

Spirit will save money

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to include 13 and 11 teams respectively, said Hooper. He said that while the three conferences will be free to decide if they wish to split into separate divisions, they will play a balanced schedule.

Hooper said it will be decided at an upcoming league board of governors meeting how many teams from each division make the playoffs.

"It's my guess that eight teams will make it" (in the Central Conference).

Hooper said the new confer-

ence set-ups will benefit the Spirit, as well as the other teams in the Provincial league's Phillips Division.

"They will save a bundle of money on travel. They'll no longer be travelling to Kingston and Trenton, and they'll have more games close to home."

The merger marks the end of the interlocking schedule introduced last season between Provincial league and Northern Ontario Junior A Hockey League teams.

Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) president Brent Ladds

was also enthusiastic about the prospect of reduced travel time brought about by the merger.

The kids are going to benefit from less travel," Ladds told the Tribune. "Plus, there will be more natural rivalries established."

Ladds said there are sure to be snags in the new arrangement, but suggested it will be a plus. "This represents a lot of work by a lot of people to put it all together. There's bound to be growing pains at first, but I think it should work out well in the end."

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Evans is too hot for Mennos to handle

It was old home night at Claremont Park Wednesday as an assortment of old friends, relatives and former teammates got together to put on a fastpitch clinic.

When it was all over the Claremont Rebels had taken full advantage of their formidable pitching tandem to hang a 6-3 defeat on the Stouffville Mennos in an Oshawa City and District Softball League contest between the neighbouring teams.

Scott Evans demonstrated his pitching prowess as well as his touch with the bat to key the Rebels' victory.

The big right hander hurled five stellar innings of four-hit ball while striking out eight Stouffville batters.

At the plate, Evans stroked a triple, double and a single off Mennos pitcher Byron Baraneski, driving in a run while scoring two more.

Evans came within a perfect peg to the plate of stretching his triple into a home run in the fourth when his blast to left field scored Evan Boyd.

Rebels lefthander Paul Koert whiffed five Mennos while surrendering just one hit and an unearned in his two innings pitched.

Baraneski limited the Rebels to two runs on three hits until the roof caved in on him in the Rebels' four-run sixth. Terry Reesor finally came on to pitch, retiring the side on a double play grounder after issuing a pair of walks.

Evans and Baraneski were teammates on the 1990 Ontario champion Stouffville Merchants Juniors, a team which also included the Mennos brother-combo of Chris and Rich Burkholder.

The youngest Burkholder brother, Ryan, also plays for the Mennos, who are coached by the boys' father, Howard.

Rebels coach Frank Hendy said the fact he has ties with most of the Mennos players makes it tough to compete against them on the diamond.

"I hate playing these guys," noted Hendy of his Stouffville opponents. "I know them all."

The Rebels took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning when Evans singled, then eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Jim Closs. Rob Reesor tied it for the Mennos with a solo home run in the fourth.

Evans' RBI triple put Claremont ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the fourth, with Baraneski drawing a walk, then coming around to even the score at 2-2 on an error in the top of the sixth.

Boyd walked to lead off the Rebels' big sixth inning. Evans doubled and Closs and Brad Evans followed with safeties to complete the game-winning rally.

Chris Burkholder crushed a home run to right field off Evans in the seventh inning to close out the Stouffville scoring.

Evans pitched the first four innings, as well as the seventh, for the Rebels.

It was the third win in five games for the Rebels. The Mennos have one victory in four outings.

The Rebels travel to Oshawa to play the Juniors Tuesday, then return home to host Markham Wednesday. The Mennos are at home to Aurora Wednesday night.

Peewees set to play ball

It's tournament time as eight peewee boys' rep softball teams take to the diamonds at Stouffville's Memorial Park today.

The tourney, which is being hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA), will see the local peewee boys' squad taking on teams from Willowdale, Scarborough, Napanee, Vaughan, Peterborough and Chestnut.

The host Stouffville outfit takes to the field for its first game at 8 a.m. against the Willowdale Bruins. Stouffville plays the Scarborough Wolverines at 11:30 a.m., then closes out the preliminary round with a contest with league rivals the Napanee Express at 3 p.m.

The winners of each of the four-team divisions are to play off for the championship at 6:45 p.m.

Attack still looking for players

The York Attack are looking for local recruits.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer

Club (WSSC) under-13 girls' rep team is hoping to add to its roster by inviting Stouffville area players to join the squad for an exhibition game on June 2 at the Rec Centre fields.

The Attack are to take on the WSSC under-15 select girls' team at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Attack coach Alfons Rubbens said he wants to add some more local content to the team, which includes players from across York Region.

"We've only got 12 players," said Rubbens. "We're looking for some Whitchurch-Stouffville girls born in 1985 who are interested in playing at the competitive level to come out and play with us Tuesday."

The Attack won their second straight Central Girls Soccer League game of the new season Thursday when they staged a second-half surge to blank Newmarket 2-0 in Newmarket.

The game remained scoreless through the opening half, with Nicole Pacque and Andy Sadowki scoring for Stouffville in the second half.

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**MELISSA
NEUDOERFFER**

Melissa Neudoerffer had a golden day at the Unionville Skating Club's final test day of this season recently.

The 15-year-old Unionville resident earned her gold medal in freestyle. With that gold, the Grade 10 Markville Secondary School student became a triple gold medalist as she earned gold in dance and skills achieved last fall. A member of the Unionville Skating Club for the last 11 years, Neudoerffer plans to continue to skate freestyle and work on her diamond dances.

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