

Cougars claw fastpitch crown

Markham under-14 girls' team wins Eastern Canadian championship

It wasn't a national title. But capturing the Eastern Canadian girls' under-14 fastpitch championship last weekend in Nova Scotia was a nice way for the Markham Cougars to end their season.

Being denied the opportunity to compete in the inaugural national championships after being eliminated in a provincial qualifier last month, the Cougars settled for the next best thing after beating Oakville 11-4 in five innings in the title tilt at North River.

"It wasn't Prince Edward Island," Cougars' spokesman Sandy Jankowski said in reference to where the inaugural national under-14 girls' championships were being played. "We thought we could be Canadian champions. But we didn't perform up to our capabilities. But we did play up to it in this tournament."

The Cougars settled the outcome in the first inning after erupting for eight runs and never looked back.

Joey Kyriazis was the winning pitcher and was named the tournament's most valuable player. Centrefielder Rhea Jankowski was the Cougars' most valuable player in the finale.

The Cougars served notice they would be contenders in their first game as Meghan Sullivan belted a two-run double and Kyriazis tossed a no-hitter and fanned eight batters to power Markham to a 16-0 three-inning mercy-



Members of the Markham Cougars under-14 girls' fastpitch team display their gold medals while awaiting to depart from Halifax Monday morning.

shortened win over Prince Edward Island.

Pitcher Jaclyn Dinetz then took matters into her own hands by tossing a two-hitter and fanning 10 batters while collecting three hits and three RBIs at the plate to lead the Cougars to an 11-0 five-inning mercy-shortened decision over Nova Scotia's number one team in their second outing.

Facing New Brunswick in their third game, the Cougars got a strong pitching effort from Charlise Searle and a two-hit, three-RBI effort from catcher Taylor Watt to emerge with a 10-2 five-inning mercy-shortened victory.

Finishing first in their pool, the Cougars then met Oakville, first-place finishers in their half of the draw, for the gold medal.

Backed by a five-hit pitching perfor-

mance from Kyriazis, the Cougars won the first game 11-3.

Oakville, however, forced a deciding game when they handed the Cougars their lone loss, an 8-7 verdict.

The Cougars had a chance to win the game in the last inning when they left the bases loaded, but failed to deliver.

Christina Campoli was named the Cougars' game most valuable player. The loss forced a deciding game.

"We settled down and refocused between games," said Jankowski of the club's turnaround in the third game. "Everybody was hitting the ball well."

Other team members that contributed to the club's success were: Caitlin Kuly, Melissa Nester, Stephanie Reid and Amanda Wilcox.

The team was coached by Howard Dinetz along with Jeff Nester, Bill Searle

Ball bantams win league tourney title

Corren Willowby drove in Diana Bohnen with the game's lone run in the fourth inning to propel the Stouffville Lafarge Corp. bantam girls' softball team to a 1-0 win over Scarborough in the deciding game of its recent year-end league tournament.

Victoria Yan and Willowby also made key catches to help preserve the win.

In reaching the final, Stouffville defeated Lindsay 12-0, top-seeded Aurora 11-7 and Scarborough 14-4.

Bohnen and Jessie Carnite provided strong pitching throughout the tournament. Michelle Gray powered the offence with five extra-base hits, including two homers. Megan Crowder also provided some key hits throughout the tournament.

Atom Raiders downed

The Markham Raiders atoms let a win slip away from them on Sunday after allowing the visiting Oshawa Hawkeyes to score a safety and touchdown in the dying moments of their Central Ontario Minor Football League contest en route to a 26-25 loss.



Alex Clarke scored two majors for the Raiders on 60-yard runs. Jesse Lindsey hauled in a 70-yard major on a halfback option pass from Kamar Anglin and added a convert. Anton Bennett scored the other touchdown. Now 0-2 on the season, Raiders will face Etobicoke on the road Monday at 11:30 a.m.

Women's hockey registration

The women's hockey league in Stouffville will hold registration for its upcoming season on Sept. 6 at the rec centre from 6 to 8 p.m. All women are welcome and no experience is necessary.

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