

# Panthers are devastating in second half with four goals

The Panthers are a second-half club and they proved it against arch-rival Richmond Hill Thursday night. Despite being totally outplayed by the Hill the first half, Stouffville came back from a 1-0 deficit to score four unanswered goals in the final 35 minutes.

And the 4-1 semi-final win against the team that stole the '85 minor pee-wee division crown after a three-year Panther reign tasted like sweet revenge.

However physical size and intimidation played critical factors in this contest admitted Panther coach Alfons

Rubbens. "The first half we played very defensively... Richmond Hill has some big players so they felt superior, their size was a little intimidating at first... but we opened up in the second half," Rubbens remarked.

A crucial blow to the Hill squad and probably the turning point in the game

came just after the green machine's first goal. A Richmond Hill player attempting to ward off a Panther attack kicked the ball in his own net to give the black cats a tie game.

"That fluke goal was a major blow to them... it became a matter of confidence, it hurt their egos... and in the last 15 minutes of a game we can run

any team into the ground," said Rubbens.

Black cats' Trevis White, Jamie Grist, Giles Francis and Ernie Sluga did the damage against Richmond Hill.

The Panthers advance to the Region of York Cup final in Woodbridge September 14.

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## Flashlight goal gives Royals "dark" victory

The Stouffville Royals advanced to the final round of the Region of York Soccer Cup edging Markham 2-1 in a "flashlight" semi final Tuesday night.

In the last two minutes of the game, Royal striker Jimmy Murby capped a final assault with a high right corner drive over the outstretched arms of Markham goalie Sven Hennze.

But the game certainly could have gone either way in the early stages. The minor bantam clubs battled to a 1-1 tie at half-time. Royal midfielder Davide Petramala drew first blood when he converted a corner kick in front of a scramble of players.

However that lead was short-lived when a Royal defender placed his hands on the ball in his own 18-yard box. Markham captain Frank Benedetto was awarded the penalty kick. Royal's ace goalie Lindley Mussell had no chance on the shot.

The direct kick proved the last free ticket Stouffville would give to the yellow shirts.

Strong midfield set ups coupled with precision passing enabled the Royals (sponsored by Stouffville Real Estate) to dominate most of the play.

Markham played for the breaks... they used the long ball and their forwards would run after it. That tired them out... our game was more spread out, more passing and all 11 guys worked," remarked Royal defender Jeff Carney.

Markham coach Dave Wallace agreed his team was outplayed. "Their centre back and right back played my two forwards out of the game and they were my stars!"

"It was speed against speed, and in the end our legs were just not as good as theirs," explained Wallace.

The darkness enveloping the Stouffville District Secondary School pitch during the final half could have resulted in a tragic flukey goal deciding the semi final.

Both coaches were well aware of that fact, as were the spectators who could hardly recognize the players on the field by 8 p.m.

Mussell and ex-Stouffville goalie Hennze were outstanding between the posts especially during sundown.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club had offered \$14,000 to Parks and Recreation to build light posts on the field months ago. The Club has yet to receive a reply from town officials.

## Soccer Shorts JUNIOR GIRLS

Stouffville's junior girls were eliminated by Newmarket 2-0 in semi final cup action Monday night. The game was called because of darkness on the Stouffville high school field with 15 minutes remaining.

### MINOR PEE WEE

The Panthers defeated Thornhill 5-3 in the first round of the York Region Cup on August 31.

Despite a disastrous first half, the Panthers pounced Richmond Hill 4-1 Thursday night in a water-logged semi final. Trailing 1-0 early in the second half, the black cats kicked some retributive justice (four unanswered goals) against the team that upset them in the regular season final for the division title.

The Strikers "B" squad was knocked out of Cup contention by Newmarket 3-1. Stouffville's Doug Pilkey scored the lone goal. A special appreciation goes to the Striker squad for giving up the Stouffville pitch (and the local edge) to the Panthers Thursday night. As a result of this gesture, the Strikers played on foreign turf in Newmarket.

### MINOR BANTAM

The Royals defeated Markham 2-1 in a flashlight match last Tuesday night to advance to the Cup final. Davide Petramala drew first blood and teammate Jimmy Murby blasted the winner with two minutes left in the game.

### MAJOR MOSQUITO

The Cougars upset Unionville 4-0 Wednesday night to advance to the divisional Cup final. Fabri Zancanaro and Steve Pilkey scored two goals respectively. The last place Cougars obviously surprised an over-confident Unionville club in this contest. The game was marred by "an ugly incident" when Stouffville's outstanding defender Scott Denouden was punched in the face by a frustrated Unionville player with two minutes remaining. The aggressor was red-carded amidst unsportsmanlike cheers from his coach.

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Bob Johnston Chevrolet Oldsmobile Ltd. is located at 4121 Kingston Rd. (by the Guildwood Train Station) 284-1631.

Tim Messner, an 18-year-old Markham resident, was selected for the Canadian junior rugby team, playing a British team this weekend in B.C.

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