Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Golf club residents competing for pragging rights

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Every two years, residents of the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club community get together to compete in a variety of sports.

But more importantly — they have fun doing so.

With this year representing such an occasion for these festivities to take place, the fourth Ballantae Summer Games are well under way.

Launched in the summer of 2007 by resident John Graham, who brought the idea to Ballantrae after participating in a similar event in Florida, this year's games feature 18 separate events with close to 600 participants ranging in ages from the mid 20s to those in their 80s, said Phil Bannon, a town councillor and country club community resident who also is chairperson of the games.

Originally starting out as primarily outdoor sporting events, the games have expanded to where they now include a number of indoor activities.

Among the sports offered in this year's games are: bocce, cycling, field games, golf, horseshoes, ladder golf, lawn bowling, pickleball, slo-pitch, swimming, tennis, walking and running, water volleyball, table tennis, snooker, cribbage and euchre.

Ken Miyauchi, a country club community resident who is chairperson of the water volleyball competition, was quick to note the objectives of the Summer Games are to enable residents to meet new friends, renew old acquaintances, and engage in friendly competition.

In describing the competition format, Miyauchi said each of the five condominiums within the community has its own team that competes for medals in 18 categories.

The most coveted prize, he said, is the Condo Trophy, awarded to the condo with the highest percentage participation.

"In total, hundreds of residents enter as participants and hundreds more volunteer their time to organize and administer the events," Miyauchi said.

While the majority of events take place on the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club grounds, Bannon noted other events occur elsewhere.

"Lawn bowling takes place in town, slopitch and field games take place at the Ballantrae Family Fall Fair, at the Ballantrae Community Centre on Aurora Road (tomorrow)," said Bannon.

The playdowns for the games started in early May and continued throughout the summer until the final week of events today through Sept. 15.

Mennos win away from final

The Stouffville Mennos drew first blood in their best-of-three Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League semifinal series against the Richmond Hill Angels, after emerging with a 7-3 win at Richmond Hill Town Park Thursday.

The Mennos set the tone in their first at bat when Byron Baranieski drove in a pair of runs with a single.

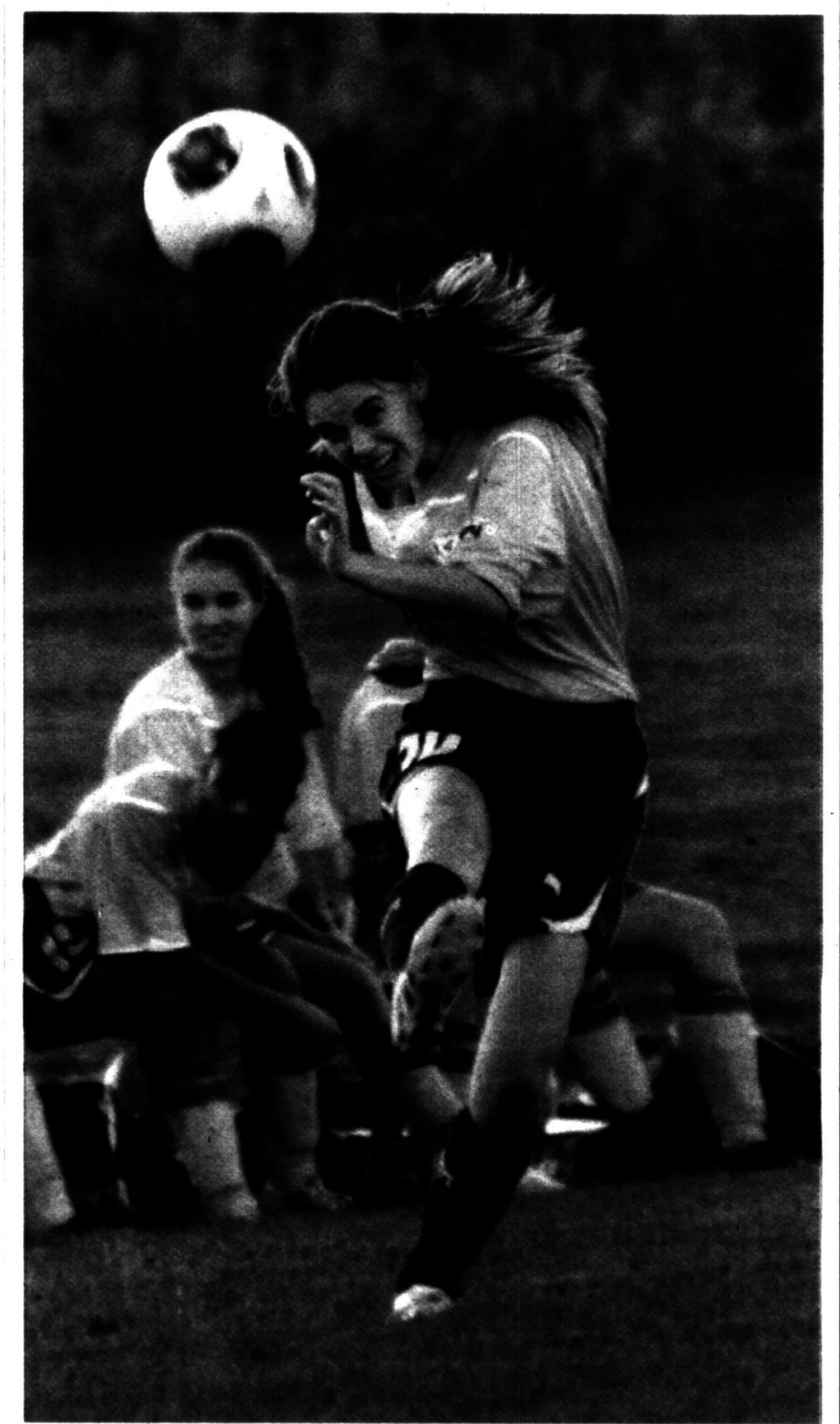
In the third inning, Shawn Boadway belted a three-run home run.

The Mennos rounded out their scoring in the fourth inning with two runs generated by consecutive hits from Kris Burkholder, Jay Nesbitt and Greg Dalgarno.

Nesbitt worked the first five innings and surrendered six hits and two runs to earn the win.

Dalgarno tossed the final two innings and gave up just one run on two hits while striking out three batters.

The Mennos can wrap up the series with a win at Richmond Hill Town Park Tuesday at 9 p.m



HERE IT COMES

Stouffville Mustang Emma Ongman gets all of this ball during her team's 2-0 win over the Oshawa Kicks in Canadian Girls Soccer League action at Ballantrae Park Tuesday.