

## Spirit hosts exhibition games during training camp

The Stouffville Spirit will be looking for players who can fill the net at its training camp starting this week.

The Provincial Junior A Hockey League club graduated the top five scorers from the roster that made the North Conference final last spring.

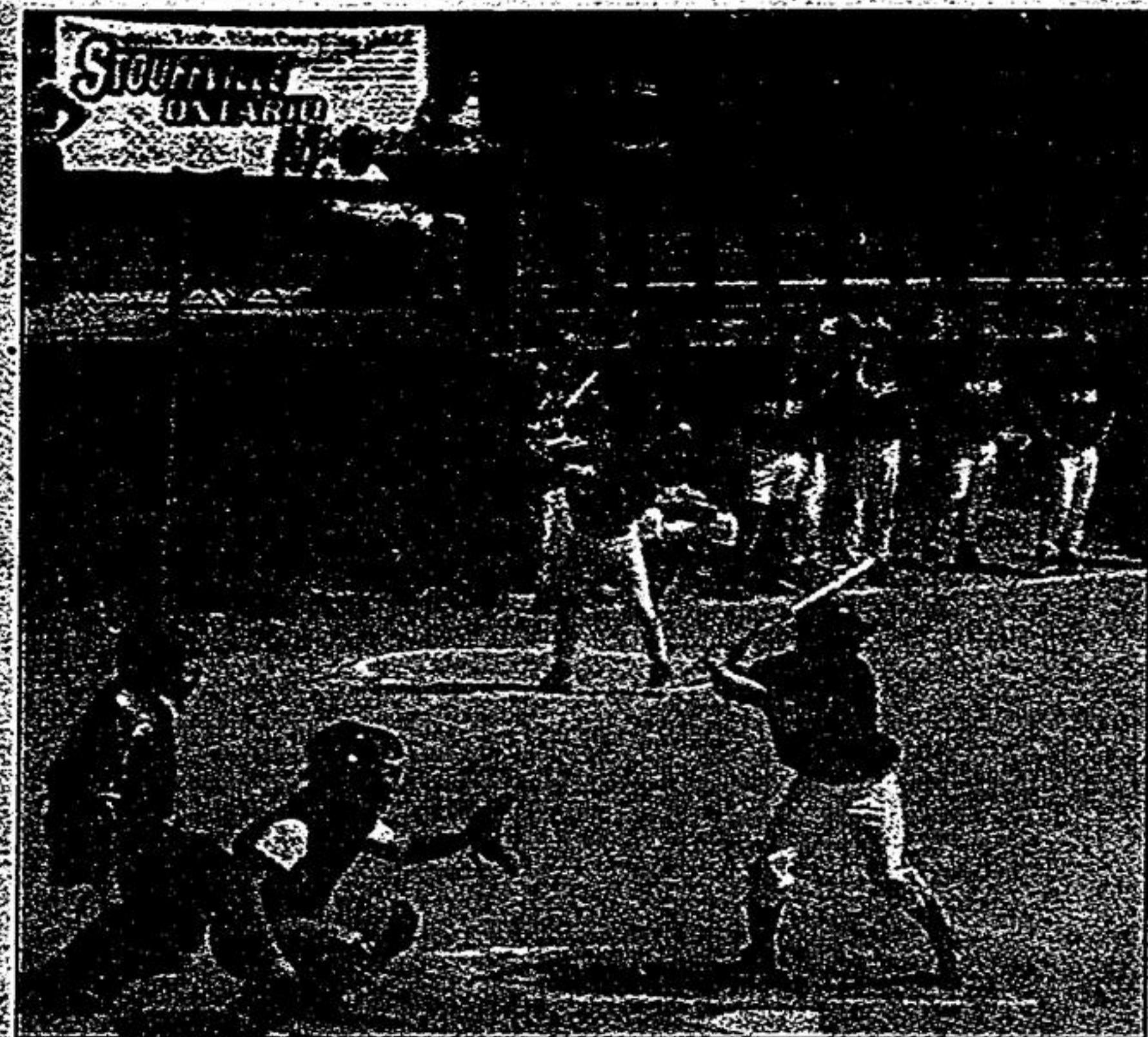
Rookie camp opened Tuesday and continues tonight (7 to 9 p.m.) at the Stouffville Arena. An all-rookie game goes tomorrow night at 7:30 at the Uxbridge Arena.

Veterans start camp Saturday (12 to 4 p.m.) and reconvenes Sunday

(12 to 2 p.m.)

The Spirit hosts exhibition games at home Thursday, Aug. 28, against the Lindsay Muskies, and Thursday, Sept. 4 with the Mississauga Chargers.

Both are 7:30 p.m. starts.



