

THE TRIBUNE

Sports & Leisure

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The best is yet to come for Crowder



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Family values were the order of the day at last Tuesday's Stouffville District Secondary School 1996-97 Athletic Ceremony.

Alison Crowder, who was the recipient of the Outstanding Senior Female Athlete Award along with a couple of team MVP's, won the hearts of all in attendance when she went about the business of thanking those who had shown her such support during her illustrious four-year high school athletic career.

When she began to say how her grandparents, Earl and Marion Crowder, had always been there when she took to the court, she got choked up and couldn't continue.

Earl and Marion, who were sitting at the Crowder family table at the ceremony, are also grandparents to the athletic Gilroy sisters, Melissa and Cassie, who have also made a name for themselves through the years at SDSS.

The tears reappeared when Alison tried to say how she owed so much to her big brother, Graham, for teaching her so much about things athletic.

Finally, after a few false starts, the 17-year-old super athlete was able to continue. But not before one of her cohorts yelled at her encouragingly to, "suck it in," causing a welcome diversion and eliciting a flood of laughter from everyone.

Alison called her SDSS memories "priceless," as she reflected humbly upon the successes of teams on which she has played.

"In my four years at SDSS I've been lucky enough to be a part of seven championship teams," she said.

She received a huge ovation after closing by reciting an inspirational poem called "The Winner's Creed." "Success begins with a person's faith," the poem noted.

For Alison, this could be her SDSS swan song. She is bucking for a volleyball/fastball scholarship at a university near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

She went to Philadelphia this past weekend, where her Markham fastball team was to compete in a tournament. The university coaches were up to scout her in Markham late last month, and apparently were impressed with her abilities.

But it gets even better.

Alison will be heading to an international fastball tournament in Prague in the former Czech Republic at the end of this month to play catcher with the British National Fastball Team.

Apparently, the Brits scouted her and a number of her Markham teammates, and made the necessary passport arrangements to have Alison and her cohorts join the English squad. The top two teams at the tournament, which runs the first week of July, go to Japan for the 1998 World Championships, with the winner of that competition qualifying for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Meanwhile, back at the SDSS Athletic Ceremony, the family theme was being played out by another big winner, as well.

While most of the athletes sit with their peers at these events, Alex Chacinski was sitting with her mom Zora, her dad Roman, and her little brother, Remy. Upon receiving her third award of the night, the big one for being named Outstanding Junior Female Athlete of the Year, it was hugs and kisses from mom and dad as she returned with her trophy.

Andy "Doc" Cherkas, the pride of Elliot Lake, was in top form as usual, when he delivered his soliloquy in praise of his midget boys' basketball team.

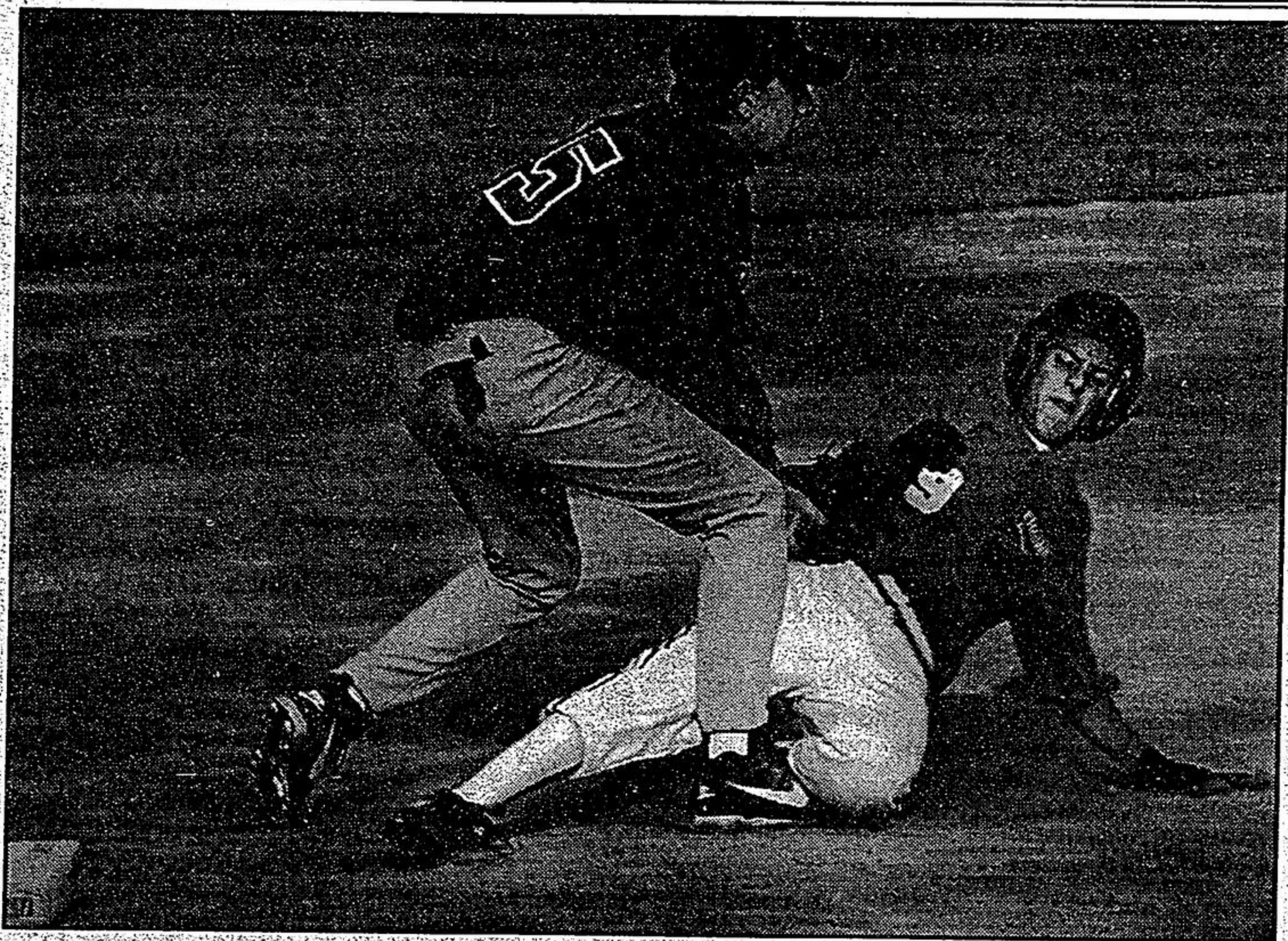
Right off the top he made it quite clear he had no intention of staying within the time limit imposed upon presenters, in the attempt to have the thing end at a decent hour.

