

SPORTS

Judoka hopes youth will be served

Cedar Valley youngster gets special exemption to compete at nationals

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

Lea Sheffield has a good reason to be smiling these days.

Just recently, the 13-year-old Sheffield Judo Club student received official verification she can take to the mat in Lethbridge, Alta., July 2 to compete in the Canadian championships.

Sheffield's predicament came about because at her age, she was considered one year too young to qualify for an event of this magnitude.

But under an early bloomers clause, she eventually received the green light from Judo Ontario and Judo Canada to compete.

"I was concerned that they wouldn't let me go," the Cedar Valley resident said. "But I was really happy when I received the OK."

Sheffield earned the right to make the trip out west based on how she



LEA SHEFFIELD: Had to receive permission from Judo Canada and Judo Ontario to compete due to her age.

performed in qualifiers in February and Mississauga in May. Sheffield acquired the points required.

When Sheffield takes part in the nationals, the five-foot, 100-pound teenager will compete as a juvenile in the 48-kilogram class.

The ages of other entries will range

from 14 to 16 years.

First taking to the sport when she was three years old, Sheffield didn't take long to move up the competitive ladder.

Learning the martial arts discipline through her parents Steve and Aartje, who also serve as instructors at the Stouffville-based club, she earned her first medal when she was five.

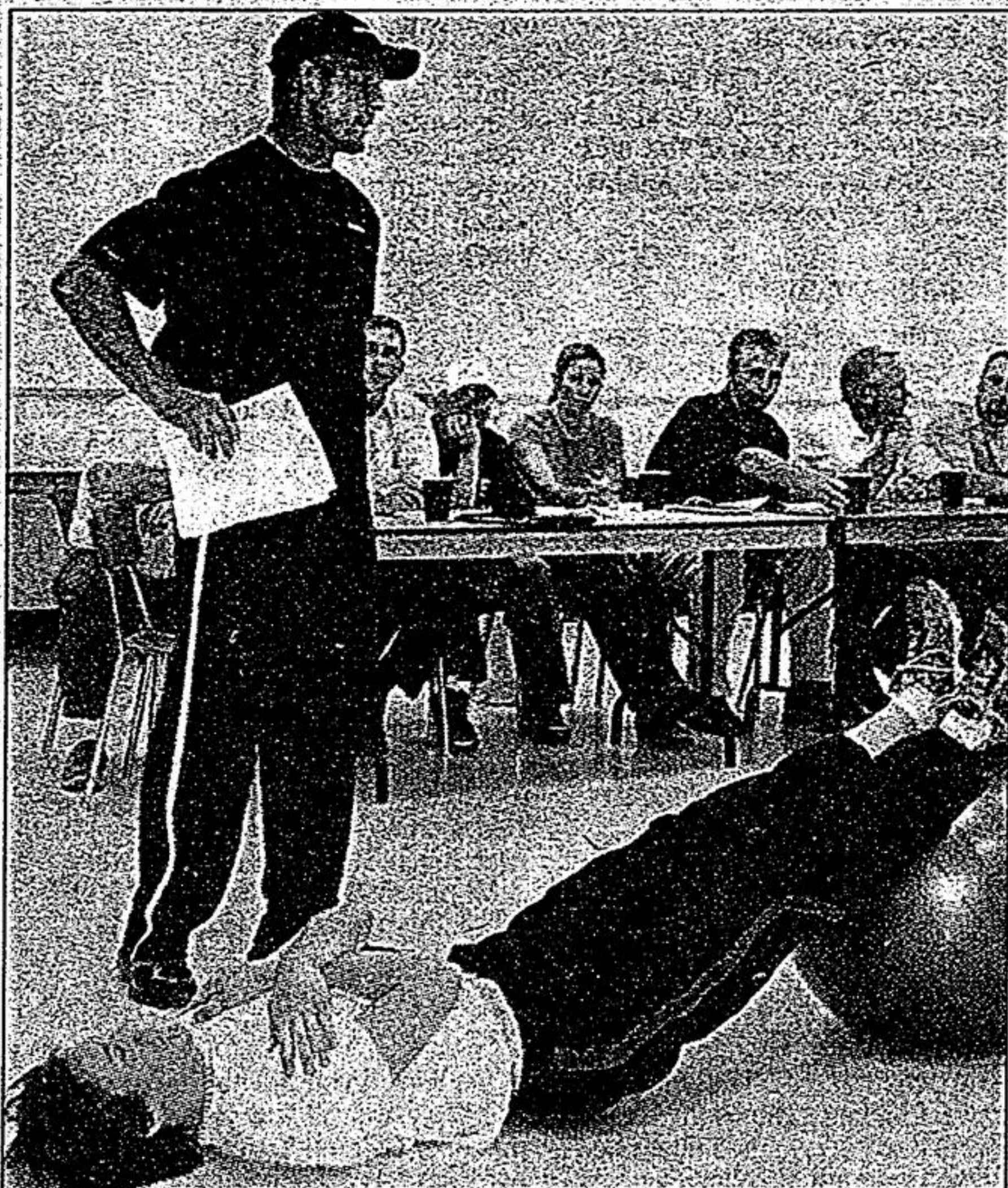
Recently attaining her blue belt, a level of achievement gained following the 2006 Ontario Winter Games in Collingwood, Sheffield works out up to 10 hours a week at the Vandoni Community Centre.