PHOTO/DAVID RICE

Stouffville Jones Pools batter Josh Spang awaits an offering from a Nova Scotia 3 pitcher during round-robin action last week at the 2003 Midget Boys Canadian Fastpitch Championships in Summerside, P.E.I. Stouffville won this game 9-2, but was eliminated in the double knockout playoff segment last weekend.

## Midgets fall short in quest for national medal

If Ted Assinck takes his Stouffville Jones Pools boys fastball team back to another national championship, he wants changes in the way rules are interpreted.

The Stouffville coach had a good reason to feel that way when his club was in Summerside, P.E.I. last week for the 2003 Midget Boys Fastpitch Championships.

Entering the playoffs with an undefeated record in pool play at 7-0, Stouffville entered the double knockout playoff segment without the services of their top pitcher, Greg Dalgarno.

Tossing two shutouts in the round-robin, Dalgarno was ruled ineligible to perform in the playoffs because his pitching motion didn't conform to tournament rules.

The loss was a crippling blow for Stouffville as it fell 2-0 to provincial archrival Elmira on Friday. Placed in a do-or-die situation on Saturday, Stouffville met Quebec and were eliminated with a 2-1 loss.

Elmira won the gold medal with a 4-3 verdict over British Columbia.

"I just hope Softball Canada gets this pitching thing straightened out or we'll face a similar problem next year," warned Assinck, who hopes his club can make a repeat visit to these championships next year in the junior division.

Despite the lack of clarification in the ruling during the playdowns, Assinck was quick to take full responsibility for his club's demise.

"I allowed the pitching problem to affect the team. I didn't do my job. There's no doubt in my mind, Dalgarno was the best pitcher in the entire tournament, but we couldn't use him when it really counted.

"Even without him, we were still good enough to win, but we didn't. In close games, a tough break here and there can make the difference," he said.

## Macri fifth on Ohio track

Jonathan Macri drove his NTN Bearings Swift to a fifth-place finish in last weekend's Toyota Atlantic Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio in Lexington.

The 21-year-old Gormley resident began the 30-lap event in fifth place and held that position until the finish. Michael Valiante took the checkered flag.

Although Macri wasn't able to advance in positioning, he did produce the fastest lap of the race with a best time of 1:16.405 on lap 17.

"Although I am not on the podium, I am pleased with this weekend and the communication that is developing with the team," said Macri, who occupies third place in the overall championship series standings. "We are really beginning to gel. I am also pleased with the developments to our car and producing the best lap time. Overall, it was a fairly good race weekend."

Macri's next race is in Montreal Aug. 23.

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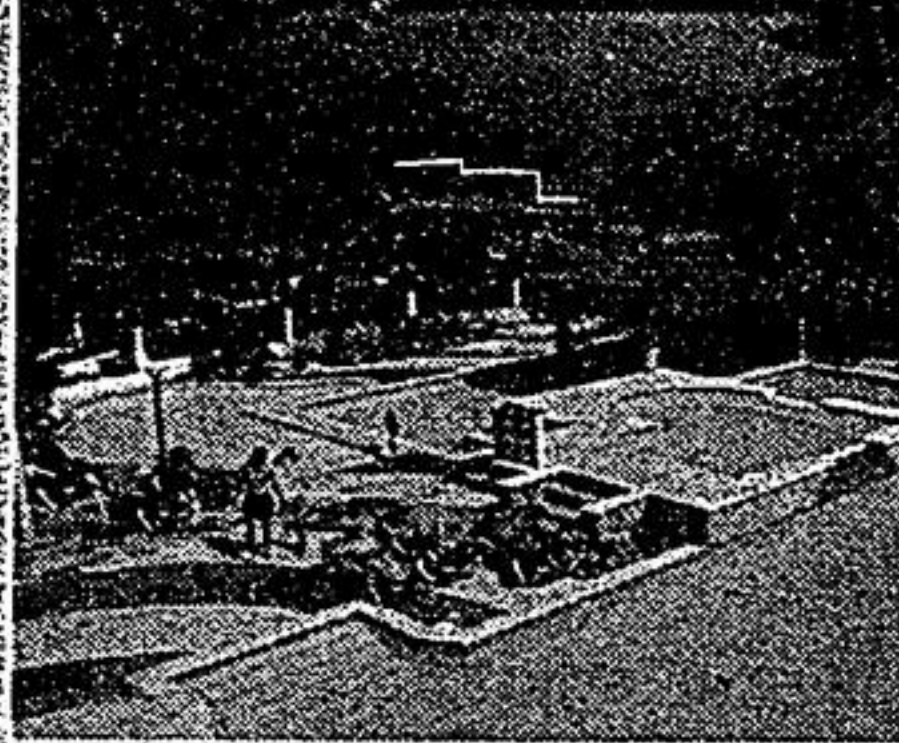
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