

A silver day in Taiwan for local oarsman



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Andrew Bellerby returned from Taiwan last Wednesday after helping the University of Toronto rowing team to a silver medal at the 1997 Ilan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta in Taiwan, which was held from Aug. 30-31.

The 26-year-old Stouffville native, who won the single scull competition in the Henley North American Rowing Championships in St. Catharines in 1995, was one of eight oarsmen on the U. of T. crew.

The team was one of 14 teams from around the world, and the only Canadian team to contest the high level competition.

The University of Melbourne team defeated the U. of T. unit by 3.5 seconds in the two-kilometre championship race, which included four finalists.

"We pulled really hard and the Canadian spirit came out with this crew," Bellerby was quoted by the China Post National News after the race.

"We were only selected about two weeks before we left, but we jelled very quickly. Our belief in ourselves pulled us down the course," he added.

The Canucks outspurred the Melbourne crew in the final 500 metres, but still came up short.

Bellerby completed a commerce degree at the Toronto University in 1995, and this spring completed a health studies degree at Brock University in St. Catharines.

He is currently setting up a health studies program at the U. of T. Erindale campus, and is about to

begin his masters in health studies at Brock.

While he has been rowing with the Brock team for the past two years, he was asked to be a member of the U. of T. crew, a mix of current students and U. of T. alumni.

RULES NEED TO BE ADHERED TO

A final postscript to the illegal

pitch saga. I contacted Lisette Stapley (no relation), marketing director with Softball Canada in Gloucester, Ont. the other day.

She told me the rules regarding illegal pitches are in the Softball Canada rule books, and that there is a move afoot to try to get associations and umpires across the country to be consistent in calling infractions.

"Nobody's been following it (the rule), but we've got to start," she said. "We need consistency. It's one of our key priorities. Lots of kids have been complaining."

She said the "zero tolerance" rule adopted at the start of this season was formulated by a group of coaches from across the country.

She acknowledged there was a problem with illegal pitches at the recent Canada Games in Brandon, Man.

KOERT EARNS PRAISE

She said softball people from coast to coast are praising the talents of 18-year-old Stouffville lefthanded pitcher Paul Koert, who helped lead Ontario to the Canada Games title.

Local trio make big plays for their teams

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match, with Jonathan Ferguson in the Rebels lineup.

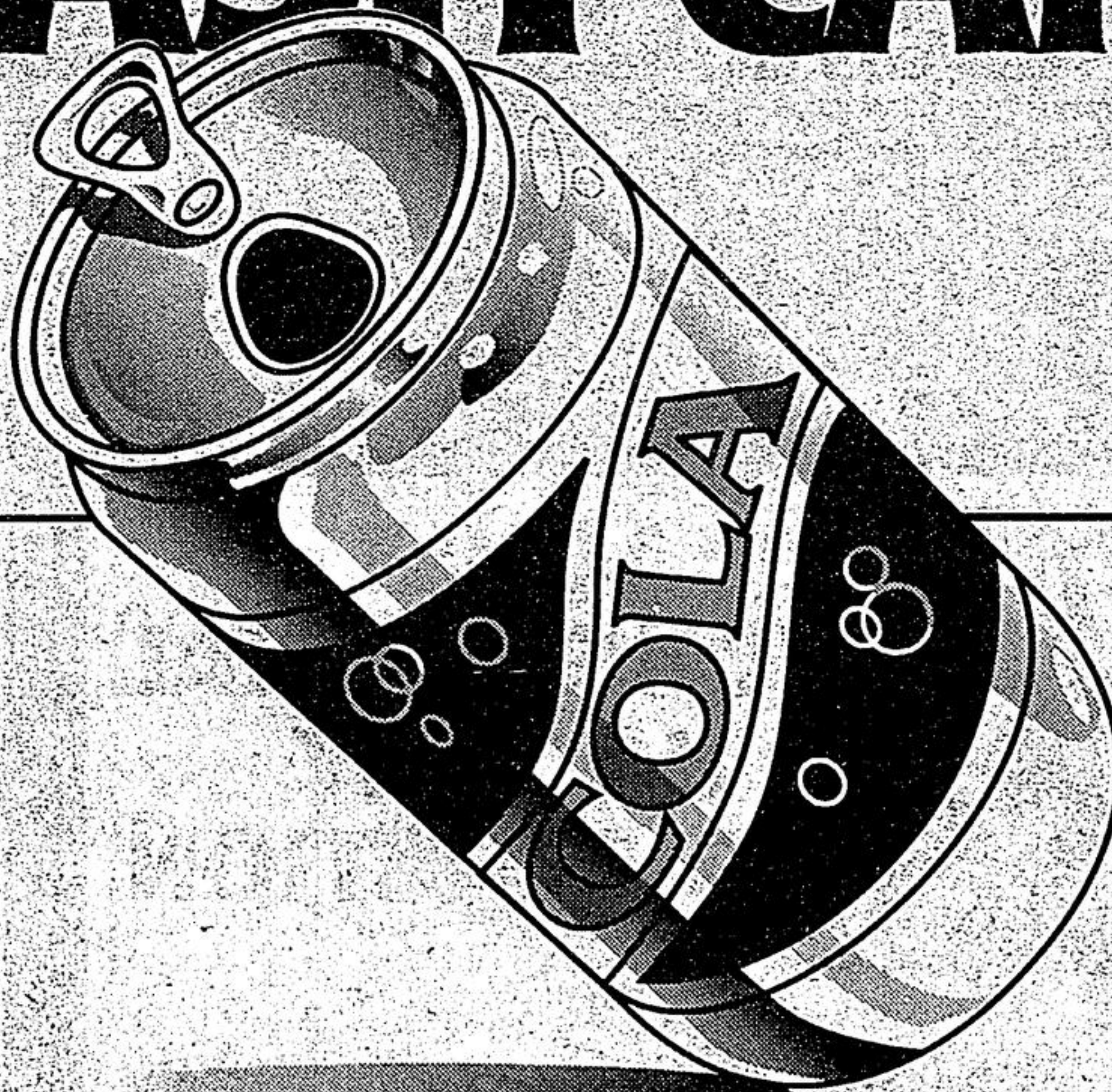
The three were teammates with the Stouffville peewee boys' rep fastball team which placed fifth at this year's OASA finals. They were picked up for the Eastern Canadian Championships by the Richmond Hill and Willowdale teams, which placed first and second respectively at this year's OASA finals.

Assinck pitched in two games for the Bears, picking up a 4-2 win over Nova Scotia and closing the semi-final 10-0, no-hitter victory over Prince Edward Island. Assinck also batted a hefty 600.

Bellissimo, an outfielder, also stood out. He was named MVP in the win over Nova Scotia, scoring two runs, and batted a resounding .625 for the tournament.

Ferguson, a catcher, played in all seven games for the Richmond Hill squad, batting .625 with eight RBIs.

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