

May's Stanley Cup visit highlights year in sports

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
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Brad May's long awaited wish finally came to fruition this year.

Joining the Anaheim Ducks at the National Hockey League's trade deadline, the 35-year-old Stouffville native and 16-year NHL veteran hoisted the Stanley Cup for the first time in June after the Ducks knocked off the Ottawa Senators.

May shared his glory with family friends and the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham in August by bringing the trophy to the Community Safety Village.

While May's patience and perseverance proved to be a virtue, other Whitchurch-Stouffville individuals and teams became believers that good things came to those who waited in 2007.

Some highlights of a memorable year in the sporting scene:

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

REACHING THE TOP: For the first time in the history of Stouffville District Secondary School, the Spartans senior boys' hockey and rugby teams each laid claim to Ontario high school A/AA titles.

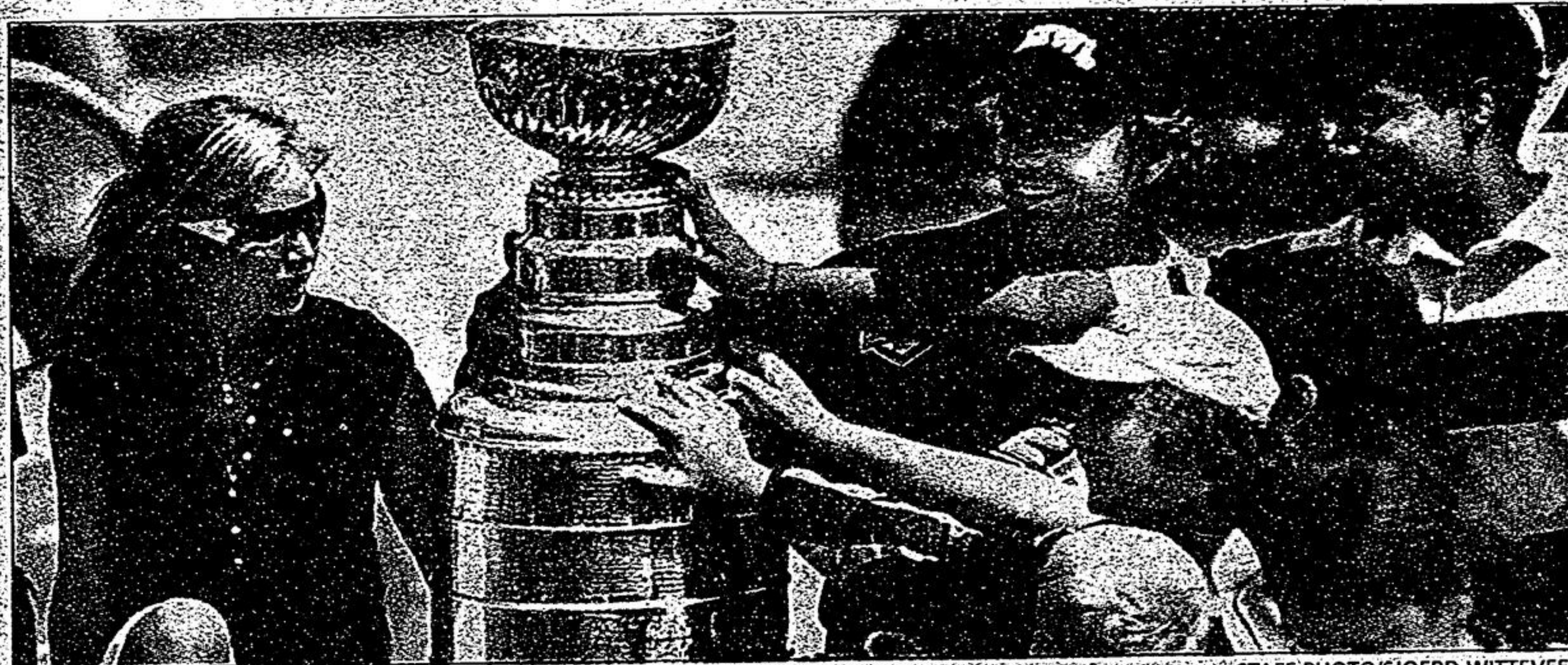
Entering the provincial tournament as the number two seed, the hockey team won the title after defeating defending champion Bishop Macdonnell Secondary School Celtics (Guelph) 5-4 in overtime.

