

THE GOLF DOME
GOLF LESSONS SPECIAL
\$99.99
 (Reg. \$125.)
 At MARKHAM
 Call 475-3663 for details

THE TRIBUNE
Sports & Leisure

Got a score?
 Call our Hotline
 at 640-2100



PLEASE SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE: Paul Marsala, 8, (far left) and his brother, Adam, 6, look on as their mother, Sara, signs the registration forms to enrol them in the upcoming Stouffville Soccer Club outdoor campaign at the Rec Centre last Saturday.

Photo by STOERD WITTEVEEN

Plenty of excitement at Gatorade half marathon

Excitement was in the air as the early morning start of the Stouffville Running Group made their way to Peterborough.

The event was the climax of all those dark nights on the local roads and all the miles of training. It was the 20th annual Gatorade half marathon.

How far is a half marathon? Well it is 21.1 kilometres or 13.1 miles. The hardest part of this course are the famous roller coaster hills, three or four in a row, on the back part of the route. This made it tough on this double loop course. The hills were between six and eight km and again at 15 - 18 km.

The large crowd of competitors arrived early in Peterborough.

With 10 local runners in attendance, all were hoping the sun would be a nice added touch to the day, which hovered around the 5 C. Some of the group did the five km run/walk; others were attempting the full distance of 13.1 miles for the first time. A few were returning just to improve last year's time.

The start line was packed with nearly 800 runners. It was a thrill to be part of a pack of people running right down the main street of town.

Once we were on our way the five km group of over 400 started. They ran a small loop in the downtown core.

Scott Richardson was the first local member to cross the finish line. He finished 40th overall in a time of 20:36.

Next came Cathy McGowan at 34:11; however she did this pushing her two-year-old son in the regular stroller.

She was back in time to see her husband, Steve Williams, go by the finish for the first loop and then cheer him in at the final 200 metres. Steve ran a strong race to finish 194th at 1:35:24.

Two members who were training for an Ironman used this half marathon as a stepping stone.

Raphael Dube came in 273rd overall in a time of



On the Run

Fred Robbins

Sunday run. He placed 386th in a time of 1:47:09. His posing near the finish line did not slow him at all.

Jeff Elder was a trooper coming back again to battle this course. A couple who sprinted and walked the whole way bothered Jeff. This drove him crazy having to pass the same pair five or six times.

Going at it alone this year as his wife Cindy was not quite ready to compete, Jeff received great support from her as she was cheering and taking photos.

Her friendly advice was a welcomed smile at the finish line. Jeff's time was 1:49:23 to place 424th just inside the top half of the crowd.

Jim Goudis, a die hard for the big races, continues to improve his time. Last year he ran 2:04:00, this year 1:54:24. His family support team helped him out. Jim could be heard saying, "thanks Deb, thanks kids. It's over."

Not having done a lot of big runs and missing a few Wednesday night training sessions with the group, I surprised myself.

Being fortunate to partner up with someone my exact pace, every kilometre Brian was on pace at 3:40/km. My 10-km split of 37:00 seemed comfortable as I held off challenges to placing as a Master (M40).

To my surprise two others were ahead of me and I never even saw them. My daughter said later, "dad that is amazing three guys 40 plus in the top 15 runners."

I was 15th overall and third in my age group, posting a fair time of 1:18:27.

1:40:31 Tyler Townsend, his training partner, was just a couple of minutes back. He placed 306th in a time of 1:42:40.

Chris McCune, a fireman, enjoyed the pace of the long

Legends Hall of Fame to honour Crothers



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

Stouffville area resident and Olympic silver medalist runner Bill Crothers is among those to be inducted into the Ontario Sports Legends Hall of Fame May 1 at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto.

Crothers, a former Markham businessman who went on to become York Region Board of Education Chairman, will be in good company. Also being inducted are Syl Apps, Al Balding, Marilyn Bell, Tony Golab, Avelino Gomez, Paul Henderson, Bobby Hull, James "Tip" O'Neill, Dick Shatto, Barbara Ann Scott, Ernie Whitt and the 1958 Whitby Dunlops. If you can remember the majority of these athletes and their feats, don't admit it because it means you're as old or older, then me! But weren't those Dunlops a top-notch senior team back there just before the Toronto Maple Leafs came into their own under Punch Imlach.

A second ceremony is also being held May 2 at the Hall's Pickering satellite office at the Pickering Civic Complex.

The Hall of Fame is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization established in 1995. Its mandate is to formally recognize and permanently honour the sporting accomplishments of Ontario-born and Ontario based athletes.

LOCAL TEAMS TO VIE FOR TIMMY TYKE HONOURS

It's Timmy Tyke Hockey Tournament time again.

This year two of the 54 participating teams will be wearing Stouffville colours at the 43-year-old tourney, billed as one of the longest running charitable hockey tournaments in North America.

The mite Clippers selects and tyke junior Spirit both cut their teeth in last weekend's opening games at Centennial Arena in North York.

For the mite Clippers, it may have been a preview of the April 5 championship match up at Maple Leaf Gardens as the Stouffville squad was edged 2-1 by Port Credit.

It was the first loss of the season for the Clippers, whose lone goal came from sniper Ethan Werek on a set up by Patrick McEachen.

The Spirit outfit was more successful, edging Clarkson 2-1 on goals by Jamie Gregory and Justin

Hulshof.

Assists went to Christopher Lombardo and Hulshof, who was named Player of the game for his efforts.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association house league convener Ann Salvagna says the mite Clippers and Port Credit are the cream of the eight-team mite division.

The Clippers must win their next two games scheduled for this weekend and next to advance to the finals.

The tyke Spirit face off against a tough Applewood outfit this Sunday.

The Timmy tourney, which includes mite through novice divisions, has seen Stouffville in the winners circle the past two years. The major novice Clippers, who captured the title as a tyke team in 1996 and again as a minor novice unit in '97, are not entered this time around. Instead, they've been chasing after an Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship berth and taking the title at their own tournament last weekend.

The mite Clippers had more than the Timmy Tyke Tournament on their plate last Sunday.

They took out their frustrations of their narrow loss to Port Credit on the Markham Waxers in an 8-0 win in the Stouffville team's playoff opener.

McEachen netted a trio of markers, and added two assists. Lee Averill had a pair, with singles going to Kurtis Hulshof, Andrew Sanders and Werek.

JIM WAGG DAY ON APRIL 4

Looking ahead to the WSMHA houseleague finals, Ann informs me all levels but the bantam/midget/juvenile combo division will square off for their respective title tilts on April 4.

The big boys will go to it the following day.

Ann said April 4 will be declared Jim Wagg Day in memory of the man who poured so much of himself into kids hockey in Stouffville over the past three decades. Ann is pushing to have Jim's name engraved on all the trophies.

"Many of the kids knew Jim from when he would sharpen their skates over the past few years," noted Ann. Jim died earlier this year.

And a big thanks to Ann for going out of her way to make sure the kids get the press coverage they deserve this season.

Not to mention her assistance in making sure the players get identified properly in Tribune pictures taken at houseleague games.