

**Softball play  
gets underway**  
Page A23

**Sports & Recreation**

SPORTS HOTLINE • JAMES MCCARTHY  
Phone: (867) 873-4031 • E-mail: sports@nnsi.com • Fax: (867) 873-8507

**Track and field  
championships results**  
Page A24



**Three medal winners try out their newly-won awards at the Kamloops Classic Swim Meet in Kamloops, B.C., on June 7. They are, from left, Stephen Giovanetto, Aodhan Mooney and Noah Colford.**

photo courtesy of Ian Legaree

# Swimmers gear up for national meets

## Medal-winning trio bring Yk club to second-place finish at Kamloops Classic Swim Meet

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

The Yk Polar Bear Swim Club sent a group of 20 swimmers to the Kamloops Classic Swim Meet in Kamloops, B.C., from June 5 to 7.

It was another haul of medals for some swimmers. Stephen Giovanetto was a double-medal winner. He

grabbed silver in the 50-metre breaststroke and a bronze in the 100-metre breaststroke.

Giovanetto also managed another qualifying time for the Age Group National Championships in Montreal this July. In addition to qualifying for the 50 and 100-metre breaststroke, Giovanetto managed to beat the qualifying

time in the 200-metre breaststroke, giving him another event to compete in. Aodhan Mooney also won a medal as she captured a bronze in the 100-metre butterfly and Noah Colford brought back a bronze medal in the 100-metre freestyle event. Colford said he had a great meet.

"I managed to improve a

lot on my times," he said. "I didn't think I would win a medal until the morning of my swim. I felt good going into it."

Polar Bear head coach Ian Legaree said Colford and Giovanetto brought their "A" game to the meet.

Please see **Next, next page**



**SPORTS  
Check**

with James McCarthy

E-mail: sports@nnsi.com

### Provinces square off in slo-pitch

Tonight marks the beginning of the 12th annual Inter-provincial Slo-Pitch Tournament hosted by the Yk Slopitch Association. League president Trevor Bourque said they're expecting a good turnout for the event, which runs until June 14.

"We're up over 10 teams right now," he said. "We decided to let teams from the league enter, even though it was supposed to be for people to represent their home province."

This year's tournament is in memory of former player Tim Walsh, who passed away from cancer recently. Bourque said half of the proceeds from the tournament will go to the Canadian Cancer Society, as well as another cause dear to the Walsh family.

"The other half will go to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind," he said. "His daughter is blind, so we decided to give them money as well."

Included with the tournament will be a home run derby for both male and female players. Bourque said the men will hit from home plate and the women will be hitting from second base in order to give the ladies an equal chance of hitting the ball out of the park.

All games will be at Fritz Theil Park.

### Yk darts takes on the country

Yellowknife will be well-represented at the Canadian National Darts Championships, which are set to begin in St. Hyacinthe, Que., on June 16. The men's team will include the Elvis Beaudoin, Myles Longphee, Dean Willis, Jason Elgie and Danny Clouston, while the women's team will include Kim Strand, Penny McHugh and Heather Makaro. The matches are set to begin on the morning of the 16th with the mixed doubles. The men's and women's doubles will take place on June 17, followed by men's and women's singles on May 18.

"We're feeling awesome," Longphee said. "I like the look of this team. Everyone's been practising hard."

The Nodor Cup, the team event, will be played on June 19. Team NWT won a bronze medal in the event in 2007. As well, the qualification tournament for the Americas Cup will happen on June 20. Willis will be competing for a spot on Team Canada at the tournament.

