

Sports & Leisure

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Hocher runs off with gold at YRAA meet

Tracy Hocher experienced both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat at the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) track and field championships held at York University on Monday and Tuesday.

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) athlete was almost guaranteed a berth in this year's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) finals by sprinting to the gold in the midget girls' 400-metre race.

Hocher completed the race in a time of 62 seconds.

The victory was sweet revenge for Hocher, who had finished second by a fraction of a second to Unionville H.S. runner Kyla Wainberg at last week's midget track meet at SDSS. This time, it wasn't even close as Hocher ran away from the pack in the event.

But the YRAA meet wasn't without disappointment for Hocher.

Touted as a favourite in the 300m hurdles, she fell half way through the course.

"She would have won it for sure," said SDSS track coach Fred Robbins. "Tracy had been building up to it all spring. She has improved vastly this year. She was a full 13 seconds ahead of her time from last year."

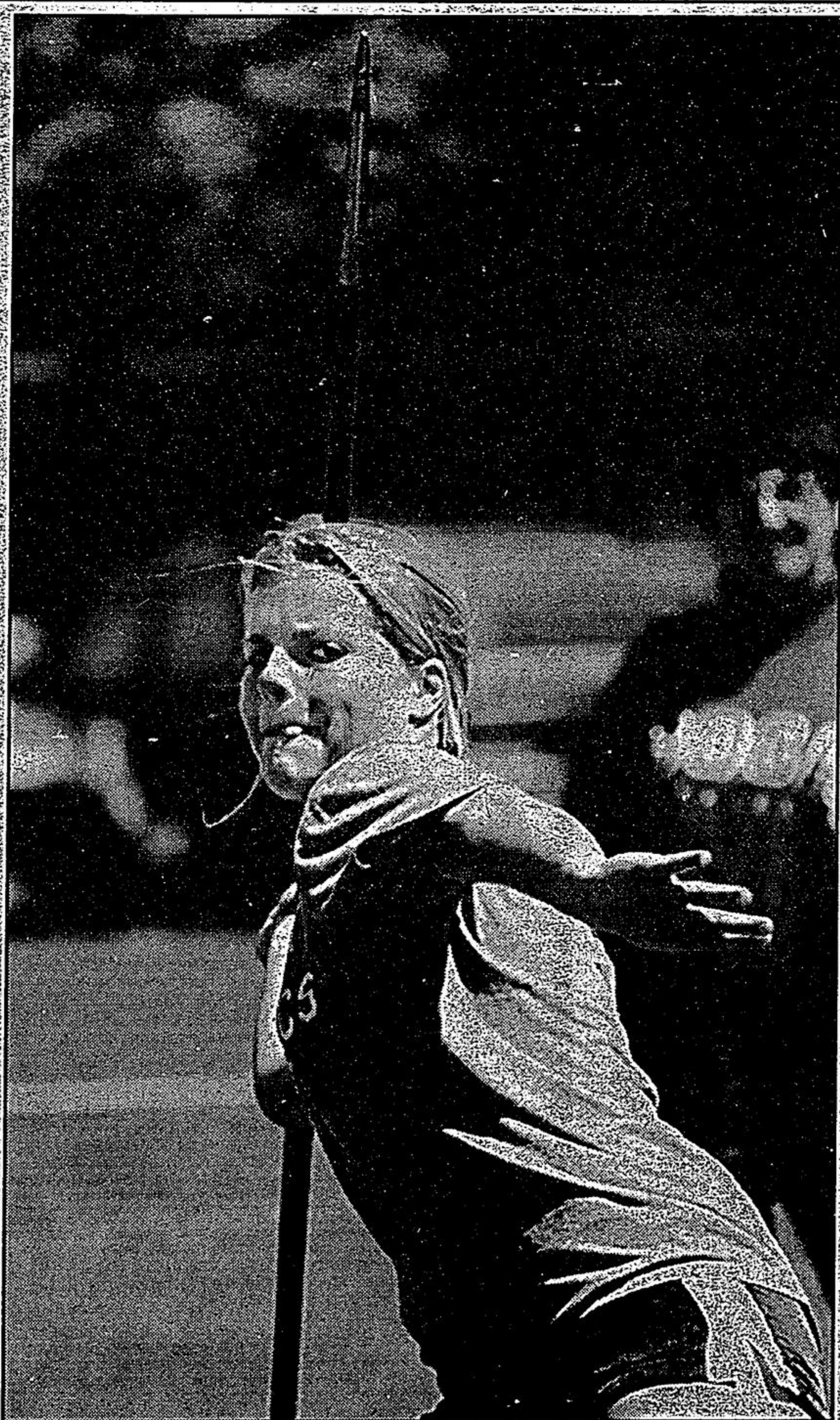
The fall left the athlete with a sore knee, forcing her out of the 4x400m open girls' relay she was to contest with Wendy Wright, Julianne Lowrie and Mandy Vandenberg.

"It was too bad. She was really disappointed," said Robbins.

Hocher was one of eight SDSS athletes to advance to the Central Region Pre-OFSAA finals to be held in Oshawa May 27-28.

Athletes posting top four placements go on to

■ Please see page 24 ■



GIVING IT ALL SHE HAS: Stouffville District Secondary School's Jessica Weatherill gets set to unleash the javelin during her participation in the York Region Athletic Association track and field championships at York University on Tuesday. Weatherill won the bronze medal in the junior girls' division.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Mennos, Rebels to give league a boost



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

There will be several familiar faces wearing unfamiliar uniforms when the Claremont Rebels and Stouffville Mennos take to the field for the 1998 Oshawa City and District Fastball League season this week.

Thanks in part to some last-minute recruiting, the two teams will be staffed by some of the best talent produced by the local minor ball

organization in recent years.

The presence of the Rebels, who moved over to the Oshawa loop from the North York Fastball League last season, and the Mennos, a recreation of the Markham Mennos of past North Durham Fastball League dynasty fame, will make for terrific one-two punch at the local level.

Throw in teams from Port Perry, Markham and Aurora and you've got the makings of a great five-team rivalry.

Unfortunately, the unexpected demise of the Uxbridge Bandits has kept it from being even more appealing.

■ Please see page 24 ■

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