

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Hartnett has field day of year as York University's top athlete

SDSS graduate also earns national honours for field hockey exploits

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

She's York University's female athlete of the year.

Sherry Hartnett was recently acclaimed this honour for "exhibiting outstanding athletic skills, character and fair play in the sport of field hockey."

An engraved trophy holds a prominent place in her Stouffville home.

Not only was Hartnett's exploits well known at York University. On a national level, Hartnett garnered attention as she was the recipient of the of the Canadian Inter-University Sport Gail Wilson Award.

The award is presented to the greatest all-round athlete in CIS women's field hockey.

The fifth-year kinesiology and health science student was a first-team Ontario University Athletics all-star and a second-team CIS All-Canadian.

Born in Richmond Hill, Hartnett moved to Stouffville at an early age and attended Summitview and Orchard Park public schools.

EXCELLED IN OTHER SPORTS

While attending Stouffville District Secondary School, Hartnett played basketball and volleyball.

In basketball, she was named the school's most valuable player in 1996.

In volleyball, she helped her team capture the midger and junior York Region Athletic Association volleyball championships.

She was also the school's female athlete of the year in 1996 and 1999.

Due to a conflict in basketball and field hockey schedules, Hartnett did-



PHOTO/JIM THOMAS

Sherry Hartnett displays the trophy she received from York University after being recently named the school's female athlete of the year. The Stouffville resident was a member of the school's field hockey team.

n't become involved in the latter until after graduation. And even then, she twice turned down a York University invitation to play.

MADE RIGHT CHOICE

The third time, however, proved to be a charm as she agreed to attend an audition at Lamport Stadium. She enjoyed the sport so much that she decided to stay.

Hartnett is glad that she did. Under the coaching skills of staff instructor Kathy Broderick, she performed first on defence and later at centre mid-field.

Because the field hockey season concluded in November, Hartnett also played indoors, with her team winning one silver and two bronze medals.

Receiving the Female Athlete of the Year award came as a complete surprise, Hartnett confessed.

"It was amazing even to be nominated," she said.

As for the Gail Wilson Award, Hartnett said she was "shocked."

She shouldn't have been though, for her athletic involvements have included more than field hockey.

She's been a vice-president and long-serving member of the York University Sports Council; a volunteer advisor for undergraduate students; and a four-time recipient of the Sport York Excellence Award that combines academic and athletic achievement.

In 2001, she was one of 15 girls selected to represent Team Ontario in the field hockey competition at the Canada Summer Games.

When Hartnett is in Stouffville, she's a member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library council.

With graduation only weeks away, Hartnett hopes to eventually serve as a field hockey coach.

She also has high hopes of studying for a master's degree in London, England.



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Too hot to handle

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' Gavin Howe loses handle of the ball as he is about to be brought to the ground by an Uxbridge Secondary School Tiger during Tuesday's exhibition senior boys rugby contest in Uxbridge. The contest, which was played under rainy conditions, saw the host Tigers prevail 15-0. The Tigers also defeated the Spartans in the junior contest 25-0. The Spartans will resume exhibition play Tuesday when the senior and junior squads travel to Lindsay to face I.E. Weldon Secondary School.

New-look sport shooting club hopes to be on target

Gormley operation hosts open house after re-organization

At one time the mere thought of discharging a firearm did not appeal to Kate Giffin.

These days though, it doesn't. The 44-year-old Toronto resident's fears were put to rest after she joined The Grange, an indoor shooting club and range located in Gormley.

For those who still might have some reservations about shooting firearms, Giffin would like to erase those concerns and extol the virtues of sport shooting. Giffin and other Grange mem-

bers will attempt to do so by answering any questions on the subject and show those who wish to take up the sport when the club conducts an open house and family recreational shooting tournament Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"At one time I was fearful of firearms by guilt and I wanted to overcome it," Giffin said. "And I was looking for a hobby that I could do in my later years that didn't rely on my strength and balance," she added.

Joining the club just over a year ago, Giffin and her cohorts want to show people that the sport, which can be conducted by men, women and individuals in their late teens, is fun and that

their facility will present a "positive position" to the community and local businesses.

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"Firearms in the last few months have had a lot of bad press. But it's the illegal firearms that are causing problems," she said. "We would like to make people aware of our club, which is licenced."

Possessing a current membership of almost 400 members from York Region and outlying areas, Giffin said the club also wants to inform the local community they have been fully re-organized since last October after being forced to shut down last March due to a criminal investigation.

CHANGES MADE

"It's absolutely a new start for our club," she said.

As part of the open house festivities, Giffin said the club will host shoots for novices, intermediate and expert marksmen.

A continental breakfast and barbecue lunch will also be served.

In addition, a number of prizes

will be given away for those who attend.

Since re-opening for business, Giffin was quick to note the club has made some cosmetic changes and is in the midst of doing others to its 14 Stalwart Industrial Dr. facility.

Among the changes is the installation of a new exhaust system and shooting stalls that can take higher calibre firearms and rifles.

There's also a new commercial supplier on site for club members to acquire items related to the sport.

For more information on the Grange and open house, call 416-844-2026 or e-mail them at exec@thegrange.ca