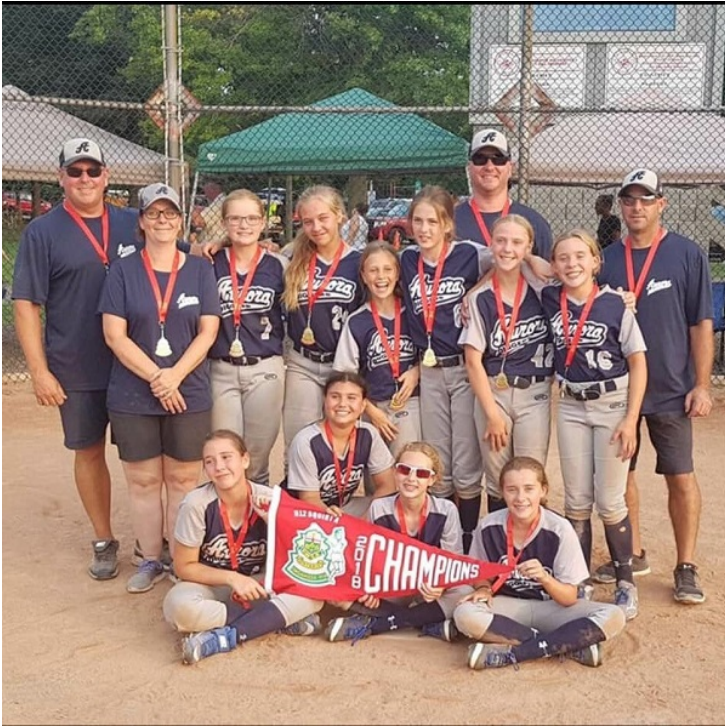


## Diggers bring home gold in Squirt Provincials



**By Jake Courtepatte**

With six gold medals throughout the season already under their belts, the Aurora Diggers 06 Martin squad capped it off with a win at provincials on Sunday.

"I'm so unbelievably proud of this group of girls," said head coach Todd Martin. "To come as far as they have in such a short while shows the passion and dedication they have for the sport."

Following a tough 7 - 5 opening loss to LaSalle Gold in the preliminary round, the Diggers returned with a pair of massive wins to qualify second out of their bracket, beating London 14 ? 0 before besting Brampton 11 ? 0.

It took ten innings for the Diggers to topple Milton in the quarterfinals, eventually walking away with a 7 ? 5 victory, before a 6 ? 2 win over Oakville set up a rematch with LaSalle in the final.

Aurora exacted their revenge in the tournament's finale, winning a 9 ? 8 thriller to be crowned provincial champions.

"They represented Aurora and the Digger organization with class and grace throughout the summer," said Martin. "Proving there is a way to win everything in style!"

Officially the top team in the province of Ontario, it was in the Squirt A division that the Diggers earned the crown, after qualifying for the top tier at a tournament in Port Perry over the August long weekend.

With such a successful year behind them including a handful of tournament wins, Martin said next year's team will look to "try their luck" south of the border in some big-name American events.

He expects most of the core group to stick together next season, having played as a team through the "learn to play", mite, and squirt divisions, though tryouts are being held the first week of September at Fleury Park to put together the 2019 squad.