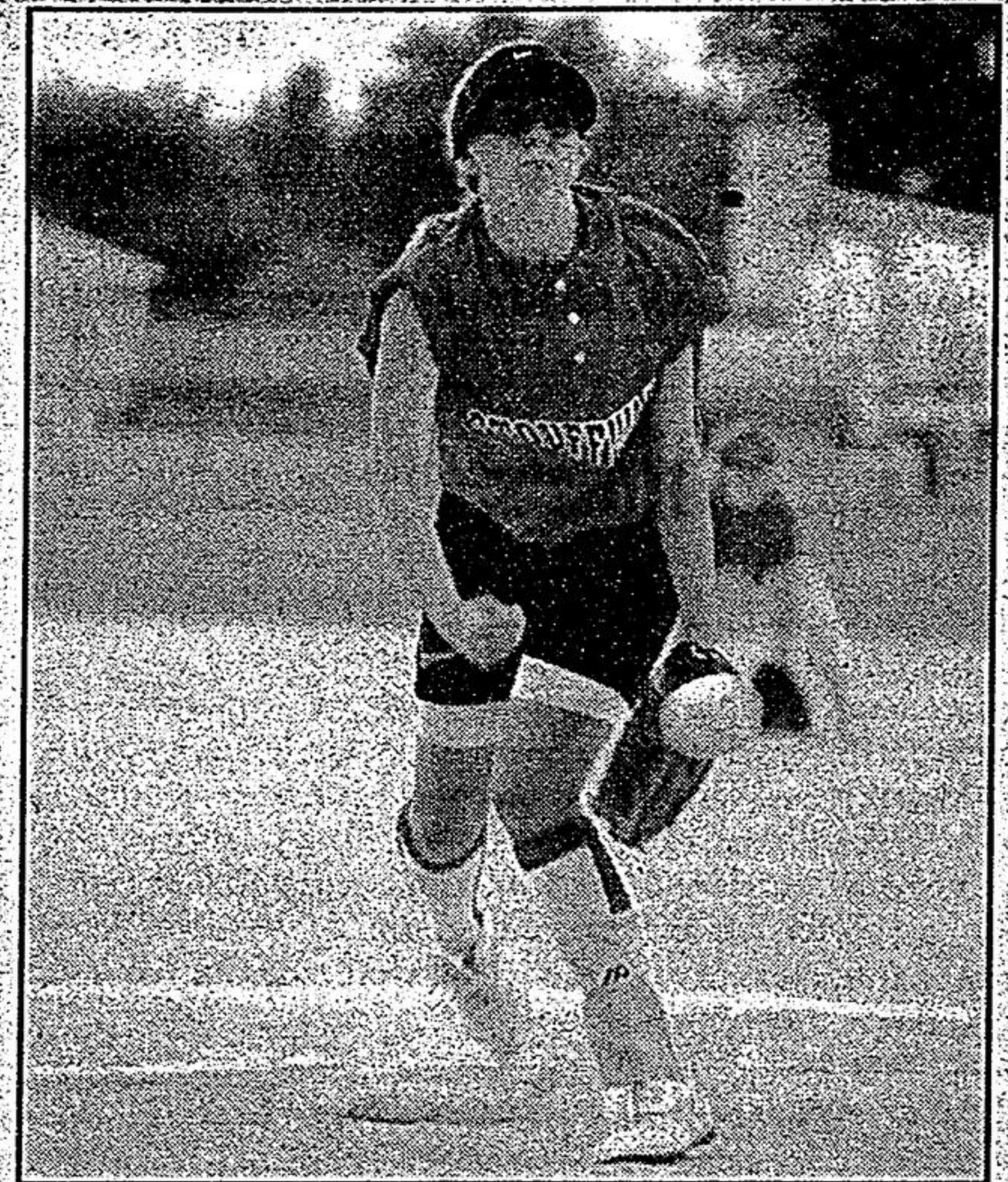
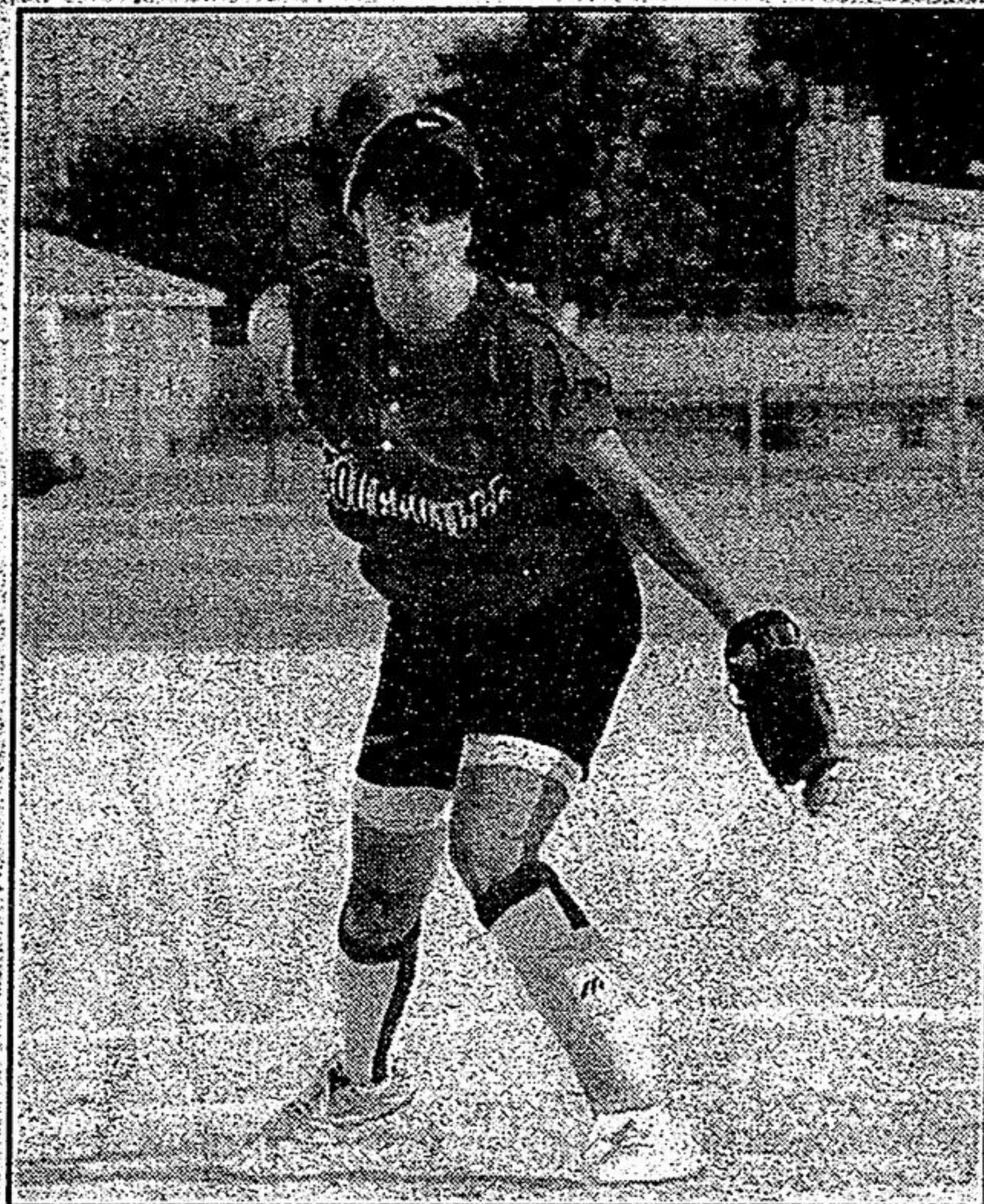
