

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, AUG. 7, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



20 Another golf title for super senior Marlene Streit.

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\$10 million for York Region's hospitals 'good start'

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

A \$12-million cheque from Queen's Park won't wipe out \$30 million in debts racked up by York Region's three hospitals, officials warn.

But every little bit helps.

"It's a good start. This is not the end, this is the beginning," said Southlake Regional Health Centre president Dan Carriere.

"It certainly brings the relief our organization wanted and expected. The only thing I'm disappointed about is there's no recognition of the accumulated deficits hospitals have been carrying for the past two years."

Late last week, Premier Ernie Eves announced Southlake in Newmarket will receive \$5.2 million in additional provincial funding, while York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill will get about \$5 million and Markham-Stouffville Hospital will receive \$1.9 million in new funding.

"Ontario's health-care system is envied around the world and we are committed to making it even better," Mr. Eves said, announcing \$136 million for Ontario hospitals on top of the \$484 million in the provincial budget.

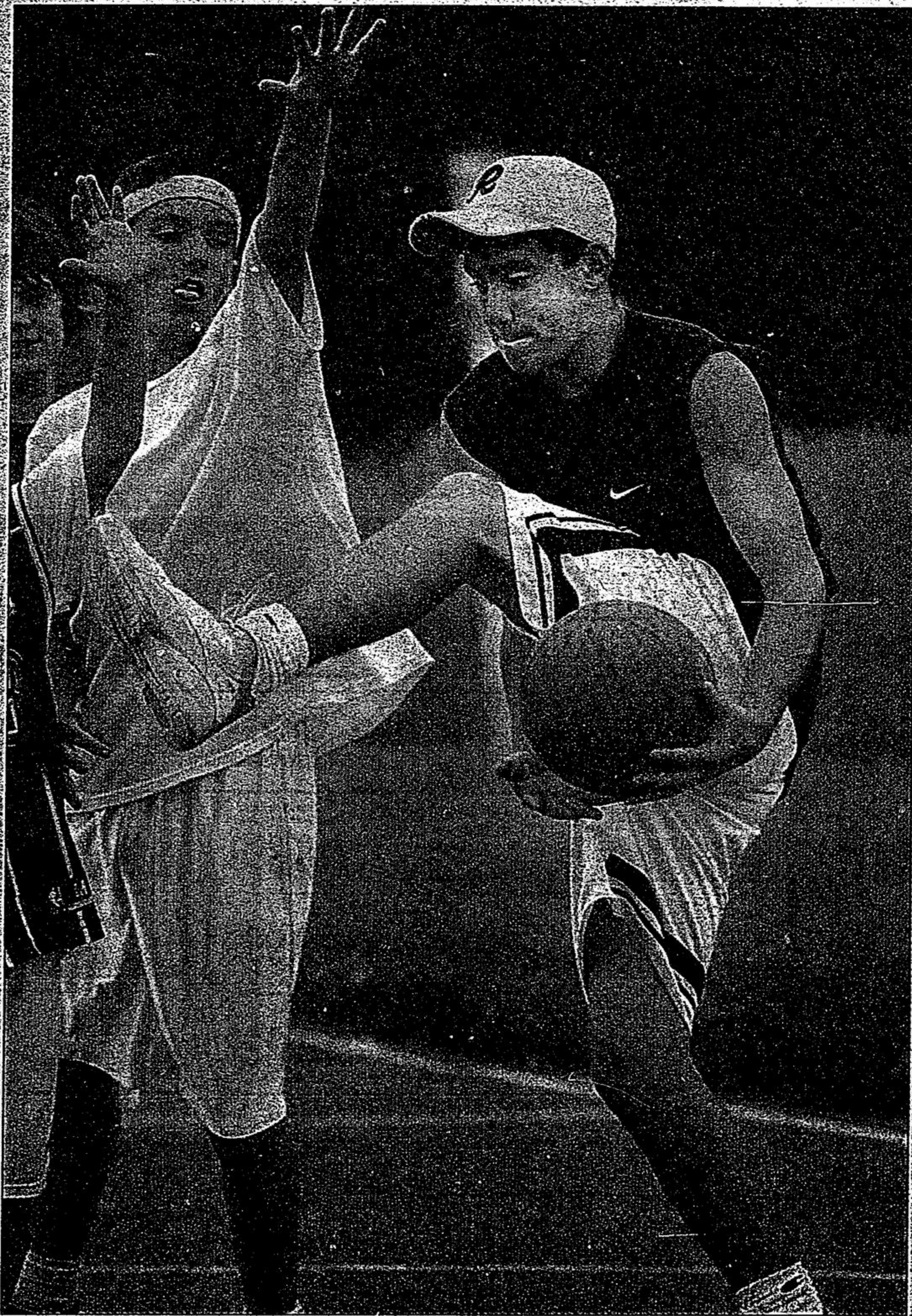
The province will also cover \$90 million for hospitals' SARS costs.

"Hospitals are the cornerstones of our communities and of our health-care system. It is imperative they have the resources to deliver the services people need and deliver them in their communities," Mr. Eves said.

He announced the funding boost after the Ontario Hospital Association blasted the province for leaving many hospitals on the verge of financial ruin.

While York hospital officials were,

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Vince Carter II

Michael Bigioni, 14, goes for the net with a big-time move while guarded by Matt Briggs, 14, during three-on-three hoop action in Stouffville Memorial Park Saturday.

FALSE POSITIVE TEST SCARED OFF VISITORS

Camp demands West Nile money

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
AND SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writers

The region's health department made a \$150,000 mistake and should pay for it, says the management of a Whitchurch-Stouffville campground hit by a West Nile virus scare.

Janet Davies, owner of Musselman's Lake Cedar Beach Trailer Park and Beach, has sent letters to both York Region Health Services and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, complaining about the release of preliminary test results suggesting the deadly virus was in the area.

The health department announced June 23 a pool of mosquitoes had tested positive for West Nile near the intersection of Aurora Road and Ninth Line.

But secondary test results from a Winnipeg lab, released July 15, showed the mosquitoes were not infected. The region's health department issued a news release with the new results.

Once the first tests hit the news, people thought twice about coming to the park, Ms. Davies said.

"People would pull up to our gates and ask if this was the place where West Nile was found," Ms. Davies said. "As soon as they learned they were in the area, they turned around and drove away. That happened over and over. It went on for three weeks."

Estimating bad publicity cost the campground \$150,000, manager Juanita Jenkin wants the region to pay for advertising to help her business recover.

"It could take years to draw back customers we've lost," she said.

The region's health department

See FALSE, page 5.

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