In the 10 years that she's been in the sport, she's suffered only one serious injury. That being a dislocated elbow. The mishap sidelined her for two months.

"It was something of a fluke," she recalled.

A Grade 7 student at Bogart Public School in Newmarket, Sheffield already has an eye on the Olympics, even the world championships.

"I'll take it one step at a time and see what happens," she said.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

CLASS IS NOW IN SESSION

Florida Panther Gary Roberts conducted a clinic on conditioning for coaches in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association at Latcham Hall Thursday. Demonstrating the exercises is Stouffville Spirit goalie Dan McWhinney. Roberts' brother Greg is coach mentor with the WSMHA. Gary Roberts has played in the NHL for 20 years.

Storm bantams field gold and silver

The Stouffville Storm bantam boys took to the road over the last two weekends to play in fastball tournaments and came home with a gold in one and silver in the other.

Playing in Stratford June 17, the Storm claimed the gold medal with a 6-2 win over the host club in the final.

In reaching the final, the Storm defeated New Dundee 2-1 and Fullarton 10-0.

Steady defence by infielders Tyler Heffernan and Ryan Gregory combined with timely hitting from Brandon Hampson and John Reesor made the difference. Bruce Cringan and Travis Connor shared pitching duties and combined to strike out 26 batters and surrender just two hits.

Taking part in a tournament in Oshawa last weekend, the Storm reached the final before settling for second place after a 10-0 loss to the host club.

The Storm won its first game over Paris 5-0 before dropping an 8-4 decision to Oshawa. But the Storm came back to defeat St. Catharines 7-4 and Napanee 4-3 to reach the final.

Most valuable player awards were given out after each game and were earned by Erick Espiritu-Santo, Connor, Kyle Donald, Cringan and Robert Kay.

Clutch batting and solid defensive plays in the outfield came from Mike Finn and Doug Jones.

Craig cards eighth-place finish in CJGA golf event

Adam Craig ended up in an eight-way tie for 10th place in the recent Canadian Junior Golf Association Lipton Brisk Canada Cup Team East Qualifier event at the South Muskoka Curling Golf Club.

Competing in the boys' 17-19 division, the 18-year-old Stouffville resident was 15 over par during the two-day event after carding rounds of 80 and 79 on the par 72 course.

Swimmers make their mark in the pool

Members of the Stouffville Swim Club were put to the test in recent weeks after taking to the water in three competitions.

At an event staged last weekend in Buffalo, N.Y., Bethany Philpott, 15, led a group of Stouffville competitors after placing first in the silver division 200-metre backstroke, second 100m backstroke and 15th 200m individual medley.

Also swimming in some bronze division events, Philpott was first in the 100m butterfly.

Entering her first meet as a senior competitor, Dana Kennedy, 13, was sixth in the silver division 50m freestyle and 15th in the 200m individual medley.

Beth Wideman, 16, was fourth in the 100m bronze division backstroke.

At the Division II team championships in Sudbury, Jake Silverthorn, 10, led the Stouffville contingent after swimming off with three golds, a silver and a fourth.

Silverthorn won the boys' 50m and 100m butterfly and 200m individual medley events and was second in the 100m individual medley and fourth 200m freestyle.

Dylan Cook, 9, placed 13th in the boys' 100m breaststroke, 15th 50m freestyle, 16th 50m breaststroke and 18th 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Jaimee Mellor-Hill, 12, recorded 100 per cent best times and was 20th in the girls' 100m backstroke, 21st 200m butterfly, 23rd 100m butterfly, 25th 200m backstroke and 28th 200m individual medley.

