

SPORTS

Volunteer/coach, youth player earn ball honours

BY JIM THOMAS

A Stouffville mother of seven and grandmother of four has been named the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association's Volunteer of the Year.

Laura Powell, 50, was presented with the coveted Carl Myers Memorial Trophy at the league's year-end playoff tournament Saturday at Memorial Park. The presentation was made by June Doner, association president, and trophy donor Mary Myers.

To top off the day, Moller Insurance, co-coached by Powell, won the bantam-midget girls championship.

Also honoured was seven-year-old Adam Bain, a player with Timber Creek Golf in the five-pitch advanced league.

COURTNEY TREMPE REMEMBERED

He received the Courtney Trempe Memorial Award, symbolizing sportsmanship on and off the field.

This trophy was presented by Donna Trempe and son Carson along with donor Mary Frances Juk of the Stouffville Rotary Club.

Courtney was 8 when she was killed in a dog attack in Stouffville in 1998.

The Timber Creek Golf team was coached by Paul and Rebecca Doner of Mount Albert.

June Doner described Powell as one who continually emphasizes fair play, serving as a role model for all young athletes.

"She's a valued volunteer," Doner said, "we're very fortunate."

Powell became associated with the association 15 years ago. In addition to holding the position of league secretary, she's coached girls' teams from novice through midget. She also completes umpire scheduling for both house league and rep competitions.

For tournament play, she's known for dying her hair to match her team's colours, the president said.

Powell said the award presentation came as a complete surprise.

"My husband knew but didn't breathe a word," she said.

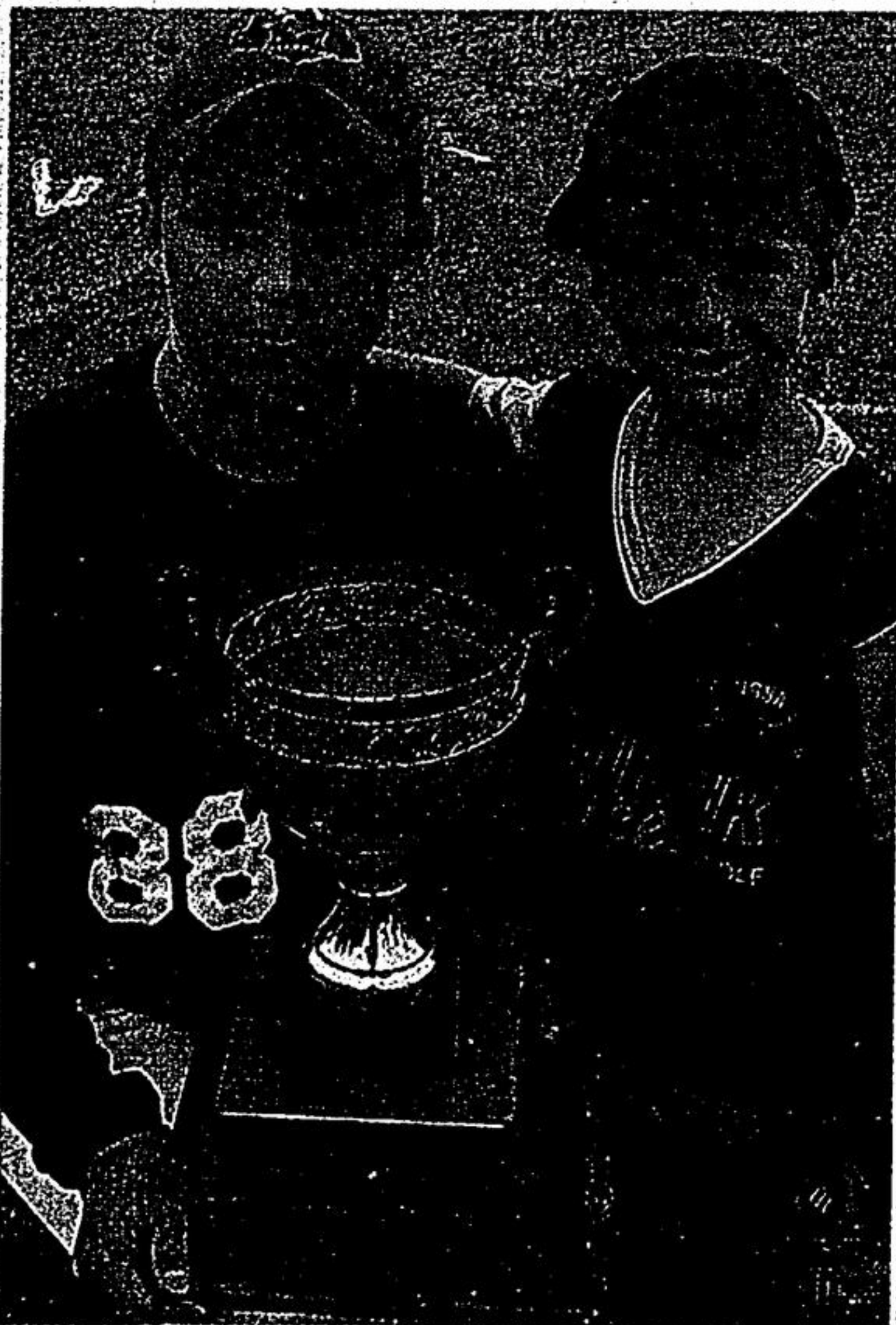
Other recipients of the Carl Myers trophy include - Howard Burkholder, 1991; David Boyd, 1992; David Miller, 1993 and 1999; Ted Assinck, 1994; Mary Deveaux, 1995; Bill Johnson, 1996; Ken Wood, 1997; Mike Heffernan, 2004; Paul Doner, 2005 and Rebecca Doner, 2006.

Past winners of the Courtney Trempe award are - Michael Sooley, 1998; Kimberly Cuzzo, 1999; Brandon Hailey, 2000; Robert Spencer, 2001; Bradley Taylor, 2002; Kaidin MacDonald, 2003; Dale Holmes, 2004; Rebecca Ramer, 2005 and James McCurdy, 2006.



STAFF PHOTOS/JIM MASON

Laura Powell shares the Carl Myers trophy with her Moller girls team.



Carson Trempe (left) presents the Courtney Trempe Memorial Award to Adam Bain during the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association's year-end tournament in Memorial Park Saturday. The trophy is named for Carson's late sister.

The apprentice shoots for open

BY JIM THOMAS

Elite apprentice status.

Michael Pickering attained this level of golfing excellence after posting scores of 71 and 73 and finishing at par following enrollment in a PGA course earlier this month in Cambridge at the Cambridge Golf and Country Club.

The 22-year-old Stouffville resident's two rounds of 144 were 11 under the card requirement.

For the Stouffville District Secondary School graduate, his accomplishment represents a step in the right direction in terms of what he wants to accomplish in the world of golf.

He's the assistant pro at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club.

"I like the direction my life is taking," he claims, "I enjoy what I do."

Pickering was first bitten by the golf bug when he was nine years old.

GOLF SCHOLARSHIP IN IOWA

At 16, he knew golf was his game.

This desire earned him admission to Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa on a golf scholarship. He recently graduated with a degree in business administration.

In time, he hopes to turn pro and eventually serve as a course manager.

Pickering admits he owes everything to his parents and Sleepy Hollow Golf Club head pro Gary Betts.


Next year, the five-foot, seven-inch, 150-pound, righthander, hopes to provide lessons and qualify for the Canadian Open.

His shots off the tee have been known to exceed 350 yards.

"When they're downhill and downwind," he laughs.



Stouffville's Michael Pickering earned elite apprentice status at a golf event in Cambridge this month.



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