A sudden death overtime goal by Brendan Wise was the game winner.

After claiming a provincial high school bronze medal in 2004 and silver in 2005, the Spartans rugby team finally struck the motherlode by defeating Brock High 19-5 in this year's final in Guelph.

STILL CHAMPIONS: The Spartans girls' hockey team kept its provincial A/AA title after blanking Dryden High 3-0 in the final at Belleville.

MAKING HISTORY: The Spartans



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

As Brigitte and Brad May watch, young people vie to touch the cup as the Brad May Stanley Cup parade passes through Stouffville in August. Mr. May's Anaheim Ducks beat Ottawa to win the NHL championship.

junior girls' basketball team placed the first York Region Athletic Association championship banner in their new school after defeating Newmarket High 51-33 in the tier two final in November.

ON THE SOFTBALL DIAMOND

FIELDING AN EASTERN CANADIAN TITLE: The Stouffville Storm boys' entry came close to winning the Eastern Canadian softball championships the last two years before finally hitting paydirt in August when they defeated host Newfoundland 3-1 in the bantam championship final. The Storm also won the provincial qualifier and Ontario Amateur A title.

Also earning high honours were the Storm junior mites, who won the provincial title after defeating the host Napanee Express in the final.

In the ladies game, Pearl Coleshill, a

19-year-old shortstop and outfielder, was named to the Canadian junior women's team that finished fifth at the Junior Women's World Championships.

IN THE SADDLE

RIDING TALL: Gwynne Rooke reached the pinnacle of equestrian success when she was awarded International Equestrian Federation dressage steward status and election to the ParaEquestrian Canadian board of directors.

She also accompanied a Canadian equestrian dressage contingent that claimed a silver medal at the Pan American Games in Brazil.

The accomplishment means the team qualified for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

ON THE FAIRWAYS

RULING THE FAIRWAYS: James Castle

was part of a Humber College Hawks men's golf team that captured the Canadian university championship in New Brunswick in the spring. The 20-year-old also won the individual title at the Canadian college championships in British Columbia.

HIGH MARKS: For the second time in his career, Henry Brunton, 41, was recognized by GOLF Magazine as one of the top 100 instructors in the world for 2007-08. First attaining that distinction in 2005-06, the Stouffville resident remains the only Canadian on this list.

GRANITE CLUB IN SPOTLIGHT: The Granite Golf Club hosted two major events in August beginning with the Royale Cup National Women's Amateur Championship. Stephanie Sherlock, 20, of Barrie won the four-day event by three shots.

Later that month, the course hosted

the third annual Stephen Ames Cup featuring a Team Canada entry playing a Ryder Cup format competition against a Trinidad and Tobago team. With Ames in attendance, Canada claimed the title to take a 2-1 overall lead in the series.

AT THE RINK

HIGH HONOURS: Stouffville Spirit forward Corey Trivino and Michael Del Zotto, a Stouffville resident and defenceman for the Oshawa Generals of the Ontario Hockey League, were members of the Team Ontario under-17 squad that won the gold medal at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Trivino and Spirit teammates Ethan Werek, James McIntosh and Daniel Spivak, were chosen to play for the Canada East squad that claimed the silver medal for the second straight year at the World Junior A Challenge in British Columbia.

Werek was also selected to play for Ontario at the 2008 World Under-17 Challenge in London, Ont.

During the 2006-07 season, Del Zotto played for the East squad in the OHL's annual all-star game and collected two assists in a 13-9 win over the West. Del Zotto was named to the OHL's first team all-rookie squad. In November, he was one of 22 players chosen to play for Team OHL in the 2007 Canada-Russia Series.

In the Ontario Minor Hockey Association AAA midget championship, Justin Hulshof played forward for the Richmond Hill team that beat Oakville in the final.

Carter Kroen, 15, was the 2007 recipient of the Dan McNeil Award, named for a former Stouffville Clipper minor hockey player who died in 1992 after a two-car collision near Goodwood.

In the women's game, goalie Liz Knox was a member of the Wilfrid Laurier Uni-

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