Please see **next page**

# GOLF FORE LIFE!

**Charity Fundraiser**  
Thank you for your kind contributions!!  
**With your support we raised \$3,000!!**

Individual thanks to: Tawna Brown, Megan Paul, Robert Hawkins, Lin Brown and Amanda St. Denis

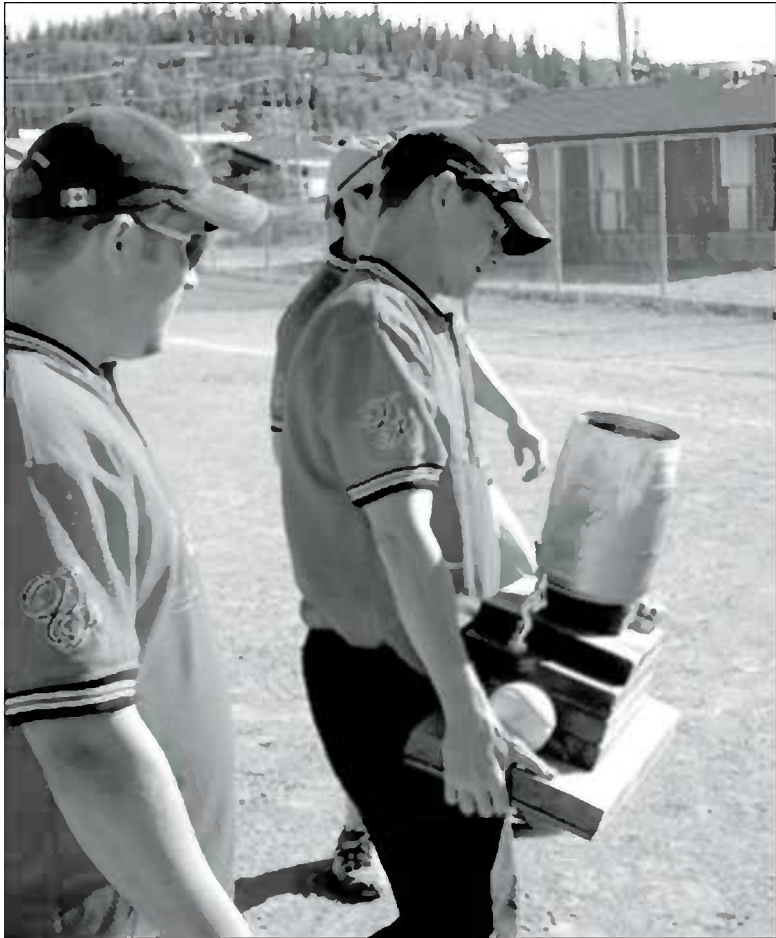
**"GOLF FORE LIFE" is a charity fundraiser that reminds us progress is being made in the fight against cancer and that everyone who participates is making a difference!**

All proceeds from this event are in support of the Canadian Cancer Society's "2009 Relay for Life".

## sports & recreation

# Fast and slopitch play get underway

### Yk softball leagues back on the diamonds



**Craig Halifax of team Diamante's hauls the Suds Cup off the field with his teammates, after they beat Nexum in the Suds Cup finals last year at Fritz Theil ballpark.**

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

The sound of an aluminum bat hitting a ball is back for another season as the Yk Slopitch Association and the Yk Men's Fastpitch League are well into their 2009 seasons.

Both forms of softball have been a fixture in the city for many years and it shows no sign of slowing down. Yk Slopitch Association president Trevor Bourque said with the exception of a couple of teams dropping out, things are running smoothly.

"It's always a hassle at the beginning of the year, but we'll work on that for next year," he said.

There were 51 teams signed up to play, but three have dropped out since the season began on June 1. Bourque said one positive he's seen this year is the youthfulness of some of the teams.

"We have some younger players out on the field," he said. "This year was a real surprise because we weren't expecting that many. We take it as a compliment. More players means more revenue for the league, which helps us buy equipment, maintain the fields and do some other little improvements."

Some of those improvements include a sprucing up of Fritz Theil Park. The deck in between the diamonds has received a fresh coat of paint and there are also some new picnic tables.

On the fastpitch side, the league once again has the same five teams for this season. League vice-president Darren Campbell said he would have liked to see more teams, but all is well so far.

**"You always want to add, but not contract."**

"You always want to add, but not contract," he said. "We're hoping some teams will have some substitute players, but we're holding steady so far."

Fastpitch was one of the big sports in Yellowknife a number of years ago, but Campbell said the introduction of slo-pitch to the city contributed to the decline the sport has seen in recent years.

"Once it came, players began to drift that way," he said. "We had a big men's fastpitch league and even a ladies league, but they didn't want to play both, so they went to play slo-pitch."

