

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SPORTS

Geiger is golden at OFSAA track finals

SDSS student wins junior girls' 200m, 400m races

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

When Natalie Geiger entered the high school track and field scene last year, she was a relative unknown.

But after winning the midget girls' 200 metres and 400m at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships, and in setting a record in the latter event, people began to take notice.

Entering this year's OFSAA championships at Etobicoke's Centennial Stadium last weekend, the 15-year-old Grade 10 student acknowledged there was added pressure.

Moving up into the junior ranks this year didn't affect Geiger one bit as she

ran off with the gold medal in Friday's 400m in 56.04 seconds.

Running the 200m Saturday under adverse weather conditions in which it rained for most of the day, Geiger was first to cross the finish line in a personal best time of 24.25.

Her time would have eclipsed an OFSAA mark set last year of 25.15 set by Rebecca Johnston of Sudbury. However, tail wind conditions Saturday were above the allowed limit that prevented her from rewriting the OFSAA record book.

Nonetheless, Geiger was happy with how she performed both days.

TOUGH ENCORE

"To win both events I guess was tougher to do this year maybe because I went into it last year as a Grade 9 and no one knew who I was. This year though, everyone knows who I am and people were expecting more of me," she said. "But to win both events feels pretty good."

In explaining her winning formula, Geiger attributed a good segment of it to the confidence gained after winning last year's races.

"It definitely helped," she said. "But each year is different."

Geiger also felt it helped that she was familiar with her competitors, many of whom she sees during the club track season. In both races though, she felt the competitors ran faster. Especially in the 400m in which everyone did it under one minute.

"There was definitely better competition this year," she said.

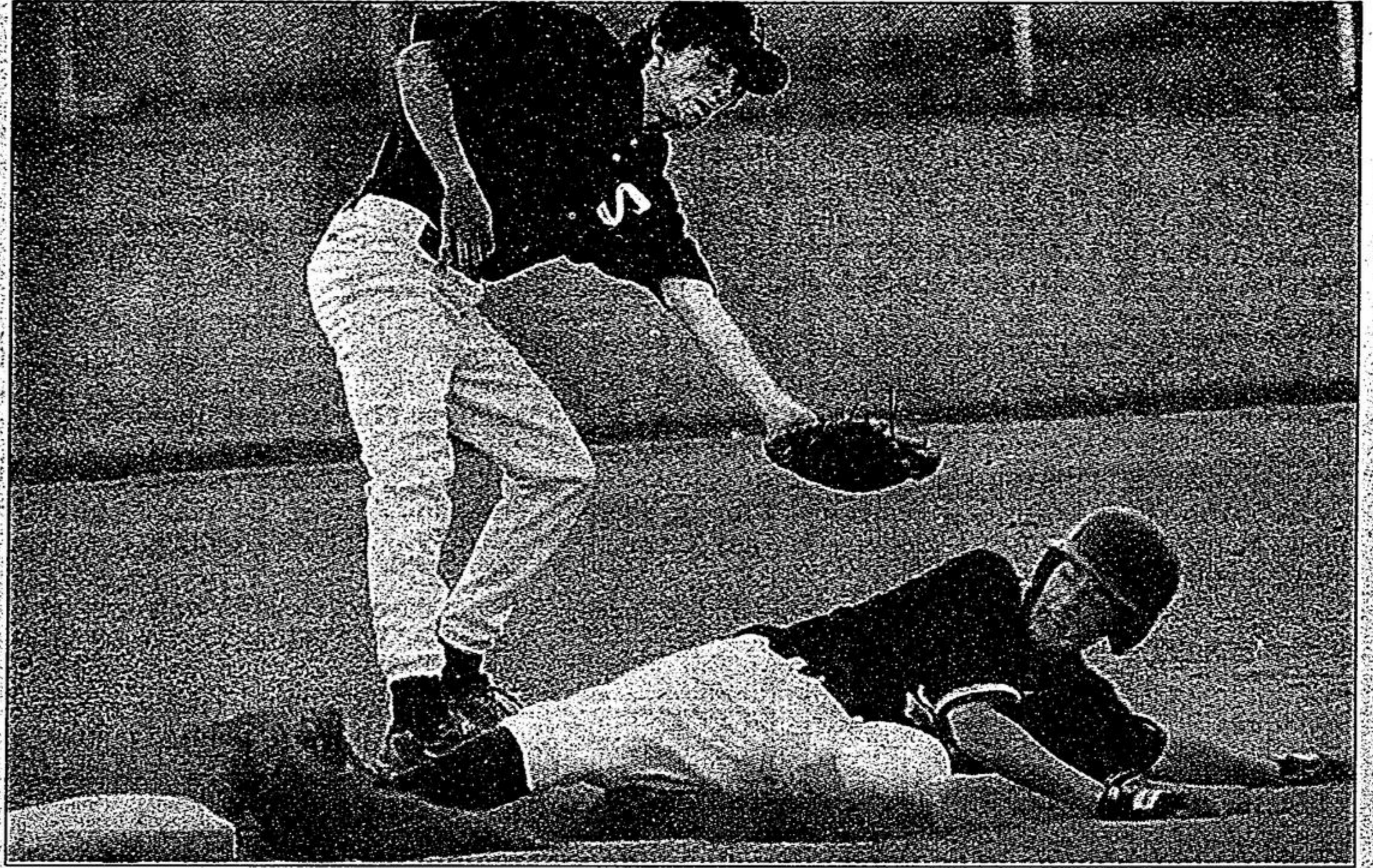
With the high school season over, Geiger is concentrating her efforts on the Canadian Junior Nationals, which will take place July 21-23 in Sherbrooke, Que.

