

Gajan erases 5-stroke deficit

Gajan Sivabalasingham overcame a five-stroke deficit entering the final round of play at the Optimist Junior National Championships, at the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club in Ingersoll Thursday to win his age group division.

Entered in the 11 and under division, the 11-year-old Markham resident recorded scores of 76 and 82 in the first two rounds before rallying for a three-over par 75 on the final day to win his second straight title by six strokes.

Gajan will represent Canada at the 2006 Optimist world championships in Palm Beach, Fla.

CASTLE NOT QUITE KING

In other golf events, James Castle finished in a three-way tie for eighth place at the recent 2005 Canadian Junior Boys Championships, conducted by the Royal Canadian Golf Association at Craigowan Golf and Country Club in Woodstock.

The 18-year-old Stouffville resident carded a four-round 285 (75-72-69-69) and was eight shots off the pace set by Mitchell Fox, 17, of Okotoks, Alta.

At the Canadian Junior Golf Association Junior at Rolling Hills Golf Club in Stouffville, Markham

SPORTS DIGEST

resident Stephen Tar captured the boys' 14-16 division last Tuesday with a two-round 144.

Tar, 16, shot a one-under 71 on the first day and a 73 on the final day.

In the boys' 15-17 division, Markham resident Justin Franklin, 17, was fourth after shooting a 153 (75-78). Adam Craig, a 17-year-old Stouffville resident, was seventh with a 158 (78-80).

Wildcats claw bronze

The Markham Wildcats captured the bronze medal from the recent 2005 Peewee Girls Canadian Fast Pitch Championships in Winnipeg after they were edged 5-4 in eight innings by the Guelph Gators in medal round competition.

Entering the tournament as the second-seeded Ontario entry behind the Gators, the Wildcats began the round-robin segment with a 2-0 loss to the Burnaby (B.C.) Oakeys, but rebounded to defeat the Richmond (B.C.) Islanders 4-2, the Blue Thunder (Manitoba) 9-2 and Smitty's Ter-

minators (Manitoba) 9-2 before losing to the Gators 5-0.

Advancing to the medal round, the Wildcats suffered an 8-1 loss to the eventual-champion White Rock Renegades (B.C.) before posting wins over the South Interlake Phillies (Manitoba) 9-2 and the Richmond Islanders 6-5.

That win enabled the Wildcats to face the Gators for a second time.

Jennifer Kates, Kathryn Eberlin and Tina Andreana handled pitching duties for the Wildcats. Jackie Scrymgeour, Kristen Turner and Erika Polidori were the catchers. Manning the infield and outfield positions were: Tannys McKee, Julie Ingratta, Rosie Murphy, Brittany Eaton, Laura Tomlinson, Jodi Vickers and Samantha Giroux. Coaching the team was Irv Buck.

Ingratta was also selected as the club's tournament Most Valuable Player in the qualifying round while Polidori was the top player in the championship round.

In addition to earning those honours, Ingratta and Polidori along with Eberlin were selected to the tournament's all-star team.

McKee captured the batting competition in skills competi-

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