

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

A SAFE ARRIVAL AT HOME PLATE

Markville Secondary School catcher Jennie Scrymegeour (left), awaits a relay throw in an attempt to tag out Stouffville District Secondary School base runner Michelle Dulude during Monday's YRAA girls' softball contest at Centennial Park in Markham. Dulude, however, beats the throw to score the game's first run. The visiting Spartans won the game 4-1.

Maple Leafs are in style

The Toronto Maple Leafs are in fashion in the hair salons of Stouffville, just as they were the buzz of the barber shops when they won their last Cup 32 years ago.

Customers eager to discuss the most recent Leaf triumph are being obliged by stylists and hair cutters all along Main Street as Leaf fever reaches its peak.

"Everybody's on the bandwagon now," says a smiling Tony Nardelli, co-owner of The Hair Break. "It's all their talking about."

"Most of my customers are blue and white," says Art Solotarow, manager at No Frills Hair Cutters. "They're happy. Pretty well everyone's talking about the Leafs."

Andy Caramanico, who operates Fame International, says his male employees, including his 20-year-old hockey-playing son, Shawn, are eager to talk Leafs with anyone coming through the door.

"Shawn and Massimo (Cittadini) are really into it," says Caramanico. "They're always talking about it to the customers, and the customers respond."



Bruce Stapley

But while hockey talk around the barber pole was once an exclusive male domain, female stylists and their customers are also finding themselves afflicted with the Leafs bug.

"We're all fans," says First Choice Hair Cutters manager Annette Kokkinis of her six-woman staff. "We all wore Leafs jerseys to work on Saturday (May 15)."

"It must have worked," chimes in First Choice employee Laurie Wood. "They won."

The First Choice staffers insist they are catching every minute of the action on TV, sticking it out until the end even when games go into overtime. And they're ready to rehash last night's game with their customers the next

day.

"We talk about it," says Kokkinis. "The men customers still talk about it the most, but more and more women are talking about it."

Salon 200 employee Cora Augliro agrees. "You hear it a little more from women now."

Caramanico says it should come as no surprise that women in Stouffville are so enthusiastic about the Leafs.

"This is a hockey town. Most of the housewives here are into hockey because their kids and their husbands play. I think they're really into the Leafs here."

When asked if they thought the Leafs were going to win the Stanley Cup, most male hair stylists were cautiously optimistic.

"I'm saying the Leafs will be there in the finals," said Hair Break's Nardelli.

But there's no doubt in the minds of the women stylists.

"Who's going to win? Of course, the Maple Leafs," says Mario's Jabin.

First Choice's Wood says a Leafs Cup win is in the cards.

"I know they're going to win. I have a premonition."

Teams vie for titles in Raiders tourney

Slow-pitch makes its 1999 debut at Memorial Park this weekend as the Mickey Rats Raiders stage their 17th annual Victoria Day Weekend Tournament.

The competition, which began yesterday, will consist of men's C, D, E divisions, as well as a co-ed D-E class.

At least seven teams are to make up the top level C flight as Stouffville's Buttermakers and Gravy Train squads take to the diamond against teams from Woodbridge, Markham, Barrie, Peterborough and Whitby.

As of Wednesday, Raiders organizers had registered 23 teams overall.

But more entries are expected to sign up by the time the first pitch is thrown.

The tournament, which runs through tomorrow afternoon, will be marked by the presence of the Mix 99.9 Community Van Saturday and Sunday. Tournament headquarters will be set up in the tennis courts at Memorial Park.

A beer garden, as well as a dance tonight, will be held at that site.

The tournament is a qualifier for the annual Slow-Pitch National (SPN) championships this fall.

Rebels, Mud Hens tie one on

The Claremont Rebels had to battle the chilly winds as well as the Aurora Mud Hens in their Oshawa City and District Fastball League home opener Wednesday at Claremont Park.

The Rebels broke even, managing a 6-6 tie in a game called after the regulation seven innings due to the cold.

"It was just too cold to play extra innings," said Rebels manager Sylvia Ryan.

Claremont's Tom Watson found the cool conditions to his liking, scoring three runs while collecting a double, a single and a walk. Scott Evans contributed on the pitching rubber and at the plate.

Evans picked up the Rebels struggling starting pitcher Paul Koert, striking out six Aurora batters over the final three and two thirds innings. Evans had a pair of runs batted in on two singles, a walk and a sacrifice fly. Rebels newcomer Eric Dinelle had a two run single.

The Rebels return to their home park to play Cobourg next Wednesday night.

On a separate note, Koert, Evans and Dinelle will travel to Erie, Pennsylvania together this weekend, when they will play on three different teams at the annual Carpetown ISC Tournament.

Koert will suit up with his Kempsville Juniors team.

Evans will be with his Stittsville mens squad, while Dinelle suits up with a men's team from New Jersey.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

COURTNEY STEWART



Courtney gave a repeat performance and more when she entered the pool in Winnipeg to compete at the recent national synchronized swimming championships. The 14-year-old Unionville resident

retained her junior solo and duet titles. And as a bonus, she captured this year's figures title and earned the aggregate or all-around award. A Grade 8 student at Coledale Public School, Stewart became the first swimmer from Ontario to accomplish this feat in over a decade. Stewart is a member of the Synchro Optima Club.

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