

# Lions bronzed in Brampton

The Markham Lions squirt girls softball team captured the bronze medal from the recent Brampton tournament after suffering a 14-0 loss to the Brampton Blazers in a game to determine which club would advance to the championship final to face the Adrian (Michigan) Lookouts.



After losing its opening game to the eventual silver-medalist Blazers 8-1, the Lions pounded out 20 hits to earn its first win with a 16-0 pasting of the Amherst (New York) Lasers.

Stephanie Spooner went four for four at the plate and scored three runs while Jenna Cairn had three hits and a run, Jackie DeSouza, two hits and two runs, Melissa Cunningham, a triple and two runs and Erin Carroll, two hits and two runs.

Catcher Lori Myers played a strong game defensively as she threw out three base runners.

Cairn picked up the win, pitching five innings giving up two hits, one walk and striking out eight hitters.

Losing its third outing to the St. Catharines Wildcats 4-2, the Lions rebounded behind the nine-strikeout pitching performance from Spooner to defeat the Oakville Angels 5-3.

Spooner helped her own cause at the plate by collecting two hits including a triple. Cassandra Warne contributed a double and two runs.

Backed by a nine-strikeout performance from Cairn through six innings, the Lions then edged the Western New York Sting 5-3.

Spooner had two hits and a run, Warne, one hit and run and Cassandra McNichol scored two runs.

With no worse than a bronze medal at stake, the Lions battled the St. Catharines Wildcats and emerged with a 10-9 win in extra innings.

Trailing 9-8, the Lions received a timely homer from Taylor MacDonald, her first of the season, to force extra innings.

In the third extra inning, down by one again, Sandra Rabow singled in McNichol to tie the game.

Then with the bases loaded, Kaitlyn Storton singled to score Rabow and give Markham the victory and rematch with the Blazers.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Mennos edged by Durham

The Stouffville Mennos suffered its third straight Oshawa City and District Fastball League loss on Wednesday when they were edged 8-7 by the Durham Bulls at Memorial Park.



**BYRON BARANIESKI**  
Mennos outfielder collects three hits.

Byron Baranieski powered the Mennos offence, which generated 13 hits, with three while Chris Burkholder, Rob Reesor, Brad Clubine and Scott Eyre each had two hits. Among their hits, Reesor and Clubine each belted two-run homers. Jeff Boadway and Rino Dambrosio contributed one hit apiece.

Terry Reesor worked the first four innings and took the loss.

Now 2-7 on the season, the Mennos had a Thursday game at Mount Albert rained out. Their next scheduled outing is on June 27 when they host Markham and then go to Bradford the following night.

### Rugby club beaten

The Markham Rugby Club Firsts proved to be gracious hosts last Saturday as they dropped a 29-25 decision to visiting Academy in Ontario Rugby Union action.



Sonny Pirotta, Gavin Robinson, Mike Francis and Dave McCartney each scored tries for Markham. Kevin Pullen added a convert and penalty kick.

The Markham firsts, seconds and third will be on the road today to face the Irish Canadians.

# Maloney's heroics stake Raiders to first NFC win

Neil Maloney's six-yard touchdown run with 50 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter enabled the Markham Raiders to post its first victory of the Northern Football Conference season with a 23-17 decision over the Sudbury Spartans at Centennial Park last Saturday.



Trailing 17-16 with just over two minutes remaining in the contest, the Raiders got possession of the ball and highlighted by a 52-yard run from Maloney, drove in for the winning score.

In addition to his winning touchdown, the 19-year-old, first-year running back established a club single game record in all purpose yardage by gaining 250 yards, which included 207 on the ground and 43 in kickoff returns.

"It was a great game for us because we're a young team," said Raiders' assistant coach Bill Ptolemy. "It was a huge morale booster and to come back from behind. It showed that we can compete."

Wide receiver Andy Taylor hauled in two touchdown passes from quarterback Jamie Foxx and Ryan Henderson added a first-quarter 30-yard field goal and two converts to round out the scoring for the Raiders, who trailed 10-3 at the half.

Now 1-2 on the season and occupants of sixth place in the NFC, the Raiders have a bye this weekend, but resume play at Centennial Park on June 30 when they host the Sault Ste. Marie Storm at 7:30 p.m.

## Local hockey players await draft notice

Three players who played their minor hockey in Markham and one from Stouffville are expected to find out today which National Hockey League club will have their signing rights for the next two years when the league conducts its annual amateur draft in Sunrise, Florida.

Unionville resident Stephen Weiss is expected to be one of the top picks in the first round. The 18-year-old centreman led the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers in scoring this past season with 40 goals and 47 assists.



**STEPHEN WEISS**  
Expected to go in first round of NHL draft today.

Michael Zigomanis, a 20-year-old Markham resident is one of three players who were drafted in 1999, but was ruled eligible to re-enter this year's draft after failing to reach a contract agreement by the NHL's June 1, 2001, 5 p.m. eastern time deadline.

A centreman who tallied a team-high 40 goals and 37 assists this past season with the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs, Zigomanis was originally drafted in the second round by the Buffalo Sabres in 1999.

Former Markham resident Daniel Blackburn, a goalkeeper with the Kootenay Ice of the Western Hockey League, is expected to be one of the top players taken in his position.

Blackburn, 18, spent three seasons with the Markham Waxers minor organization from 1992-1995 before moving to Cranmore, Alta.

Former Stouffville Spirit forward Sean Scully, a member of the OHL-champion Ottawa 67's, is expected to go in the late rounds. In the latest Central Scouting Bureau rankings, the 18-year-old was 146th of North American forwards and defencemen. In 67 regular season games, Scully amassed 30 points.

The draft will be televised today starting at 12 noon on CTV Sportsnet.

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