Running the 200m and 400m, Geiger acknowledged this competition will provide a true test of what she can do as she will face rivals who are 17, 18 and 19 years old.

As well, they will be coming from across Canada.

Among other results posted by Spartan participants, Dan Coskun, a 15-year-old Grade 10 student, finished seventh in the junior boys' discus and 17th in the shot put.

For more on the OFSAA meet, log on to www.trackdatabase.com



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans third baseman Curtis Reesor is late in applying a tag on Our Lady of the Lake (Keswick) Bulldogs' baserunner Travis Myette, who successfully stole third in Monday's YRAA tier two first round baseball playoff contest at Milliken Park. The Spartans, however, won the game 18-5. Mark Lofthouse fanned eight batters to earn the win. Matt Martiniello scored four runs. The Spartans advanced to today's semifinal with an 8-5 win over Keswick High School Tuesday in Sutton. The Spartans will face St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School (Maple).

Juniors tackle York rugby title

Victory lifts Spartans into Barbarian Cup Sunday

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

In the dozen years Jamie Hewitt has coached high school rugby it won't take him long to reveal which is the best team he's ever been associated with.

It's this year's junior boys' team at Stouffville District Secondary School.

The Spartans juniors did nothing to alter his thinking during last Thursday's York Region Athletic Association championships at Fletcher's Field in Markham as they crushed the Huron Heights Secondary School Warriors (Newmarket) in the title tilt 22-0.

James Beare scored a try and booted a convert while Matt Raguseo, Luke Bartell and Brayden Pettifer each added a try for the Spartans.

"This is by far the best junior team that I've had in the 12 years of coaching at any school that I've been at," Hewitt said. Making the team special, Hewitt said, is its skill level and confidence.

This was evident earlier Thursday when the Spartans overcame a 3-0 halftime deficit against Thornlea Secondary School (Thornhill) in its semifinal game and reeled off 22 unanswered points to emerge with a 22-3 win and berth in the final.

Entering that game, Hewitt noted, the Spartans were down five starters due to injuries.

"I think the guys were a little nervous at first. But the other kids who filled in for the injured guys dug down deep and stepped up," Hewitt said.

Hewitt anticipated big things from this team, who last year were Grade 9s that played in the YRAA tier two circuit and lost in the final against Grade 10 students.

"Our goal this year was to win

the York Region title," Hewitt said. "But with the number of injuries that we had, I was concerned."

With the two victories Thursday, the Spartans improved their overall record to 15-1 and qualified for this Sunday's Barbarian Cup at Fletcher's Field.

