

Sports & Leisure

Got a score?
Call our Hotline
at 640-2100



HERE'S HOW IT'S DONE SON: Steve Taylor Jr., 4, watches intently as his father, Steve, gives him a lesson on kicking a soccer ball at the Rec Centre fields on Saturday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Cabletech midget girls gain berth in provincial event

MARISSA STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Stouffville Cabletech midget girls' softball team batted their way to a gold medal finish at the Oak Ridges Provincial Qualifiers this past weekend and will be heading to Kingston from Aug. 22-24 for the Midget Girls Provincial Championship.

There were 53 teams competing for the 12 provincial championship positions, with tournaments taking place in London, Napanee, Markham and Oak Ridges.

The top three teams from each qualifier were to advance to the Provincial Championship.

The Stouffville girls opened the tournament on a strong note by defeating Fort Erie 13-5 in a five-inning mercy game.

Amanda Connolly was the winning pitcher, while Angie Burke starred offensively, hitting a grand slam homer and driving in five runs.

Mandy Van Veen also shone on

the offensive, hitting a homerun and driving in four runs.

The Cabletech girls racked up another victory in their second game, edging Milton 3-2.

Amanda Crowder pitched a solid game, giving up a mere six hits and striking out six players.

Connolly and Timm's starred offensively in this game, with Timm's hitting the winning triple and breaking the tie in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Cabletech girls offence surfaced in their third game as they overcame a two-run deficit to prevail 7-6 over Palmerston.

A three-run double by Danielle Timms in the top of the seventh inning enabled the Cabletech team to overcome a 6-4 deficit.

Connolly was the winning pitcher.

Shannon Timms and Tammy Craigie were solid on the offensive, while Melissa Gilroy each belted homers.

In the fourth game, Stouffville blanked Oak Ridges 8-0 in another mercy game ending after six innings.

Connolly pitched a stellar game, allowing only two hits, while Craigie was three for four at the plate with three rbi's.

Jen Shepherd was three for three with two rbi's and Melissa Gilroy hit a solo round tripper.

The Cabletech girls got off to a slow start in the gold medal round as they suffered their first loss, a 5-3 verdict to Oakridges in the double elimination event.

However, in the rematch, Stouffville came back to edge Oakridges 10-9.

Connolly was the winning pitcher.

The Timms sisters both starred offensively, with Shannon hitting a three-run homer and Danielle, a three-run double.

Shepherd and Angie Burke also hit well.

Danielle Timms was named most valuable player of the tournament for her solid display of defensive skills.

The Cabletech girls will travel to Markham this weekend to compete in their Midget Girls' League playoffs.

Rough days on links for Stonehouse

MARISSA STAPLEY
Correspondent

Ted Stonehouse returned to his roots this week, managing to get in a few rounds of golf at the same time.

The 26-year-old Stouffville native played in the CPGA Championships at the Mandarin Golf Club in Markham from Aug. 7 to 8.

Stonehouse had a tough weekend and was unable to make the cut for the finals, but expressed gratitude for the opportunity to play in a prestigious tournament so close to the town where he grew up. This gave him the chance to visit old friends and spend time with family members whom he lost touch with

after moving to Nova Scotia with his wife, Patty.

"It was a really neat experience for me to play this stop of the tour," enthused Stonehouse. "It's a great tournament and an honor to be a part of it."

Ted expressed no regret about missing out on the final cut.

"I had a tough few days, and that's probably from lack of playing. I was hitting well, but I putted poorly," he explained.

"It was my first tour event and my first opportunity, besides university golf, to play with such a quality group of players. This one was a real highlight in terms of tournaments."

Stonehouse has played golf professionally for four

■ Please see page 11 ■

These newsworthy Nads are for real



Sports
Notes

Bruce Stapley

Peter Truman, who years ago worked as a news anchor for Global, used to wrap up his show each night with an off beat item.

At the conclusion of his piece, he would end with the statement, "That's not news, but this too is reality."

So what better time than the dog days of summer to shine a somewhat dimmed *Tribune* sports spotlight on a group of would-be sportsmen who have run clean out of real athletic options.

I refer to the Nads, a rag-tag collection of slow-pitch retreats and one time jacks-of-all athletic pursuits who have long been reduced to swatting after ill-aimed lobbs from their own teammates in the local men's fun softball league.

In a world of endless change, the Nads nucleus has been playing together for almost two decades, starting out as the Brew Jays, a spoof on Toronto's then-brand new major league ball club.

They're yet to win the league play-off title, making them more then overdue in a league that only in recent years expanded to include 12 teams.

The team is headed up by Jim "Pops" Brazier, who still takes to the game like an eager youngster despite having reached the big six a few seasons back.

It must be understood that "headed up" in this context means "the guy who gets to carry the equipment to and from games each week."

With athletic supports worn on both knees rather than where they belong, Jim has in recent years been joined on the team by a second generation Brazier, his son Dan.

The team has an average age that would make last year's rickety old Toronto Maple Leafs look like a collection of pre-schoolers by comparison.

TWO YOUNGSTERS ON TEAM

There are just two players under 40, both of whom see double duty as designated runners for Jim, as well as the lame ducks of the week. The two kids - the agile Ralph Montone and the galloping Steve Van Wyck - never fail to elicit envious oohs and ahs when they streak the bases or run a mile and a half to haul in a fly ball.

But a few of the older guys are also still equipped with arms that work like rocket launchers. This serves to keep the older chaps from nodding off, which can sometimes happen to aging men during the inevitable slow spells in a ball game.

Shortstop Frank Wildman, a level one slowpitch player until his knees went south a year or so back, terrorizes first basemen when he unloads his gun trying to nip a streaking runner.

Phil Lavell in the Nads outfield is so bent on unleashing his howitzer every time the ball is hit to him, whether he has a play or not, that second baseman Doug Pattimore has been known to seek sanctuary behind other teammates, or even the screen, when he sees Phil set to throw.

So casual is the atmosphere during games that Nads players have been known to carry on minor domestic quarrels with spouses sitting in the stands during an at bat.

But by and large, wives and girlfriends attending games have learned to be quietly supportive, carrying on conversations with friends or their kids or just enjoying a beautiful summer night while pretending to take in every pitch.

Younger family members are always welcome on the Nads bench, especially on those nights when Bill Shena fails to show up and the atmosphere is a little more serene in his absence.

John Arthurs' pre-teen daughter Jen usually assumes scorekeeper duties, which is a good thing because most of the players can't add any better than they can hit.

WINS OUTNUMBER LOSSES

Once again this season, the Nads have been cruising along in the regular season winning far more than they lose. This is done on purpose by the rest of the league, who know that come the season ending playoff tournament Sept. 20, the team will once again go straight into the dumper.

For this hack sports journalist, the Nads represent a rare opportunity to actually get out there and participate on the field as opposed to my normal daily routine of sitting in my home office chronicling the exploits of the real athletes in town.

And while I've yet to see my picture appear in the paper making an outstanding play in short centre field, I know I'll always take delight in living the running shoe company slogan and "just doing it" every summer Monday night with the infamous Nads!