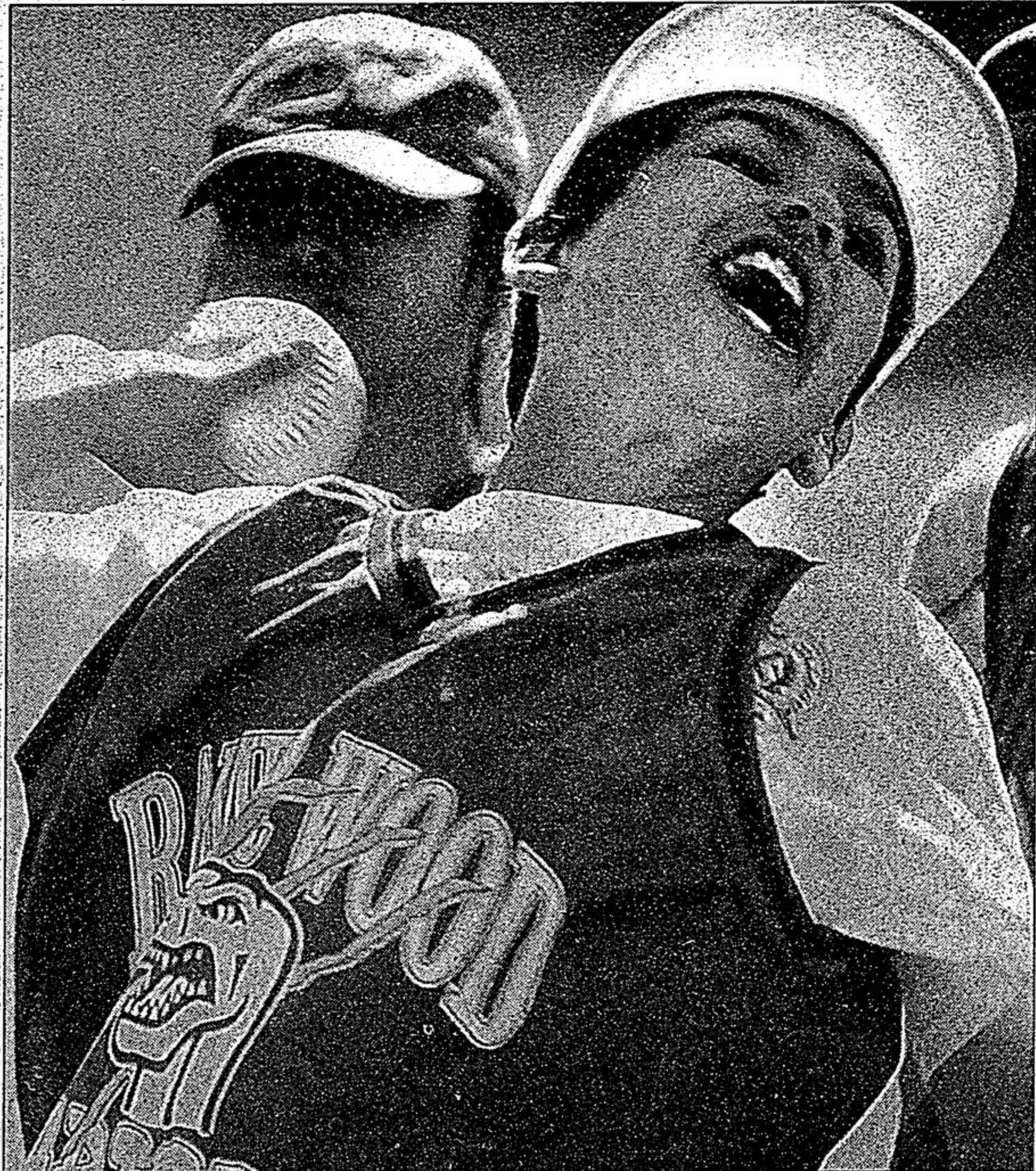


SPORTS

Special day on track

Patrick Bond of Ramer Wood Public School in Markham tosses the ball during the special needs track and field meet at Stouffville District Secondary School track last week. Athletes from across central Ontario took part.



Bushra Halat of Pleasantville Public School in Richmond Hill runs the 100 meters.

Photography by
Sjoerd
Witteveen

SDSS top seed at provincials

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Jamie Hewitt anticipated his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans senior boys' rugby team would be seeded no worse than second at the Ontario high school championships in Guelph.

But the veteran Spartans head coach received a pleasant surprise when the seedings were announced Monday and his York Region champions were awarded the top seed in the 16-team event that began yesterday and concludes Friday.

"I thought Trenton High School would be No. 1 since they only lost once this year. But they're ranked Number Three," Hewitt said. "We never had a common opponent but the one school that we lost to twice (Lindsay Collegiate Institute), they (Trenton) beat and Belleville Centennial defeated Lindsay and Trenton in turn defeated Belleville. But who knows?"

"I'm surprised that we're Number One. I thought at least we'd be Number Two."

In being ranked top dog, Hewitt has no objections. If everything played out, Hewitt noted it could work to his club's advantage.

"With Brock High School being No. 2 and Trenton No. 3 and if everything worked out they would face each other in a semifinal," Hewitt said. "But there's a lot of good teams at OFSAA. Every game will be tough. We're not counting our eggs. We've got to take things one game at a time."

If the Spartans hope to be vying for this year's Ontario gold medal, Hewitt said his club must continue to do what they did during the YRAA season. That being able to adapt to what style of game the opposition plays.

"We've got to play team rugby," he said.

At the same time though, he said in a tournament such as this one, the element of luck will probably surface.

"We've got to avoid injuries and you need breaks. Those things you can't predict," Hewitt said.

The Spartans' first game was

scheduled against St. Thomas Aquinas (Tottenham).

For more on the championships, go to ofsaa.on.ca

Girls slo-pitch team in semis

The Spartans girls' slo-pitch team finished its York tier one regular season in second place with a 3-2 mark and advanced to yesterday's semifinals against St. Elizabeth Catholic High School (Thornhill) at Milliken Park in Markham.

The winner of that game will face the victor of the Keswick High School-St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School (Maple) in the final.

The semifinals and final were slated for Monday but was postponed due to rain.

With 10 new players, Spartans head coach Brian Shankman was pleased with how the club has moulded together.

"Our goal was just to make the playoffs because we have a lot of rookies," he said. "But we've had a lot of fun and the girls have played hard, they've caught the ball and hit the ball when they've needed to."

Rain hits baseball squad

Mother Nature also played havoc with the Spartans boys' baseball team — twice.

Their scheduled YRAA tier two round playoff contest last Thursday against Sir William Mulock Secondary School (Newmarket) was postponed due to rain.

The contest was to have been played Monday but was rescheduled again due to rain. Weather permitting, the game was scheduled for Tuesday or Wednesday in Newmarket.

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