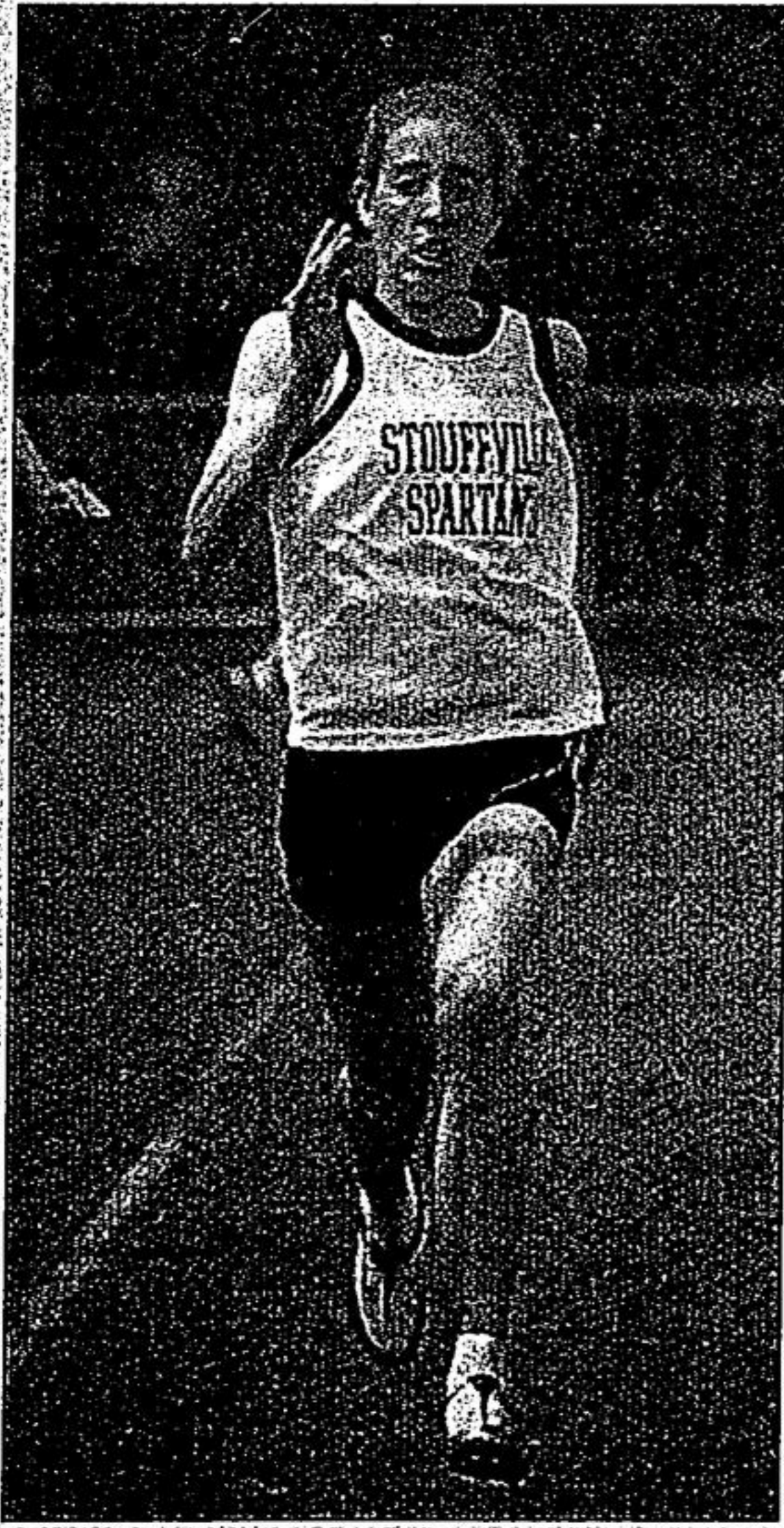
With no Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships for the junior boys, the Barbarian Cup is the equivalent.

SENIORS ADVANCE TO OFSAA

In other division finals, the Spartan seniors reached the semifinal before losing to Alexander Mackenzie High School (Richmond Hill) 8-5.

Bjorn McSorley scored the lone try for the Spartans, who are at the OFSAA AA playdowns that began yesterday at Fletcher's Field in Markham. The Spartans entered the tournament as a ninth seed.

See SOCCER, page 22.



Stouffville District Secondary School's Natalie Geiger also won the 200m and 400m last year at OFSAA as a midget performer.

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