

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Taws vows to make comeback on race track

Ashley Taws says she'll be back. The driver of the Be Anything with Barbie at Wal-Mart race car has vowed to return to competition this year as she continues to make an impressive recovery from serious injuries incurred in a traffic accident in December.

The 19-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident made the announcement during a recent press conference at the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame in Toronto.

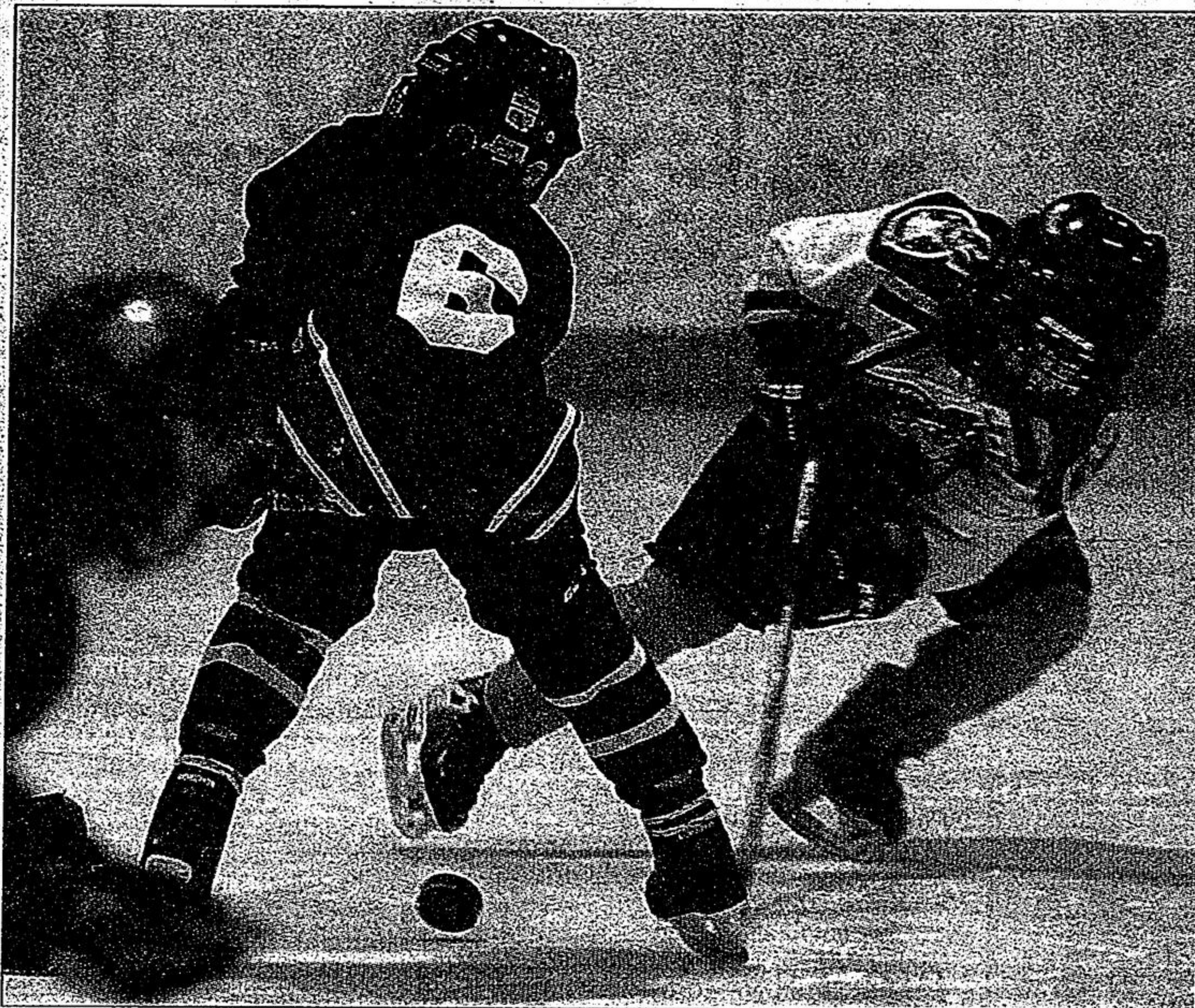
Taws hopes to return to the Canadian Formula Ford Championship late this season, possibly in August. Until she is ready, a team of drivers has been lined up to drive the AIM Autosport-prepped Barbie car. Andrew Bordin, Mark Wilkins, Rob McDonald and Taws' 2002 teammate, Louis-Philippe Dumoulin, all drivers who have raced with AIM in the past, will take turns driving the famous pink race car.