"I can't stick to two minutes. I never have and I never will," he proclaimed, much to the chagrin of co-hosts Katie Scorrar and Ian Hazlewood, who did everything but push him off the stage!

Andy went on to prove the modern-day maxim that statistics don't lie, but liars can use statistics, as he used his own unique formula to prove(?) that his team, which missed the YRAA playoffs, was actually the second best squad in the region!

Right on, Doc!
Track and field coach Fred Robbins gets the award for most poignant athletic pronouncement when he explained how track and field achievement at the high school level all comes down to seizing the moment.

"It's the only sport where you compete against 40 other schools in one day," noted Fred. "And you hope it's your day!"



COLLISION COURSE? In an effort to safely reach third base, Stouffville base runner Nick Dambrosio (right), tries to slide under the tag of Richmond Hill third baseman Domenic Perruccio, during action in this recent peeewe rep baseball game at the town park diamond. Dambrosio, however, was called out on this play.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

McDougall strikes out 12 to help peeewees throttle Richmond Hill

Pitcher Scott McDougall racked up 12 strikeouts, and Jonathan Ferguson belted a home run to help lead the Stouffville peeewe boys' rep fastball team to a 5-1 win over Richmond Hill at

the town park on June 12.

Ben Bellissimo rapped out a triple, double and single for the winners.

Brandon Tardella and Nicky Dambrosio each collected two

singles, with Rod Assinck laying down a pair of bunts.

The Stouffville squad came up with some outstanding defensive plays to help preserve the victory.

Betz midgets bring home title from Guelph tournament

No contest.

That was the story for the pitch-rich, power-laden Betz Pools midget boys' fastball team as the Stouffville squad romped to the title at the Guelph tournament over the weekend, after recording an impressive victory in league play.

The Betz brigade outscored the opposition 43-0 in three games in Guelph, as pitchers Paul Koert and Kevin Hackert combined for the three shutouts while making a large contribution to the team's offensive assault. The Stouffville outfit started off with a 12-0 win over Port Perry, as Koert blasted a home run to back

up Hackert's pitching gem. Koert then shut down the host crew 19-0 in game two, with Hackert finishing up on the pitching rubber after clubbing two round trippers. Scott Assinck homered for Betz, as well. In the final against Waterford, Koert looked after the pitching duties, with Hackert and Brett Boyd socking home runs.

In North York Major Fastball League regular season play last Wednesday at the town park, it was Koert racking up 13 strikeouts in a 6-0 whitewash of the Rebels, a Toronto Beaches team.

Betz midgets to play exhibition tilt against New Zealand squad

A pair of area teams will take on the boys from down under in an exhibition fastball double header July 16 at Stouffville's Memorial Park.

The New Zealand under 19 men's fastball team will be the featured attraction in the twin bill, taking on Stouffville's Betz Pools

midgets and the Uxbridge Bandits men's squad.

Fireballing right hander Scott Evans, the former Stouffville junior who is an occasional pitcher with the Claremont Rebels this season, will pitch for the Betz crew.

The Bandits' lineup includes

former Stouffville rep stars Chris and Rich Burkholder, Byron Baranieski, Rob Reesor, Mike Underwood and John Pollard.

A highlight of the night will see the New Zealand squad perform its ceremonial dance, the Ha Ka, before each game. The ritual is a challenge to the opposing team.