Campbell said there are a number of reasons as to why slo-pitch became more desirable.

"Pitching is a big one," he said.

"You don't have a lot of high-level pitchers and some people have a hard time hitting the ball from such a short distance. Also, slo-pitch has different levels of play, whereas fastpitch is a predominantly male league and people think 'Wow, they must be good and they also have two umpires per game.'"

So where does each league go for the future? Bourque said he sees much more of the same.

"I think you'll see the status quo," he said. "Everyone likes playing slo-pitch and it's all recreational." Campbell said the future of fastpitch depends on the younger generation.

"We have an aging core of players, especially in pitching," he said. "One good thing for this year is the jump in minor ball. It had been lagging for so many years and it's great to see so many kids back in it. There are 50 right now, but it's a long way from where it should be, but it's a great start."

The potential of a new team from Behchoko heightened spirits, but Campbell said it's a wait and see process.

"I heard they used to play, but not as long as I've been involved," he said. "It's great if it happens, but it's a question of who will come and if they'll be able to field a team. I hope it works out."

Sports Check, from page A22

### Golfing at midnight

The biggest golf tournament North of 60 is almost here. The Canadian North Midnight Golf Classic begins on June 19 at the Yellowknife Golf Club. General manager and head professional Gord Brayton said things are beginning to fill up fast.

"We have about 12 spots left in the midnight flights," he said. "Overall, we're about 70-per cent full."

Tee-off is at 2 p.m., with flights on the front and back nine holes. The big event at midnight, also a front and back nine flight, will begin play at 11:59 p.m. There is also two 18-hole tournaments. The first is at 6 p.m. on June 19 and the second is on June 20 beginning at 7 a.m.

In addition to golfing, the club is hosting a series of displays from the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame on June 19 and 20. As well, some of Canada's golfing legends will be on their way to take in the course. Gary Cowan, a former player on the Senior PGA Tour, and Bob Panasik, the youngest player ever to make a cut in a PGA Tour event, are a couple of players who will be out playing a round with some local players. There will also be an exhibition with the legends on the 20th at 3:30 p.m.

### It's worth more

Yellowknife's Michael Gilday is part of General Mills' "Aspiring Olympians" program, in which people can buy a box of cereal and give \$1 to Gilday in support of his drive to make the 2010 Winter Olympics short-track speed skating team. That amount is being increased for the month of June only as General Mills is offering up \$5 on specially marked gold boxes of cereal.

To date, Gilday has received \$398 towards his efforts to make the team. Some of the cereal brands include Cheerios, Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Golden Grahams.

### Swim, bike and run

The next event on the Yk Multisport Club calendar is fast approaching. The Midnight Sun Triathlon takes place on June 14. Competitors can compete by themselves or in teams of two or three.

There are three categories for racers to tackle – open, recreational and kids and tots. Each division has its own check-in time, so visit the club's website for those details.

Race organizer Lindsey Cymbalysty said registration is at Overlander Sports until 5 p.m. on June 13 and you must pre-register as no race day entries are being accepted.

## Next stop: Canada games

Swimmers, from page A22

"They both really stepped up and had great swims," he said.

The results from the trio of medal winners, combined with results of the other swimmers, helped the club finish second overall in the small

club category. Legaree said he's happy with that.

"Some of the clubs in the large club section who came had 60 or 70 swimmers," he said. "You can't compete against those teams, but the second place in the small club category shows we're competitive."

Legaree said the meet was another good test for those heading to the Canada Summer Games in Charlottetown this August.

"It's critical to have good mental preparation and I think these kids have that," he said.

Colford will be on the trip. He agreed the Kamloops

Classic was a good test.

"Canada Summer Games is a big meet, but you gotta start somewhere," he said.

"I'll be up against university-level swimmers and I'm a little nervous about that, but I've been to the Western Canada Summer Games before, so I know what to expect."



**Build from the ground up...**

with

**IGLOO**

BUILDING SUPPLIES GROUP

**YELLOWKNIFE**  
338 Old Airport Rd.  
Ph: 920.4005

**HAY RIVER**  
43032 Mackenzie Highway  
Ph: 874.2324

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Serving the North since 1957