"It will be exiting to have the Barbie car racing even though I won't be behind the wheel for a while," said Taws who was recently released from rehab far ahead of schedule. "It's a great arrangement for the sponsors, the team and for me. The car will be in action and I can take over when I'm sure I'm ready."

"I'm also very grateful for all the support from race fans and everyone involved with my racing program," she added.

Taws hopes to be able to begin testing by July in order to get tuned up for her comeback race.

The 2003 Canadian Formula Ford Championship is an eight-race series with rounds at several premier motorsport events. Last year, as a rookie, Taws reset the series' records for female drivers with several impressive performances, including winning pole position at the Toronto Indy. She finished the season tied for third in the championship and rookie of the year.



Shooting for daylight

Houston Ford defender Chris Ebanks (left), leaves a little space between his legs for Maple Lodge Farms' Josh Carrick to shoot through during last Saturday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association tyke championship game at the Stouffville Arena. House league champions were declared during the final day of games.

STEVE SOMERVILLE PHOTO

Stars douse Flames to win league title

The Markham-Stouffville atom BB Stars skated away with the North Metro Championship medal last weekend by defeating the Vaughan Flames 3-2.

Vanessa Spataro scored twice while Carly Henderson added one. Josee Daoust and Jaymi Schell added assists.

Kaitlin O'Hagan played well in goal.

In reaching the semi-final, the Stars battled Durham West in a best-of-two series and played the first two games to a 2-2 and 0-0 draw.

Emily O'Shaughnessy and Daoust scored for the Stars in the first game. Henderson drew two assists while Rachel Mathieu and Katie Mullett had single helpers.

The Stars took the series after prevailing 2-1 in the third game.

Henderson had a goal and assist while Lynn Kennedy added a goal. Daoust and Mathieu earned assists.



Facing Georgina in the semi-final, the Stars got a goal from Daoust with an assist from Mullett in the second overtime session to emerge with a 1-0 win.

The Stars earned a berth in the OWSA provincials next weekend with victories over Vaughan and Whitby in the Ontario round robin playdowns.

Other players who contributed to the club's success were Brittany Drew, Sarah Schell, Samantha Unitas, Nicole Wannop, Erin Murphy and Selby Tunney.

Record-setting games for hurler Johnson

Marlee Johnson was part of a National Collegiate Athletic Association record-setting day recently with her Maryland Eastern Shore Lady Hawks women's softball team in a contest against Coppin State College.

The right-handed Stouffville hurler was involved in a pitchers' duel with Coppin State rival Jamie Imhof as the two combined to strike out a record-setting 29 batters in the game.

Johnson, who is in her sophomore year, fanned 12 batters while Imhof had 17 strikeouts.

Unfortunately for Johnson, she was on the losing end as Coppin State prevailed 4-2 in the first game of a doubleheader.

Fresh off that performance, Johnson helped her team accomplish another first when she was involved in executing a triple play in the first game of a doubleheader against Delaware State University.

In the fourth inning, Delaware State's Jess Murray lined out to Johnson, who was playing shortstop. Johnson then threw home cutting down Jaleah Brown. Catcher Heather Patnode then threw to third base and caught Michelle Rains, who tried to gain another base, for the third out.

Delaware State prevailed 7-4.



MARLEE JOHNSON: Stouffville resident was involved in two record-setting performances for her Maryland college's softball team.

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