

SHORTS IN SPORTS

U18 rugby players head to semis

Three Stouffville residents played an integral role helping the Markham Rugby Football Club under-18 men's team win their quarter-final match over Belleville, 43-0, at Austin Park in Markham Wednesday.

Jesse Lofthouse and Scott Miller each had two tries for Markham, which is aiming for a third straight provincial title.

Lawson Mann booted five converts.

Markham will host a semifinal game at Austin Park Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Softball boys empty-handed at midget nationals

For three Stouffville players who are members of the Oshawa BB midgets, their chances to reclaim a medal at the recent national softball championships in Prince Albert, Sask. were promising.

Erick Espiritu-Santo, Travis Connor and Robert Kay all played integral roles in helping Oshawa win seven of eight games during the round-robin segment.

But they lost two games in the championship round and were eliminated from the double knock-out event.

If there was any consolation to be had, Connor was named the top pitcher of the tournament during the round-robin segment.

Two other Stouffville residents in Rob Santo and Sue Kay were also members of the Oshawa team. Santo was a coach and Kay, manager.

The Mike Oaks Saskatoon Selects won the gold medal while British Columbia, represented by Sooke, took silver. The Nova Scotia Selects won bronze.

Golfers make early exit from Canadian men's amateurs

Two Stouffville golfers failed to make the cut when the playing field was paired down to 75 players after two rounds of the 2009 Canadian Men's Amateur Championships at the Club de golf Le Blainvillier in Blainville, Que. Wednesday.

James Castle of Stouffville, a member of the Humber College men's golf team, was 13-over-par through two rounds while Gajan Sivabasingham, 15, of Ballantrae was 16 over.

A score of 150 (six over par) was the cutline.

Castle and Gajan were making their debut at this event.

For more on the championship, go to www.rcga.org

Sound play powers Mennos to win

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Timely hitting and stellar pitching and defence paid dividends for the Stouffville Mennos when they travelled to Aurora for their Oshawa City and District Fastball League game Wednesday.

Compiling 13 hits, including eight from the bottom half of their batting order, and receiving a solid pitching effort from Aurora native Greg Dalgarno, the Mennos routed host Aurora Shoeless Joes 8-2.

Making the victory even more

rewarding for the Mennos was the game was deemed as a four-pointer to make up for a postponed game on June 3 between the two clubs.

The Mennos scored a pair of runs in the third inning and added three more in the fourth and sixth innings.

Dalgarno, who limited Aurora to just seven hits in going the distance, helped his own cause at the plate by collecting three hits while Tim Lofgren had two and drove in two runs.

Also contributing to the Mennos'

victory were some timely defensive plays including a circus catch by shortstop Jeff Boadway and a hard-running catch by right fielder Kris Burkholder.

Aurora played the game without the services of their top pitcher Todd Martin, who was nursing a groin injury.

Rick Green handled pitching duties and took the loss.

The win by the Mennos atoned for an 11-5 loss they incurred against the host Scarborough Athletics Tuesday.

Entering the game, the Mennos thought they might receive a break when the Athletics sent their No. 3 pitcher, Andrew Scott to the rubber.

The Mennos capitalized on that situation in their first trip to the plate when they batted around the order and erupted for five runs.

However, that would be all of the offence the Mennos would generate as the Athletics were buoyed by a stellar relief pitching effort from Grant Patterson, who struck out 10 batters to earn the win.



Stouffville Spirit head coach Craig Donovan talks to players during the first day of an on-ice training camp at the Stouffville Arena Thursday. The Spirit are in the hunt for five more players to round out its roster, as well as another assistant coach.

STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Spirit need five to fill out roster

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Wanted - five players to fill out a junior A hockey club's roster.

That's what Stouffville Spirit general manager Ken Burrows is seeking as the club began preparations for its 2009-10 season as it officially opened training camp Wednesday with dryland training.

This year, the Spirit will compete in the Central Conference of the Ontario Junior Hockey League.

The following day, the club held its first on-ice session.

With close to 35 hopefuls in

attendance, Burrows remains confident he will find what he's after.

That being one goalkeeper, one defenceman and three forwards.

"We've only had one skate, but so far camp has gone pretty good," Burrows said. "We have a good idea of who we want and we'll let things play out."

Burrows is hoping that by Aug. 26 or 27, once the club plays its first three preseason contests, he will have the roster finalized.

The club will continue with practice sessions during the week at Stouffville Arena and play its first

preseason game Aug. 21 against the Collingwood Blues at the Stouffville Arena at 7:30 p.m.

On a separate note, Burrows hopes to find a third assistant coach for the Spirit.

Just recently, he thought he had someone lined up to join the coaching staff, but negotiations fell apart.

For now, assistant coach Mark Savery will work with the club's defence. Recently hired assistant coach and former Spirit player Mark Mitchell will help first-year head coach Craig Donovan in

working with the forwards.

"We're definitely looking for another assistant coach," Burrows said. "It might be a former Spirit player or someone who has minor hockey experience."

In terms of what the third assistant coach will do, Burrows said there's no specific area they will handle.

Rather, the successful candidate will help out wherever needed.

For more on the
stouffvillespirit