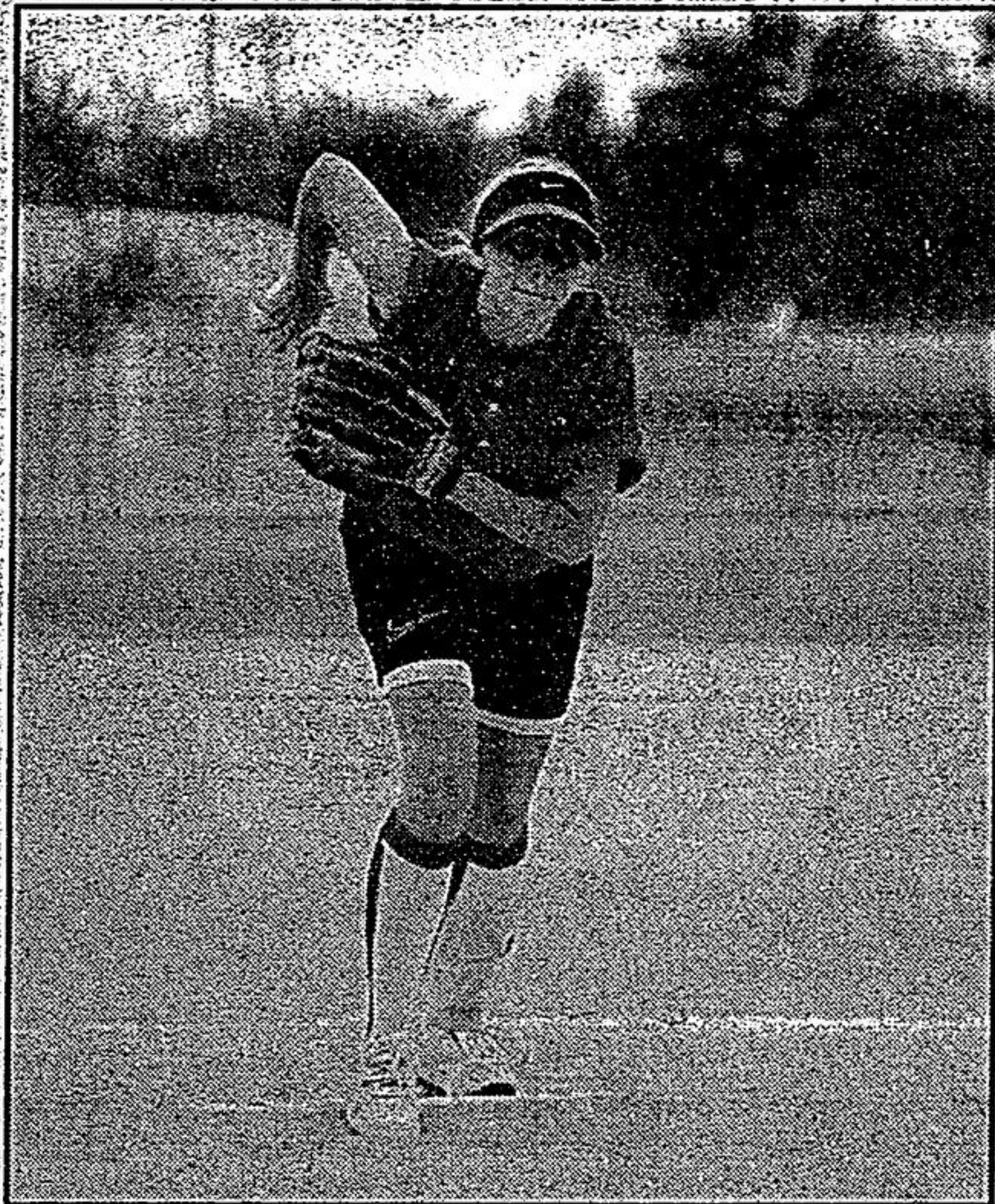


