

Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune

FAMILIES

When life's a blur

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Soccer, volleyball, track and field, swimming, hockey, baseball and basketball.

When it comes to sports, Newmarket teenager Michael Brown does it all.

"As long as it doesn't involve a book (he'll do it)," his mother Lidija Brown joked.

Michael, 14, is busy every night of the week, although he does have weekends free to hang out with friends. As long as there isn't a sports tournament, that is.

Although the young athlete admits there are times he would prefer more leisure time, generally speaking, he wouldn't have life any other way.

"I meet new friends, too.

It's my choice. I could quit if I wanted to. Sports help kids keep fit instead of being just lazy and staying on the couch at home."

"I like playing sports. It keeps me fit. It keeps me out of trouble, most of the time," said Michael, who immediately got involved in sports after moving to Canada from South Africa four years ago.

"I meet new friends, too. It's my choice. I could quit if I wanted to. Sports help kids keep fit instead of being just lazy and staying on the couch at home."

Michael, who says he does OK in school, isn't the only busy kid in the family.

His twin sister is involved in volleyball and track and field. His older

brother is an avid soccer player who played in Germany and Hungary this year.

The Meron family of Aurora is another busy crew.

Eleven-year-old twins Jordan

and Josh and younger brother Jaret, 7, are involved in everything from soccer and hockey to baton twirling and dance.

At least one kid is on the go every night, according to mom Jennifer,

who works part time for a Maple company and does bookkeeping for her husband's business.

"It's of their own choosing. They wouldn't want it any other way," said Meron, who coaches and is

director of the baton club her daughter Jordan belongs to.

"It does work for our family. What the kids get out of it is worth it."

She said her high-energy children are learning about healthy competition, remaining fit, choosing productive activities and becoming involved members of the community.

Still, Meron joked she and her husband, Garry, who has coached his older son's rep hockey and soccer teams, never get any adult social time.

"There's never any down time. There are days when everybody is going in opposite directions and we just don't stop till we crash on the couch at night."

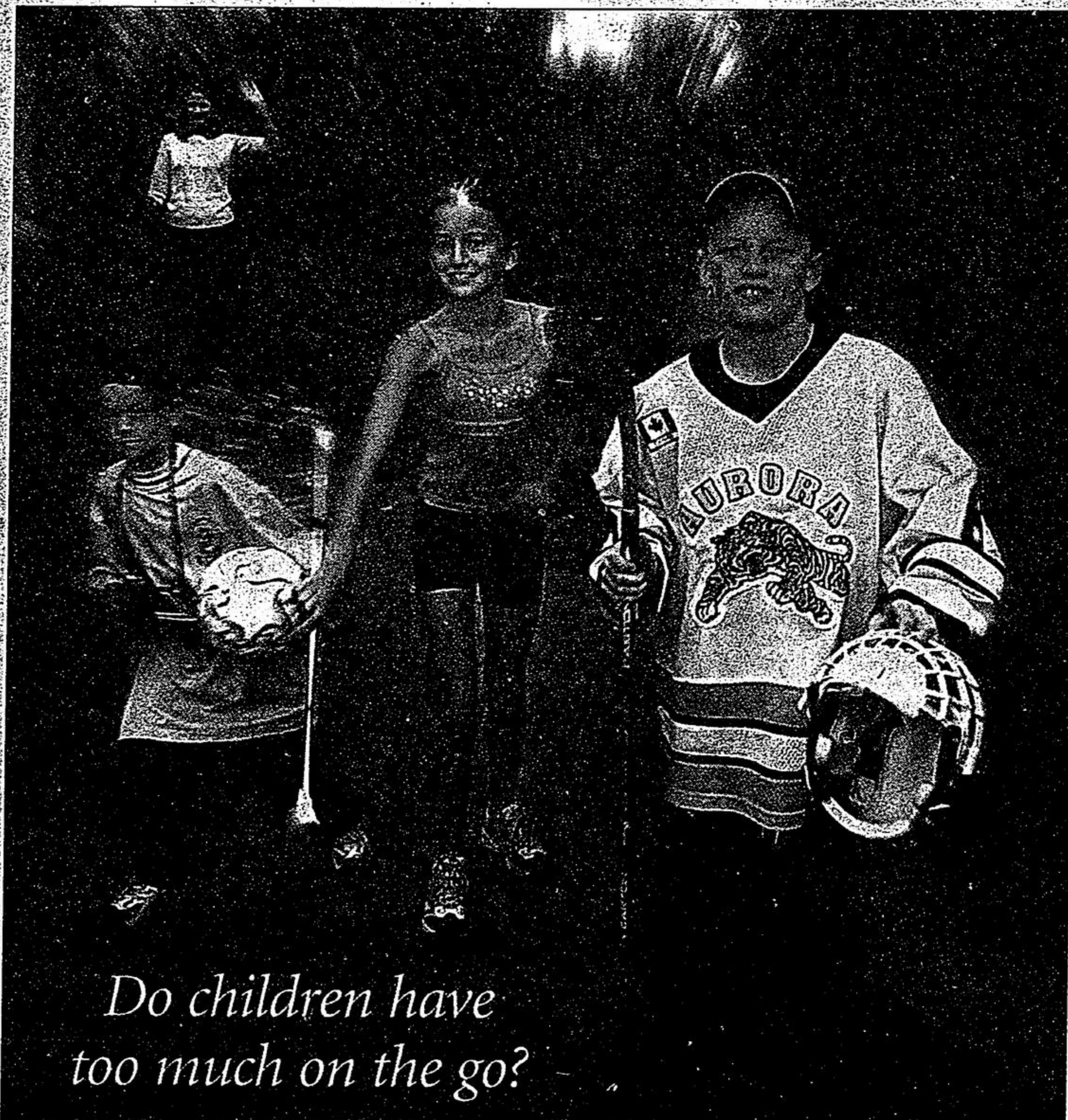
"There's never any down time. There are days when everybody is going in opposite directions and we just don't stop till we crash on the couch at night."

But Meron said the positives of a hectic lifestyle far outweigh the negatives.

"There are times I think it would be nice to go for a walk in the park. But in the final analysis, I think it's worth it," she said.

"They (the kids) do it 100 per cent of their own accord and they wouldn't drop anything if they could. I wish there was an extra two weeks in the year with no sports. But we really wouldn't have it any other way."

See TAILOR, page 17



The Meron family — mom Jennifer, Jaret, 7, and 11-year-old twins Jordan and Josh — is a busy crew.

STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Our LASIK Patients Tend To Stand Out In A Crowd!



The pioneering eye surgeons of The Bochner Eye Institute - Toronto's most established eye centre - are now seeing LASIK patients in our new Unionville location. Call today to schedule your free LASIK evaluation! For a limited time, you'll also receive our new educational interactive CD.

Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCS
Albert T. Cheskes, MD, FRCS
Raymond M. Stein, MD, FRCS



the Bochner
Eye Institute

CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE
A FREE LASIK CONSULTATION
905-470-2020
www.bochner.com

Unionville
147 MAIN ST.
UNIONVILLE, ONTARIO L3R 2G8
905-470-2020

Main Branch:
40 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto M5R 1A9
Laser Dept.: 416-960-2020

Scarborough
3000 Lawrence Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M1T 2V1
416-431-7449