

Ballantrae 5-pitch win one for ages

In 1952, I heard the crack of Bobby Thompson's bat, giving the New York Giants a World Series win over the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In 1954, while seated in Cleveland Stadium, I watched centrefielder Mickey Mantle of the New York Yankees throw out an Indian runner at first base.

In 1993, I viewed Joe Carter's dramatic four-base blast against Philadelphia's Mitch Williams, leading the Toronto Blue Jays to their second straight World Series.

These were memorable moments in sport.

But hardly comparable to the excitement packed into a five-pitch advanced house league final at Stouffville's Rupert Avenue park Tuesday.

Yes, you read it right, a five-pitch advanced house league final between Ballantrae, coached by Bruce Stapley and Claremont, coached by John Devitt.

It went extra innings before Ballantrae emerged with a 20-19 win.

With delirious fans overflowing both bleachers and tiny guys and gals wielding big bats, the lead see-sawed back



Jim Thomas

and forth.

However, moving into the top of the sixth inning, Claremont held a commanding 19-15 advantage.

"I figured it was all over," Mr. Stapley said.

But his players proved him wrong. They responded with five runs to win the game and the title.

Dakota Fenz-Newell came through with the big blow for Ballantrae, a home run that cleared the sacks. Sarah Lehman responded with a double and completed the circuit on a couple of overthrows.

Griffin Stapley and Gillian Strick were also strong offensively. Jared Wideman completed a leaping catch on a line drive.

Other players in the

Ballantrae lineup included Brenden Bradshaw, Patrick Fiorino, Cameron Flemming, Kevin Matthews, Orry Mercer, Justin Rose, Luke Simcoe, Spencer Tait, Jake Espey and Jake Murray.

The Claremont roster included Hunter Davidson, Paige Devitt, Ty Verstraller, Marisa Papatheodorou, Colin Banks, Cody Chony, Cody Provis, Dru Marlin, Sarah Masters, Hillary Elrick and Patrick Henri.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association director Kelly Matthews called it an incredible game.

"Both teams played fantastic ball," he said.

Players on both clubs received trophies.

The unsung hero of the contest was umpire Sean Price. He was pressed into service at the 11th hour.

"I only had five minutes to read up on the rules," he laughed.

While the game won't go into the record books alongside Mr. Carter's dramatic World Series home run, for a throng of ecstatic five-pitch softball fans, it was equally exciting.

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Tribune

JUNIOR 'A' HOCKEY HOME OPENER
 Tonight 7:30pm
VS. Huntsville
 Spirit Terry Fox car wash
 Saturday, 11 am to 2 pm
 Bill Houston Ford, Main Street
Stouffville Arena
 www.stouffvillespirit.com

Guided Fall Hike

As the days shorten and temperatures cool, leaves begin to change colour and migrating birds start heading south. Join Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) staff for a guided hike and bird of prey demonstration. Improve your tree and bird identification skills, while learning how native flora and fauna prepare for the coming winter.

Bring bird and tree field guides and binoculars if you have them. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Saturday, September 25
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, south side of Stouffville Road, east of Warden Avenue, Stouffville

For additional information and to **register**, please call 416-661-6600, ext. 5660.

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1st Annual Dragon Boat Festival

to support the Aids Committee of York Region

Saturday September 25th
Registration
8:00 am - 9:30am
Races 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Mussleman's Lake,
Cedar Beach
Admission \$5.00

Just get your team together,
 Everything is supplied.
 Call for information 640-6608

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September 25th 2004

Take a leisurely trip through our countryside, pick up clues and win prizes... loads of family fun.

Up to 4 occupants to a car.
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 Location: Front of Latcham Hall @ 9:30 a.m.
 Call 905-642-4227

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