

# Sports & Leisure

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## Under-19 squad pick Boyd, Koert to play for provincial squad

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Correspondent

For most teenaged boys, playing a game of ball means stealing home at the local diamond.

But for Stouffville fastball aces Evan Boyd and Paul Koert, their diamond dreams are taking them to Western Canada for the second year in a row.

The duo, who have played together for most of their years in organized fastball, got to take their first western road trip together last summer when they were selected to accompany Ontario's Napanee entry in the 1996 Canadian Midget Fastball Championships.

The close friends will be heading west once again this season as members of the Ontario Under-19 Youth All-Star Team.

The Ontario squad is to compete against the best from the other provinces at the Canada Games fastball tournament, which gets under way Aug. 11 in Manitoba.

Koert, 18, and Boyd, 19, have survived four years of cuts as the Ontario team prepared for this year's national tournament. The final roster was announced in mid-June.

They join 13 other talented players from across the province as the team looks to capture the National Youth fastball title.

Koert, a six-foot-three inch, 200 pounds plus left handed pitcher, will be out to dazzle oppos-

ing pitchers with his array of pitches. Boyd brings to his short stop position a quickness on the field and an adept bat at the plate.

The twosome are hoping to represent Ontario on yet another field this season as their Betz Pools midget boys' rep team attempts to land an Ontario Amateur Softball Association championship, putting them in the running for the Canadian midget title. The Betz brigade was fourth in last year's OASA showdown.

Despite their numerous successes playing as a tandem on the diamond of Stouffville - the pair also boast two OASA squirt titles and a pee-wee crown - Boyd and Koert are realistic about just how far their fastball skills will take them.

"I just want to keep it fun", said Koert, who is considering playing ball in Australia next year.

Koert said he has no plans to make his chosen sport any more than a hobby.

Boyd shares his friend's relaxed attitude toward the sport. "I'm going to college next year, but I'm still going to play fastball for fun," said Boyd.

Another thing they have in common is their determination to keep their friendship intact wherever the future takes them. Boyd said he will be cheering his team mate on as Koert competes for a spot on the Team Canada Youth Fastball Team July 20-27.

"It's always good to have support," said Boyd.



EVAN BOYD



PAUL KOERT



A GAME OF INCHES: Stouffville's Len Abbott (right), indicates to teammates Bill Dart and Glenda Dunkeld how far his ball landed near the jack during action in the recent Strawberry Festival Lawn Bowling Tournament at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club. Preparing to take his turn is Oshawa's Doug Marshall (left).

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Peewee boys turned back in consolation final

The peewee boys' rep fastball team is Chepstow bound in search of a ticket to the Eastern Canadian Fastball Championships in New Brunswick.

The peewees prepared for this weekend's provincial eliminations in Chepstow by going as far as the consolation finals at a tournament in Napanee June 21.

The Stouffville squad went undefeated in three preliminary games, winning two and tying one.

But the team didn't have enough runs to qualify for the championship contest, and went on to succumb to the heat and host outfit in a 5-1 loss.

The peewees had their scoring opportunities in the final, but stranded all but one base runner.

The Stouffville boys led off the tournament

with a 5-4 win over Kemptville.

A solid defence, along with a double and single by Ben Crawford, were the keys to the triumph.

Rod Assinck had a double and a single, and Ben Bellissimo collected three singles, as the pee-wees came up with their best game of the season in a 2-2 tie with their league nemesis, the Willowdale Golden Bears.

Excellent defence and superb team work enabled the Stouffville crew to come back from an early two run deficit.

Jonathan Ferguson had two singles and a triple.

Brandon Tardella tripled, and Nicky Dambrosio had two singles as the pee-wees steamrolled over Central Frontenac 7-3 in their third contest.

Pitcher Gregg Dalgamo struck out five.

## Students earn high marks at provincials

Sheffield Judo Club fought their way to a best over-all finish at the Ontario Judo Championships on the weekend of June 22. The championship, held at Humber College in Etobicoke, featured fighters from Ottawa to Windsor and proved to be an excellent opportunity for the Sheffield squad to show their stuff.

Grabbing the gold were Chris Canteini (7-year-old boys, 31 kg), Chantal Jones (9-year-old girls, 27 kg), Jamie Hewlet (9-year-old girls, 39 kg), Kerry-Lynne Hulshof (11-year-old girls, 34 kg), Eugi Plank (10-year-old boys, 34 kg), Kyle Chee-a-tow (13-year-old boys, 40 kg), and Trevor

Chee-a-tow (15-year-old boys, 64 kg).

Stealing silver were Sarah Jones (10-year-old girls, 43 kg), Kilra Poerschke (11-year-old girls, 34 kg), Jenny Jones (12-year-old girls, 49 kg), Dusty Chee-a-tow (12-year-old boys, 39 kg), Katie Jones (14-year-old girls, 52 kg), and David Reid (14-year-old boys, 59 kg), while Dylan Jones (7-year-old boys, 23 kg), Chris Popouich (10-year-old boys, 39 kg), Naomi Ishiguro (15-year-old girls, 66 kg) and Alex Jenson (19-year-old boys, 78 kg) brought home bronze medals.

Also competing and showing well were Mathew Prentice, Florian Plank, Seiji Ishiguro and Patrick Spear.

## Local pony club performers aim for spot on Central team

Pony club members from the Stouffville area and other Greater Toronto Area centres will be out to make the Central Ontario Dressage team this weekend.

The York Equestrian Centre is to play host to the Central Ontario Region of Pony Club's third Ontario Pony Club Tournament of Champions (OPCTOC) Dressage Qualifiers on Sunday.

Selections for the Central Dressage team will be based on scores achieved

at this meet, as well as three other qualifiers held throughout Central Ontario. The team will compete against squads from the Western Ontario and St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley Regions at the OPCTOC, and for the Central Ontario Regional Dressage Championships.

The York Equestrian Centre (formerly the Eglinton Equestrian Centre) is located at Davis Dr. roughly five kilometres east of Newmarket. The event gets under way at 8:30 a.m.