissimo socked an out of the park home run, with pitchers Scott McDougall and Greg Dalgarno combining for 12 strikeouts, as the Stouffville squad tripped up Scarborough 9-3 June 2.

John Ferguson had a triple and two singles, while Rod Assinck also had a three bagger. McDougall socked a double. Three days later McDougall and Assinck teamed up to blank Oshawa 9-0, with the pair striking out 11 batters. Lucas Hunter belted a homer and two singles. Ben Crawford and Corey Rice each had three singles.

At the Kingston tournament June 7, the Stallions were stopped 9-1 by a hot Willowdale team in their opener. Ferguson's double was the Stallions' only extra base hit.

The Stouffville crew then fell 8-2 to Orleans in game two, with Bellissimo banging out a triple and making an excellent throw from centre field to cut down an Orleans base runner at third base.

The Stallions shut out the host crew 2-0 in their final contest as McDougall and Dalgarno shut down the Kingston offence.

Bellissimo and Rice socked doubles, with Ben Crawford, Robert Anderson, Nicky Dambrosio and Ferguson adding singles.

The Stallions fell short of advancing to the consolation round due to a shortage of runs.

The peewees play their home games Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on the main diamond.

Top student athletes are honored by high school

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

They celebrated perseverance in the face of adversity at the annual Athletic Ceremony Tuesday night at Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS).

The banner draped over the awards table proclaimed the theme, "The Year of the Special Athlete." Special accolades were afforded the school's World Wheelchair Basketball Championships participant Steve Laird, as well as the 20 SDSS students who assisted at the recent York Region Elementary School Track and Field Meet at the Stouffville Track.

But as SDSS volleyball and lacrosse coach Julie Morris pointed out, the school's athletic program as a whole was faced with its own hurdles this year. "This hasn't been a fun year, there were a lot of challenges to extra curricular sports," Morris said, pointing to an ever-shrinking athletic budget and the increasing demands on the time of the school's coaches. "Nonetheless, Stouffville has survived and excelled." Morris said Stouffville is "unprecedented in York Region" when it comes to the extent of community involvement in coaching high school sports, as well as the high rate of alumni who return to assist with the athletic program.

SDSS vice principal Rusty Hick, who will assume the same position at Markham D.H.S. this fall, agreed with Morris. "Stouffville coaches and athletes are among the best in the world," he said.

Topping the list of award winners were Alison Crowder, Alex Chacinski, Mark Burkholder and Ian Hazelwood, who were named Outstanding Senior and Junior Female and Male Athletes of the year respectively. Crowder, who was also junior girls volleyball and basketball MVP, was cited by presenter Grover Bradford for her commitment to being a winner both on and off the court. Hazelwood incorporated all the qualities of a winning athlete, said presenter Brian Simcoe, a volunteer coach.

Chacinski was junior badminton and girls soccer MVP as well as top junior female athlete. Presenter Heather Henricks marvelled at how the multi sport

athlete had become a top soccer player in York Region, while achieving provincial level status in her first year as a field hockey player. Henricks noted how Chacinski had been the recipient of the Margie Griffiths Award last year, proving that her athletic prowess is backed up by admirable personal qualities. She always showed "humility and quiet leadership" while serving as a constant inspiration for her team mates, praised Henricks.

Burkholder, also a multi-sport athlete, was cited for his dedication, reliability and his commitment to improve. Presenter Andy Cherkas said Burkholder, who was also named midget boys basketball MVP, was a team player who was always trying to lift his fellow players.

Once again, a highlight of the program was provided by the students' choice "pig kissing" event. SDSS teacher/coach Sue Leroy managed to out earn Steve Kinsella by a pig's whisker in the fund raiser, which saw the students contribute cash to the Special Olympics as a means of voting for which teacher would draw the pig smooching assignment.

James Bowen and Amy Sled were the winners of this year's SDSS Fitness Challenge. Bowen smashed a 12-year record by completing the rope climb in 4.43 seconds, Brenda Robbins and Chris Weatherill were announced as 1997-98 Athletic Council co-presidents, taking over from Katie Scorrar and Ian Hazelwood.

The Moral and Physical Improvement Award went to Chris Lamont, with Danielle Timms receiving the Jim Rehill Award for commitment and dedication. Timms also picked up the MVP nominations for junior girls volleyball (shared with Alison Crowder) and girls slow-pitch.

The Homestead Award, given annually to the student who makes the biggest overall contribution to athletic achievement and student leadership, went to Lillian Boyd. Boyd was cited for her athletic council membership, her participation on four school teams, her fund raising efforts, and for being manager of the junior boys' volleyball team. She was also a teaching assistant to SDSS girls physical education head Sheila Coleman, while making a solid contribution to the school year book.



MOST VALUABLE STUDENT ATHLETES: Stouffville District Secondary School recently honored its top student-athletes for the 1996-97 academic year. Among those earning honors included (front row, far left): Lillian Boyd (Homestead Trophy winner), Ian Hazelwood (Outstanding Senior Male Athlete) and Alison Crowder (Outstanding Senior Female Athlete). In the back row are (from far left): Mark Burkholder (Outstanding Junior Male Athlete) and Alex Chacinski (Outstanding Junior Female Athlete).

Photo by BRUCE STAPLEY

Rebels prove too much for Heat to handle

The Claremont Rebels proved equal to the task of cooling down the visiting Oshawa Heat at Claremont Park on Wednesday.

The Rebels had all hands on deck as they blanked the highly ranked Heat 4-0 in front of a fair-sized crowd in the Oshawa City and District Fastball Association contest.

The team's ace righthanded pitcher Chris Wilson made his first appearance of the season, shutting down the Heat on a mere two hits while striking out 11

Wilson was just as formidable at the plate, stroking a pair of triples to drive in two Rebels' runs.

The Rebels lineup also included pitcher-sluggers Scott Evans and Jim Chilvers, who rested their pitching arms while contributing offensively with an RBI each.

Tim Evans had two of the Rebels' eight hits.

The Rebels hit for three runs in the first inning. Dave Jones led off with a walk, with Tim Evans and Chilvers

slashing singles. Scott Evans' long sacrifice fly to centre scored the second run, with Wilson's triple cashing the third. Wilson's second triple scored Scott Evans, who had walked in the third inning.

The Rebels threatened again in the fifth when they managed three hits. But the Heat executed a double play to snuff the threat.

The Rebels are scheduled to play Oshawa Blue in Oshawa on Monday and Port Perry at home on Wednesday.