

Sports & Leisure

Got a score?
Call our Hotline
at 640-2100

Mayor's Golf Tournament continues to grow

Mr. Positive. That's the title you've got to give this town's mayor of all the people, Wayne Emmerson.

And nowhere is that fact clearer than in the running of the Mayor's Golf Tournament, which made its debut two summers ago as a means of raising funds for youth programs in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

This year's event, held last Thursday at the Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club, added a whopping \$15,000 to the running total, which now stands at around \$35,000.

As a result, the fund has been able to chip in \$10,000 towards the second ice pad, give an organ to the high school's music department, build a skate board ramp at the town park, put up new rink boards in Vandorf and help out a local theatre group.

"Now we've got more money to put towards things," Mayor Wayne told me the day after the tourney. "I think people now know it's a fund for kids and that they can apply. We expect to do more things such as a program for kids at the library. We want to open up our avenues a little and let kids come forward. We've now got the seed money to keep things going."

For Wayne, the tourney is a win-win situation, a feeling shared by local hockey institution Keith Acton, who was a guest speaker at Thursday's event.

"Keith said that when you're doing things for kids people come forward."

And come forward they did.

Two hundred and seventy of them, to be precise, with others turned away.

Sponsors such as Williamson G.M. and the Bartley boys came up with the "mystery prize", for the closest to the hole competition, a mini-four by four for kids, which was purchased by Stouffville's Keith Betz when a lady from Toronto won it.

"We can't thank our sponsors enough," said Wayne. "Plus the four people who helped me organize it, Wayne Jackson, Norm Dunn,



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Kevin Bartley and Gary McDonnell."

Wayne was bristling with pride in a job well done when I spoke to him. "Even the golf course people couldn't believe how well organized it was."

The trick now, said Wayne, is finding a way to outdo this year's success.

"I don't know how we can better it. We've given away jackets, sweat shirts, and this year replica Tilley hats. What else can you give them?"

He suggested next year's event may be spread over two golf courses in order to handle the demand.

For Wayne, the tournament represents his overall political philosophy.

"You have to be positive. There's enough negative out there. If you don't like what we're doing, then suggest another way."

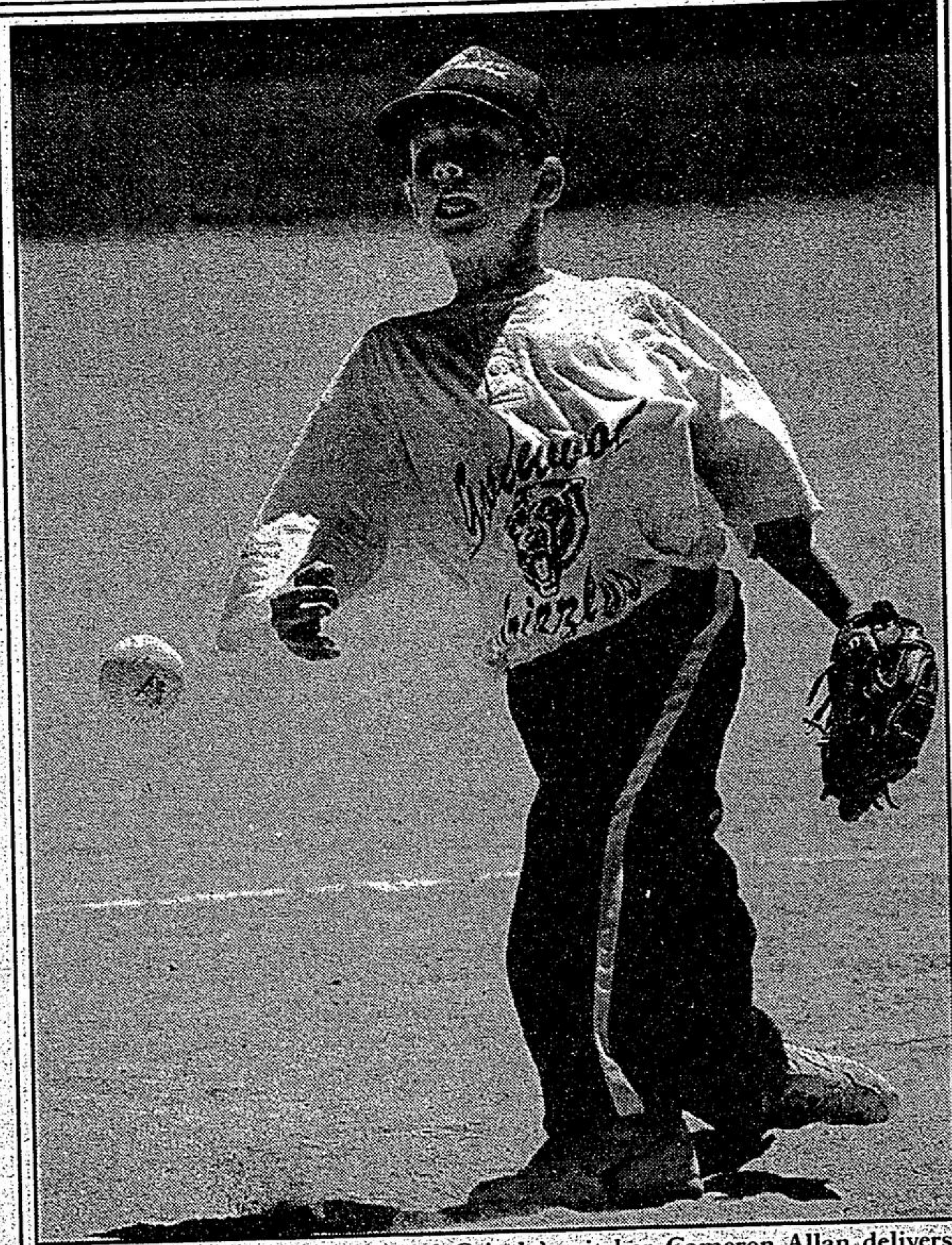
Wayne is determined to ensure that the tournament becomes an institution which continues on no matter who is in the mayor's chair. He said there have been suggestions it be renamed the Whitchurch-Stouffville Tournament in the eventuality a mayor comes along who doesn't want to get personally involved. But he'd prefer to see it stay the way it is.

