

# Spartans' demise exaggerated: huge turnout for girls' tryouts

*Despite loss of 12 starters from last year's team, enthusiasm strong for SDSS field hockey*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

Losing 12 starters from last year's field hockey team, it might have been assumed the Stouffville District Secondary School girls would have trouble fielding a squad when the York Region Athletic Association season began.

But to Spartans head coach Scott Croucher's surprise, rumours of their demise were greatly exaggerated.

When Croucher made an announcement that tryouts would be held early last month, some 36 players eagerly showed up for the first day of practice.

"I was surprised somewhat," conceded Croucher, of the initial turnout. "There wasn't going to be a team until I put out an announcement. We had lost 12 starters from last year and Heather Henricks (former head coach who is now at Maple High School) and I thought there wouldn't be much interest."

While the team is entered in the YRAA tier two circuit, Croucher is pleased with the progress his youthful charges have made.

To date, the club sports a 3-0 record which included a 2-0 win on Tuesday over Richmond Hill High School and verdicts last week over Milliken Mills Secondary School 2-1 and Thornhill Secondary School 4-2.

In Tuesday's win, Sandra Pankratz and Erin Knights each scored once while Nessa Hallman posted the shutout.

"I'm very happy," said Croucher of the club's progress so far this season. "We had 36 girls come out and I didn't cut any of them."

The only dilemma that Croucher has, and one that's pleasant in nature, is who to play and dress. With only 11 players on the field, Croucher can only dress 20 for each game.

"I'm trying to play them all. I've got some girls who haven't played the game at all and some who've played just a bit and some who were with the team last year."

Of this year's roster, Croucher notes the bulk of the squad is comprised of Grade 9 students while he has five or six who are in their last year of eligibility. The rest, he said, are either in Grade 10 or 11.

With a healthy cast to work with this season, Croucher acknowledges this is a building year for his team.

But it's one that holds plenty of promise down the road.

"We definitely look at this season as a building year. If we get the same numbers out next year we will definitely go with two teams next year," he said.

## VOLLEYBALL SPARTANS LOSE GAME AND CAPTAIN MCGRATH

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' volleyball team lost more than a match against the Unionville High School Wolves at Middlefield Collegiate on Tuesday.

The Spartans, who came out on the short end of a 2-1 decision to the Wolves, also lost the services of captain Kevin McGrath who suffered a broken wrist after taking a spill during the match.

McGrath, who is in his OAC year, is expected to be out for at least six weeks, said Spartans head coach Jim Fletcher.

In the match, the Spartans took the first game over the defending YRAA champions 25-22.

After losing the second game 25-17, the Spartans rallied to take what appeared to be a commanding 8-1 lead in the deciding game.

However, the Wolves rallied to win the game 15-13.

"Hopefully we can rally and get to the York finals," said Fletcher after losing McGrath. "It'll be tough, but I think we can do it."

The Spartans rallied from that heartbreaking loss to defeat host Middlefield Collegiate 2-0 (25-22, 25-13) and improved their league record to 3-1.

## Robbins runs off with top honours

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

He's not getting older, he's getting faster.

In the recent Invitational Master's Mile in New York City, Stouffville's Fred Robbins headed the field in the age category of 45 to 49 years with a mark of four minutes, 38.9 seconds.

Robbins, 47, recorded his fastest time in the past four meets, bettering his run of last year by seven seconds.

Overall, Robbins placed sixth.

The race was conducted between New York's 80th Street and 60th Street, adjacent to Central Park.

"I ran full-out," Robbins said, "I gave it my best."

The Master's Mile involves top runners from across the United States and Canada.

"I felt very privileged to attend," he said.

Robbins began training for the race back in August.

"I was extremely happy with the result," he concluded.

## Major novice Clippers win in a rout

Christopher Jupp, James Lovett and Mitchell King each scored twice to lead the Stouffville major novice A Clippers to an 8-1 road win over Barrie on Sunday.

Alex Popper and Adam Kostandoff added singles.

Matthew Dunlop, Bradley Harley, Joseph Deveny and Kostandoff each earned two assists while Lovett, Jupp, Hayden

Gibson, Brandon Hughes and Branden Francey each had one.

### MINOR BANTAMS EDGE AURORA

Mitchell Raithby scored two goals to lead the Stouffville minor bantam Clippers to a 3-1 win over Aurora on Sunday.

Justin Lacy added the other goal for the Clippers, who improved their league record to 3-2. Nick Stratas earned two assists while Dennis O'Shaughnessy, Jeff McGuckin and Ryne Parsons each had one.