THE TRIBUNE Sports & Leisure

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HERE'S THE WIND UP AND THE PITCH: Stouffville pitcher Marlee Johnson gets set to deliver this offering to a Cobourg batter during action in the Bantam Provincial Qualifier Tier II competition at the Town Park diamond Saturday. The Stouffville team won the game 8-1 and finished third overall in the three-day event. The Stouffville team also qualified for the Provincial Grands, to be held Aug. 15-16 in Sarnia.

Photos by LORI EMMERSON

Boarding and blades a big hit among youths

Forget the ball diamonds, the soccer pitches and the basketball courts.

This summer's hot item for young teens and pre-teens looking to test their agility is the break-neck combo of skateboarding/roller blading.

Throw in freestyle cycling on those scary looking wooden ramps and you've got what it takes to keep the kids busy for hours on end.

While the ramp at the town park is getting more than its share of use, private structures are springing up in back yards across Whitechurch-Stouffville as parents try to provide an activity to keep the youngsters busy over the summer holidays.

We reported recently on this page about how Ballantrae sisters Cindy and Donna O'Neill had put together a "world class" half pipe for Donna's son Shawn and all the other kids in the hood. Stouffville's Sue Joyce read the story, then called to say her 17-year-old son Ryan had built a pretty fair facility himself, and that it too was attracting hordes of local kids.

In fact, Sue was happy to announce that one of the regulars, 16-year-old Johnny McGuire, had achieved top results at a competition held at Harbourfront in Toronto the weekend of July 26-27.

