

# SPORTS



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEN

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association handed out two major awards at the town park on Saturday as part of the opening festivities to the Ontario Minor Softball Association Midget Boys' Championships. In the left photograph, Rino Dambrosio (left), presents the Carl Meyers Memorial Trophy to Lori Doner (centre), for being Coach of the Year as Mary Meyers looks on. In the right photograph, Theresa Underwood (left), gives the Player of The Year award, the Marg Underwood Memorial Trophy, to Shawn Boadway.

## Doner, Boadway earn ball honours

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

The coach who set the ball rolling for one of the most illustrious junior fastball careers in Whitchurch-Stouffville history was honoured Saturday at the town park.

Lori Doner was named winner of the 1998 Carl Myers Memorial Award during the opening ceremonies of the Ontario Minor Softball Association Midget Boys' Championships, played last weekend.

The award goes annually to the

Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association coach who best exemplifies the virtues of sacrificial dedication to players, leadership and sportsmanship.

Myers was a long-time rep level coach and softball supporter. His 1988 Vandorf-Stouffville juniors won the provincial championship. The team included Toronto Maple Leafs goalkeeper Curtis Joseph.

Doner, an eight-year veteran coach who is directing the squirt boys' rep team this season, began coaching at the house league level as a teen.

She took a midget boys' house

league team and turned it into a rep squad in the mid-1990s. The squad included Vandorf resident Rino Dambrosio, who was named Most Valuable Player of the championship round of the recent Canadian Junior Men's Fastball Championships in Alberta. Doner coached Dambrosio five years in a row.

The 21-year-old centre fielder credits Doner for his softball success.

"I owe it all to Lori," he said. "She got me started. All my dreams and aspirations in softball have been because of her. We've turned

out to be great friends."

Dambrosio credited Doner for getting him on the Oshawa Juniors team in the Oshawa City and District Softball League last season. The Juniors took the silver at the Canadian finals.

When Oshawa fell short at this year's provincial championships, Dambrosio was picked up by the Ontario championship-winning Fingal team for the national finals.

Dambrosio is an assistant coach with the Stouffville peewee team that will contest the Eastern Canadian championships in Prince Edward Island on Friday.

In another special award, Shawn Boadway was given the 1998 Marg Underwood Memorial Award. The award goes annually to the Stouffville midget rep team player that best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship and dedication to the game.

The 18-year-old catcher has been playing rep level softball in Stouffville since peewee.

The award was presented by Theresa Underwood, one of five children of the late Marg Underwood, who was a long-time Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association supporter.

## Napanee wins provincial midget ball title at town park

It was a well-oiled Napanee Express that walked away with the title at the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Midget "A" Championship last weekend at the town park.

The Napanee squad rode the arm of flame throwing pitcher Cory Brooks, who pitched five straight victories, three of them shutouts, as his team went undefeated.

The Express blanked Hagersville All-Mix 3-0 in Sunday's final. Hagersville, which lost its opener 7-6 to the host Stouffville Betz Pools squad Friday, needed to defeat

Napanee twice to take the title.

The Betz squad finished third in the 13-team competition, winning its first three games before falling 7-0 to Napanee on Sunday. The Stouffville crew then fell one comeback short as they were defeated 6-4 by Hagersville later that day in the game to decide which team would go on to meet Napanee in the finals.

In Friday's opener against Hagersville, the Betz brigade carried a 7-1 lead into the sixth, then hung on for the one-run victory. Stouffville's Tyler Armstrong cracked a home

run with Mark French ripping a two-run double to back the pitching of Jay Nesbitt.

The Betz boys scored six runs in the first inning on their way to a 10-1 mercy-shortened win over Cambridge on Saturday. Dan Tardella socked a homer, and Brad Clubine and Nesbitt handled pitching duties.

The Stouffville crew made it three straight with a 10-6 victory over Kitchener later that day.