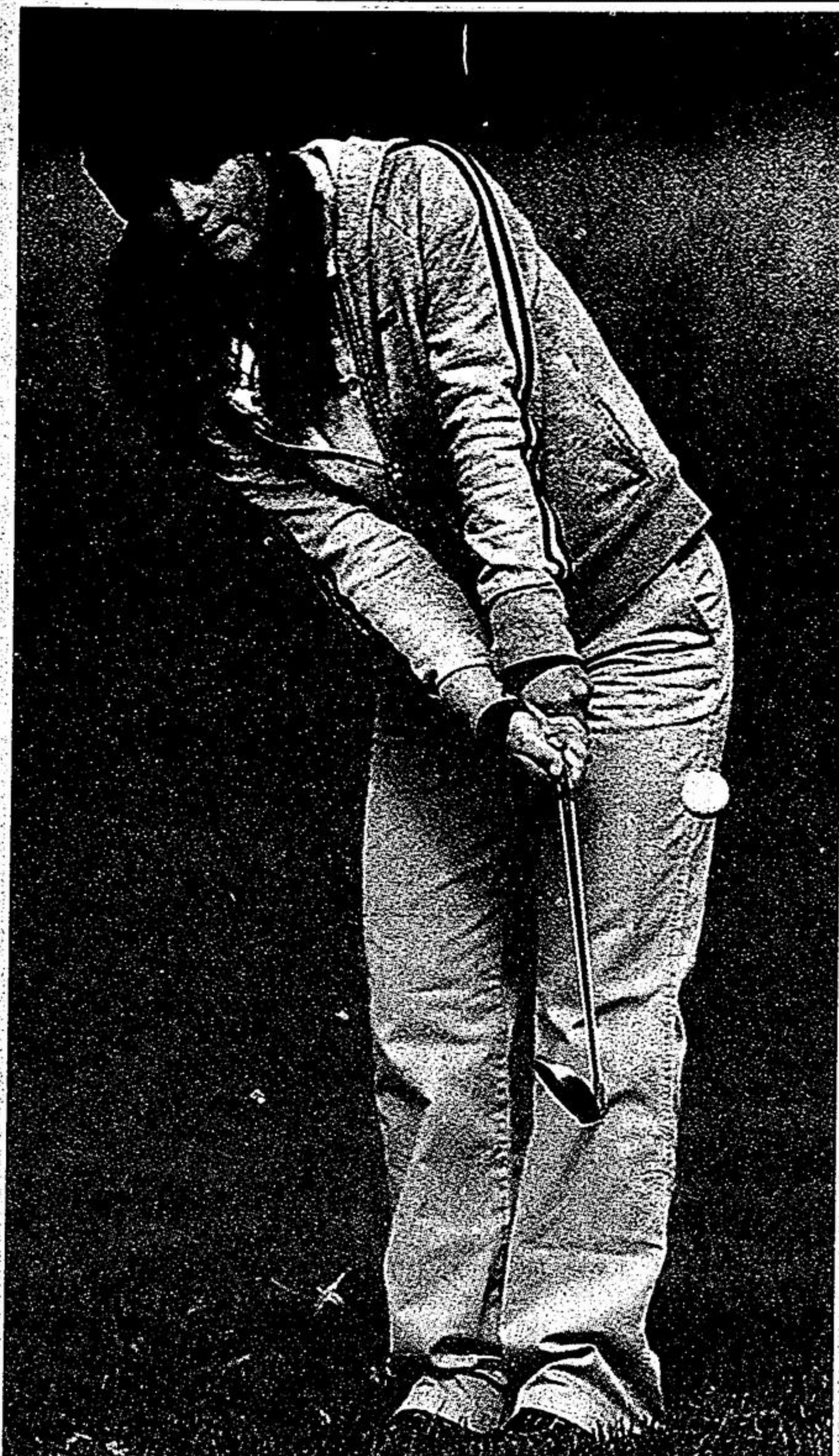
Brad Whittingstal played a solid game in net.

### EASY WIN FOR MINOR ATOMS

The Stouffville minor atom Clippers received a balanced attack with six different players scoring in a 6-2 win over Richmond Hill on Saturday.

Mike Mingay, Matthew Miniaci, Connor Cadaret, Steven Tait, Mike Bourgeois and Curtis Crago each scored for the Clippers.

Steven Tait, Robbie Acton, Mingay and Cadaret earned assists.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## A GOOD APPROACH

Stouffville District Secondary School's Brooke Acton chips this ball onto the 18th green during action in Tuesday's York Region Athletic Association golf qualifier at Rolling Hills Golf Club in Gormley. Acton was part of a Spartans girls' team that finished second and will vie for the championship next Tuesday at Rolling Hills. Acton, the daughter of Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton, carded a 103. For further results, see Sportsboard on page 28.

## Spirit won't stand in line of fire tonight

The Stouffville Spirit is thinking defence this week — fire defence.

To mark Fire Prevention Week, the Spirit is hosting the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department at its Provincial Junior A Hockey League game tonight. The Spirit plays the Couchiching Terriers at 7:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

Local firefighters will be on hand to talk fire safety with hockey fans. Draws will be made for fire safety items including fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

A highlight of the evening will be the ceremonial puck drop. Sparky, the fire department mascot, promises to do as fine a job as the Queen when dropping the puck.

The Spirit, unbeaten in its last three games, is 5-4-1-0 in the North Conference of the Provincial League.



Come join the Folco's  
for  
**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
Sunday, October 13  
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
**RESERVATIONS ONLY**

CALL 905-472-6336



**Folco's**  
RISTORANTE

"Let us do the cooking!  
Enjoy a delicious Turkey Dinner  
and we'll look after the rest."

42 Main St. N.,  
Markham Village