

Sports & Leisure

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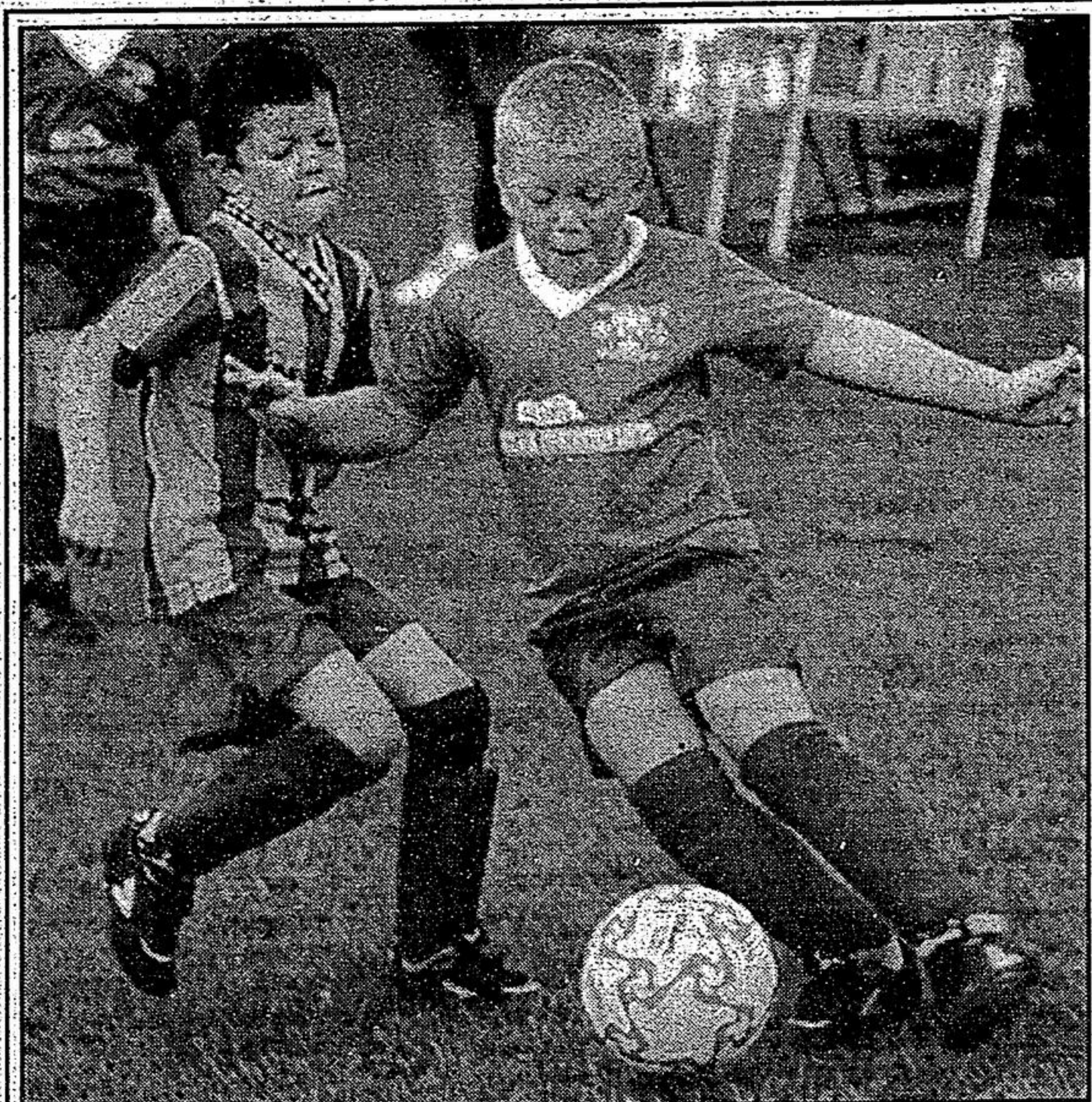
Midgets infuriated by questionable calls at provincial playdowns

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Correspondent

Pitched out
That was the fate of the Cable Tech midget girls' softball team at the Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA) championships held in Kingston over the weekend. Cable Tech pitchers were called for a total of 68 illegal pitches in their three games played at the Ontario finals. The Stouffville squad managed to win just one of three games in the double knockout competition. Cable Tech co-coach Fred Timms said his team fell victim to the worst example of umpiring incompetence he has witnessed in half a dozen years of watching PWSA championship tournaments. "It was the biggest farce I've ever seen," insisted an angry Timms. "The umpires at these competitions are supposed to be drawn from the best in Ontario, but they were all from the Kingston area. It didn't matter how we pitched. We played all season and we weren't charged with one illegal pitch. We had no illegal pitches called in the qualifier when there were umpires from all over." Timms said the Stouffville crew wasn't the only victim of the illegal pitch charges. "Chinguacousy, who were neck-and-neck with in tournament play this season, was out in two games because of illegal pitches." Timms said his team perse-