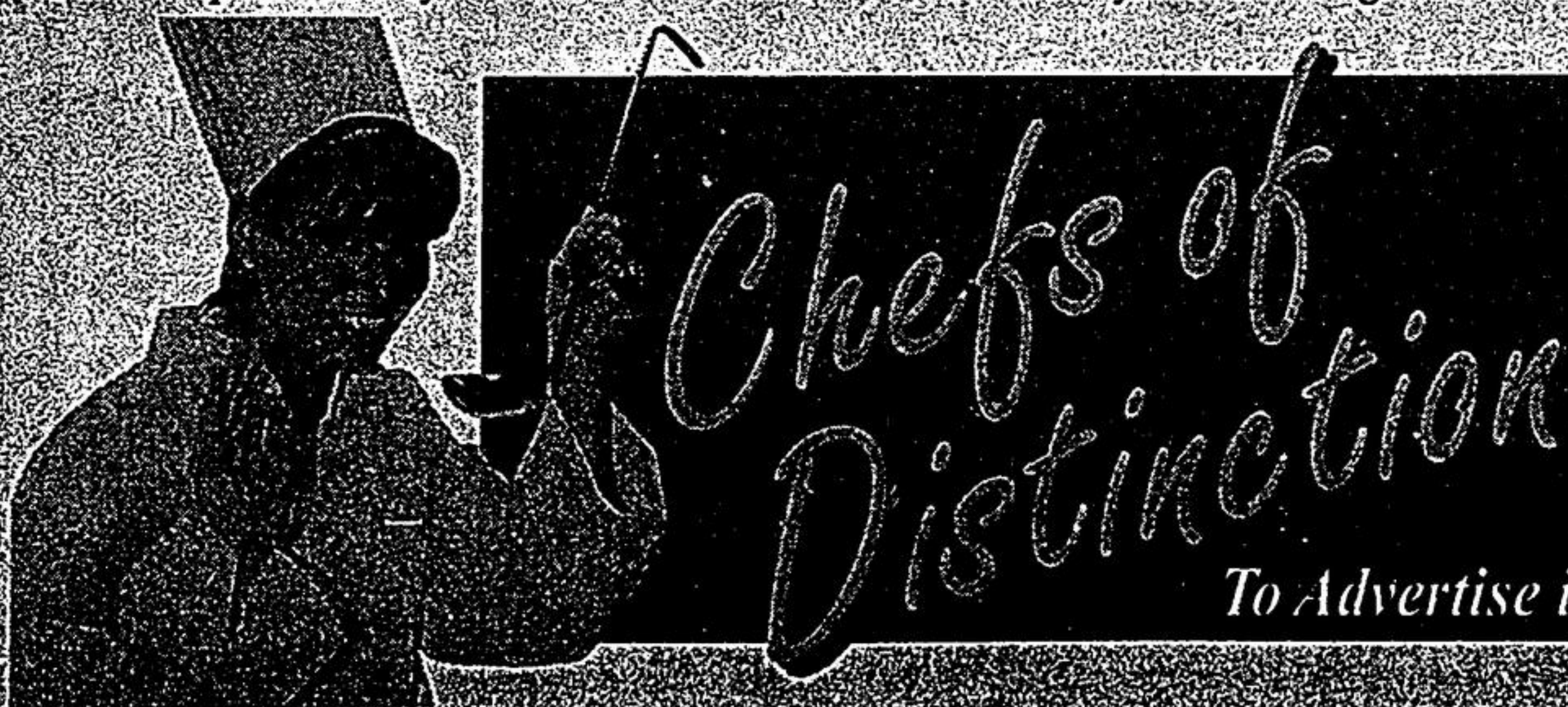
French, Tardella and Mark Meyer hit consecutive triples to keep a four-run third inning. Armstrong scored three runs. Nesbitt

and Jamie Alston shared the pitching duties. But the Betz bats fell silent against Brooks and the Express in their fourth game.

In the crucial match with Hagersville that followed, the Stouffville team trailed 2-0 but rallied to tie it on a two-run triple by Meyer in the fourth. Hagersville restored its lead with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning.

But Stouffville came back once again to square things in the fifth.

Hagersville went ahead to stay with two runs in their half of the fifth.



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