"The Mayor's Golf Tournament has a good ring to it."

BEST DECORATORS

From the better late than never department, here are the winners of the Stouffville Lioness Bike Decorating Contest at this year's Strawberry Festival: Mackenzie Moyer won the one to three year old category; Brittany Clarkson, Rebecca Myers, Derek Eickmeier, Kirsten Ceilidh and Kim Eickmeier shared the four to six honours; Tara Clarkson and Paul Scott were 11 plus co-winners.

Organizers are looking for feedback as to whether the event should be held on the Sunday of the Canada Day weekend. Call Lioness president Darlene Johnston (640-5554) with your feelings on the matter.



SPECIAL DELIVERY: Goodwood Grizzly's pitcher Cameron Allan delivers this offering to a Stouffville batter during action in Saturday's squirt select tournament at the Stouffville town park diamond. The Stouffville team won this game 7-5 and advanced to the consolation final. For further details of this event, see Page 15. Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Golf volunteers are wanted

Volunteers and caddies are being invited to be part of the scene when the Canadian Professional Golfers Association (CPGA) Championship returns to the Mandarin Golf Club on Aug. 7.

The top level Canadian tournament, which features a \$125,000 prize purse, will see Ashley Chinner take a break from the U.S. Nike tour to defend his CPGA Championship crown.

But while the pros are all lined up, organizers are still looking to round out a team of volunteers.

Positions to be filled include marshalls for gallery control at greens, tees and cross walks, and scoring assistants to help with the leader board, standard bearing and other duties.

Caddies must have some golf experience and must be available all four days of the tournament.

Caddies will be paid a minimum of \$25 a round.

Volunteers should contact Jeff Willis or Matthew Yustin, and caddies should call Jason Laxamana, at 887-9887.

Acton not disappointed by Flyers' coaching choice

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Grist for the mill.

That's how Keith Acton looks at the recent changing of the guard which saw the Philadelphia Flyers install Wayne Cashman as the team's new head coach.

Acton, who has been the Flyers' assistant coach the past three seasons, was a candidate for the position which became available when Terry Murray was dumped after the team was swept in this year's Stanley Cup finals. When Flyers general manager Bob Clarke decided to go with Cashman, an assistant coach in the NHL for almost a decade, Acton said he wasn't disappointed. "A decision was made by the general manager, and I trusted that he had good rea-



KEITH ACTON

sons," said Acton.

Was he afraid he might be served his walking papers after Murray was axed? That possibility is always there, he suggested.

"Sports is a volatile work place, especially in the coaching and managerial side of it," Acton offered.

Acton said he definitely has his sights set upon landing a head coaching job in the NHL, but that he's willing to add to his experiences for a few years yet. "I have strong aspirations to be a head coach some day, but it doesn't have to be today."

He feels he'll be able to broaden his coaching skills working with Cashman, against whom he competed on the ice when Acton was a rookie with the Montreal Canadiens in 1980-81. "I'll continue to learn. It's only going to add to my experiences. As a head coach, you have to be able to draw from your experiences."

While Acton and Cashman are not familiar with each other, Acton feels the former Boston Bruin will be a plus for the Flyers.

"I don't know Wayne personally, but I know a lot about him through the hockey industry. I think he's going to be a good man, he's a character guy, going back to when he played. He brings new energy to the team."

Acton said while it took a while to adjust to not playing when his career ended three seasons back, he's now made the transition to coaching. "I really enjoy the coaching. It's an opportunity to stay in the game."

Turning to the home front, Acton said he's been following the fortunes of the Spirit of Stouffville Provincial Junior A Hockey League team from a distance. He endorses Spirit head coach Dan Larmer.

"I know Dan. I sometimes talk to him about what he's experiencing. If I can give him any advice I'm glad to."

Acton feels Larmer is in an ideal position to choreograph the Spirit's turnaround after two trying initial seasons.

Acton feels the adversity that characterized the Spirit's first two seasons could help lead to a breakthrough.

"Sometimes you have to take a step back to move ahead."