vered to edge Port Dover 9-8 in 10 innings in their first contest, despite being called for 25 illegal pitches. Starting pitcher Amanda Connolly gave up five runs, all on illegal pitches, shaking the teen. "This kid is tough, but she was crying out there on the mound," said Timms. "The umpire said she was hopping, but you're allowed to drag your back leg like she does. She corrected that, and then was called for double planting with her left foot. I went out and asked the umpire 'Can you show me what she's doing wrong?' He said he couldn't." The frustration of the Stouffville coaching staff led to assistant coach Paul Sheppard being ejected from the game in the third inning after he questioned an umpire's failure to call a Port Dover lead-off. That's when things got even more outlandish, said Timms. "The ump said he was going to forfeit the game to Port Dover, but I protested and two PWSA officials came to our rescue." Timms said the game was continued, but not until the umpire insisted the Stouffville fans move away from the immediate diamond area. The Stouffville girls eventually tied the game in the bottom of the seventh inning, then won it on the tenth after Danielle Timms and Tammy Craigie successfully bunted Angie Burke home. Burke had started the inning

on second base in keeping with international tie-breaker rules. With two of the same umpires on the field, the Cable Tech squad fell 12-3 to Niagara Falls in game two as pitchers Connolly and Amanda Crowder were called for 43 illegal pitches. Crowder hadn't been called for an illegal pitch in three years, said Timms. The Stouffville team was defeated 6-3 by London Oak Ridges in their third contest, which saw a total turn about as a veteran umpiring crew worked the game. "There wasn't one illegal pitch call made," said Timms. "How can you all of a sudden have no illegal pitches after having 68 the first two games?" Connolly pitched the entire game for Stouffville. Timms said that while the third game saw a return to normalcy, the damage had already been done. "At that stage their hearts were out of it. All of these girls worked three years to get here. Even one of the PWSA officials was disgusted." Timms said the team planned to lodge an official protest, and would bring up the matter at the next PWSA meeting. Players' parents were also being encouraged to write letters of protest to the PWSA. Timms praised the poise of the Cable Tech players despite the adversity. "They maintained their composure, and showed great sportsmanship, shaking hands after the game."



GET OUT OF MY WAY: Soluri Bros. Construction Ltd. player Michael Sooley (right), uses a little fancy footwork to avoid Roswill Pools' Alex Powell during action in this Whitchurch Stouffville Soccer Association mini soccer final game at the Novopharm field on Saturday. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Squirt Stallions tamed in semi-finals

The Stouffville Stallions squirt boys' softball team displayed the skills they have been developing all season at the OASA Squirt Boys Championship in Aurora from Aug. 16-17. The boys showed off excellent hitting, running and fielding, said coach David Hayward. In their first game against Orangeville, the Stallions trampled their opponents 13-3 in a five-inning mercy game. Jay McNeil pitched the win, while Josh Spang had three hits and Mike D'Ambrosio and Colin Rainford had triples. In game two, Stouffville was

shutout by Cobourg 4-0. Mike Root and Rainford hit triples in that game. The Stallions bounced back to shutout Stittsville 5-0 in their third game and advanced to the semi-finals on Sunday. Kevin Hayward pitched the shutout, while Josh Spang and Rainford hit triples. Matt Fowles contributed a double. In the semis, the Stouffville squad were blanked 5-0 by Aurora after a hard fought game with Root and Hayward contributing two hits each. The Stouffville Stallions finished fourth overall in the OASA Championship.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MELISSA MUNRO
Melissa, 16 years old, entered an English horse back riding competition at Foxhunter Farm Aug. 17/97. Melissa placed 1st in Novice Equitation, 1st in Novice Hack and won the Novice all round champion. A fine accomplishment for a schooling competition.
Way to go Schnapps the horse, and Melissa!!
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Shadow Lake Centre to benefit from Sportabilia auction held in Toronto

Officials from a Stouffville area camp for developmentally challenged children were hoping to add a cool \$10,000 to a special construction fund in Toronto on Monday. The Shadow Lake Centre on Ninth Line north of Stouffville was to be the recipient of the proceeds from the seventh annual "Sportabilia" sports auction held at Wayne Gretzky's Restaurant. The combination live and silent auction was to include a wide selection of autographed items and other sports memorabilia from professional baseball, hockey, basketball and football teams. Celebrities on hand were to include Tie Domi of the Toronto Maple Leafs, with Toronto Argonaut star quarterback Doug Flutie expected to attend as well. "It's the seventh year they've held it," said Gary Ouellette, director of Shadow Lake Centre. **PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK** He said this year's proceeds will

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be put towards the construction of a \$145,000 wheelchair accessible house at the centre. "We've finally got enough money to start it," said Ouellette. "We're planning a grand opening for the end of September." Ouellette said the annual auction is made possible by the dedication of various individuals and companies. "They bring a lot of autographed items, plus there are recreational trips auctioned off as well."

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