In another competition at Port Hope, Silverthorn dominated his age group with first-place finishes in the 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 100m and 200m individual medley.

Kevin Boehnke, 14, won the 200m individual medley and 200m backstroke. In addition, he was second in the 200m freestyle, third 100m and 200m breaststroke and 50m freestyle and fourth 100m freestyle.

Carter McGhie, 13, won the boys' 100m backstroke and was third in the 100m butterfly and fifth 50m freestyle.

Mellor-Hill placed third in the girls' 200m backstroke, fourth 100m freestyle, sixth 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 200m individual medley and 10th 100m breaststroke.

Storm mites double the count on Oshawa

The Stouffville Storm mites' bats sounded off last week in a 12-6 win over Oshawa in Durham York Fastball League action at Memorial Park.

Josh Burkholder belted a home run while the club also received strong defensive efforts from pitcher Kerrick Brown, shortstop Matthew Avoleo

and outfielder Paul Henderson.

The win atoned for a heartbreaking 12-11 loss the Storm incurred last Monday in Newmarket.

Big defensive plays by Patrick Fiorino, Kevin Matthews and Luke Simcoe enabled the Storm to keep within striking distance before coming up short.

Taking to the diamond June 17 for a tournament in Cobourg, the Storm won four of five games to claim the B championship.

The Storm was scheduled to the road this week with games in Port Perry yesterday and in Oshawa today. Both games are slated to start at 6:30pm.

SPORTSBOARD

E-MAIL: mhayakawa@yrng.com

SOCCER

Whitchurch-Stouffville

HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS FOR WEEKS OF JUNE 5 AND 12
UNDER-10 GIRLS: Gemini Store Fixtures 4 (Victoria Wicks 3, Emma Wood) vs. Front Street Capital 4 (Sandra Farisco 2, Haley Catalano 2); Da Classic Scoop 9 (Emily Kaunismaa 5, Kayley Wynne 2, Sarah Storey, Karlene Stoby) vs. Metal Door 4 (Alyssa Mihail 2, Keeley Shantz, Carly Murray); Todd Bros. 3 (Sarah McGivray 2, Amy Sutton) vs. Front Street 3 (Shannon Grinnell, Haley Catalano, Sandra Farisco); Da Classic Scoop 4

(Emily Kaunismaa 3, Sarah Storey) vs. For the Love of Jo 0; Gemini 6 (Victoria Wicks 4, Emma Wood, Victoria Powers) vs. Metal Door 1; (Alyssa Mihail); For the Love of Jo 1 vs. Todd Bros. Contracting 1 (scorers unavailable); Da Classic Scoop 3 (Emily Kaunismaa 2, Sarah Storey) vs. Front Street 3 (Heather McGuckin 2, Courtney Bradley-Kean); **UNDER-10 BOYS:** Harvey's/Swiss Chalet 3 (Colin Grosse 2, other scorer unavailable) vs. Richardson Masonic Lodge 2 (Jack Porter 2); Richardson Masonic Lodge 6 (Jack Porter 4, Sammy Morana 2) vs. East Side; Mario's 5 (David Dwyer 2, Adam Mortley, Dylan Jacksie, Reed Savage); East Side Mario's 8 (scorers unavailable) vs. Rotary Club of Stouffville 2 (David May, Braydon McNeil); Dr.

Jon Barnes Optometrist 8 (Jason Rankin 4, Eric Zambri 2, Marco Accettone, Jake Espey) vs. Harvey's/Swiss Chalet 1 (Erik Tammi); State Farm Insurance 3 (Connor Mullins, Quintin Volpe, Mario Rosano) vs. Dr. Jon Barnes Optometrist 2 (Marco Accettone 2); **UNDER-12 BOYS:** Hamilton Resources 4 (Thomas Lato, Matthew Espey) vs. The Multiverse 2 (Damian Kerz); **UNDER-12 GIRLS:** Gallo Real Estate 3 (Olivia Bolender, Amberlynn Beattie, Michelle George) vs. Charlinda Belgian Chocolates 3 (Lucy Lombardo 2, Kristen Drew); Timber Creek Golf 2 (Tressa Sheffield, Priscilla Glasford) vs. The Corner House Restaurant 0; Timber Creek 4 (Tressa Sheffield 2, Brooke Naim 2) vs. Charlinda 2 (Lucy Lombardo 2).