Johnny placed fourth overall, and was second in his age group, in the free style cycling event on the ramp. Johnny ended up with his own legal version



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

of the infamous Rosie Ruiz New York Marathon subway caper when he and his Stouffville friends transported their bikes and boards to the competition venue via the TTC after being dropped off at Finch Station!

However, the downside, reports Sue, is that back on the home front she hasn't been quite as successful as Donna and Cathy O'Neill in behavior control. It seems some of the youngsters can't keep their tongues in check when they're engaging in their favorite outdoor activity, and consequently Sue had to play the heavy and shut the facility down for a few weeks to let the kids know she meant business.

Based on my experiences walking in and out of the high school, and in my own neighborhood, as well as in conversations with others I know around town, this problem would appear to be rather widely spread.

While most people would agree that Stouffville kids are more than all right in general, there definitely needs to be a little refining with some of them.

Hey guys, at least cool it when you're in the presence of others who might be offended. Especially when there's people like Sue Joyce out there who are prepared to pen up her back yard so you can enjoy your favorite sport!

A double challenge for Ontario youths

THERESA EBDEN
Correspondent

At dusk tonight, the final fastball showdown between the top Ontario boys and two established local men's teams has coaches and players of all teams excited.

The Team Ontario Youth Fastball team will take a double challenge, starting at 6:30 p.m. against the Claremont Rebels, and again at 8:30 against the Betz Pools midget boys from Stouffville.

Two Ontario youths, Paul Koert and Evan Boyd, are playing against their own regular Stouffville team.

Boyd is the province's top shortstop in his age group, while Koert is the pitcher for the Ontario team.

"Koert is one of the best, probably the best left-hander in the country," said Bob Abbot, Team Leader of the Canadian Youth Team.

As for pitcher Boyd, he's not only up against his own team, but also his dad, Dave Boyd, the coach of the Stouffville team.

"Team Ontario, they'll be a good team.

They'll probably beat up on our team a bit," said coach Boyd. "I have no problems with that, because they've been trying out for this team for three years. I'll be cheering for them also! It doesn't matter — Evan is still my son."

The Claremont Rebels coach, Frank Hendy, wasn't as enthusiastic.

With several senior players away at the International Softball Congress in Vancouver, Hendy was more than a little worried.

"We hope to give them a good game," he said, laughing, when asked if he was nervous.

Missing in action will be the Rebels' pitchers Scott Evans and Chris Wilson, as well as leftfielder Tom Watson and shortstop Rob Watson.

In their place, Hendy has lined up pitchers Tim Evans and Jimmy Chilvers, catcher Dave Jones, and Dale Jones as a "very probable shortstop."

A few other locals are expected to join the Rebels lineup.

Both of the games will be played in Stouffville, on the first diamond, located on Park Drive South.

Stingers post two wins

Call it a pair of impressive victories for the Cable Tech Stingers midget girls' rep softball team in recent league play.

Tammy Craigie swung the bat, collecting six hits and seven RBI as the Stingers blanked Ajax 4-0 and defeated Scarborough 10-1.

Craigie had three safeties and knocked in four runs against Ajax, then broke loose again to key the rout of Scarborough. Mandy Van Veen and Melissa Gilroy each had two RBI's,

while Danielle Timms homered against Scarborough. Jackie Thorne, Amanda Connolly also drove in runs.

On the pitching rubber, Amanda Crowder continued her strong pitching of late with a five hit, seven strikeout effort against Ajax. Connolly had 10 whiffs and scattered five hits in holding Scarborough at bay.

The team begins its hunt for provincial gold this weekend when they compete in a PWSA qualifying tournament in Oak Ridges.

Stonehouse looks forward to home visit

This week's Canadian Professional Golfers Association (CPGA) Championship at the Mandarin Golf Club will mark a homecoming for a former Stouffville resident.

Ted Stonehouse, who headed up the Stouffville District Secondary School golf team in the late 1980's, will be among the pros contesting the \$125,000 prize purse at the tournament, which gets under way today and concludes Sunday.

Stonehouse placed fifth in last year's Atlantic Professional Golfers Association (APGA) championship, but became eligible for the 1997 CPGA event when the top four APGA finishers declined the invitation.

The 26-year-old, who worked at several Stouffville area golf clubs in the late 1980's and early '90's, currently resides in Sackville, N.S., and is the assistant pro at the Granite Springs Golf Club in Halifax, N.S.