

Senior girls  
out of breath  
in Hunstville/B2

# The Tribune

Sports & Classified

A classic birthday  
present for  
Dave Stronach/B5

Second Section

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, April 9, 1986

## 'Two out of three ain't bad'

### Hockey championship belongs to Stouffville's novice, bantam boys

BY KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

When three Stouffville hockey teams reach the final round of play-offs, there's a good chance one will clean up and win the big one.

Last weekend the Neil Patrick Novice Clippers and Edwards-Murphy Bantam Clippers won their league championships against Bowmanville and Beamsville respectively.

Ironically, the town's hottest club and most favored battalion to win a title — the District Credit Union Peewees — ran out of gas against Amherstburg in the final.

For Stouffville (population 13,500) to make good on two out of three title shots, is a commendable feat.

**UNDERDOGS**  
Novice Clipper coach Lillian Cordell was ecstatic in the dressing room: Her boys had been tattooed as underdogs throughout the best-of-five final series with defending champion Bowmanville.

However, Stouffville silenced the critics by upsetting Pickering in the semifinals and then stubbornly dragging the bull boys through a sixth and deciding tie-breaker.

That final contest was played at the Recreation Complex Friday night. The local squad bulldozed their feisty foe 4-1 to claim an upset victory.

"When I went into the dressing room before the game, the kids were really rowdy. Right then I knew we were going to win it," boasted Cordell.

"There's been constant drilling all year. At this age level the attention span isn't that great. There have been some individualists on the bench, but we played as a team in that last game."

Cordell recalled singing out Roger McMann early in the season as an up-and-coming sharpshooter. Her intuition was right on the money. McMann paced Stouffville with two goals in the final game.

Brawny forward Geoff Smith also scored twice. The acute defensive skills of David Mountjoy, Jason Reesor, Brian Coughlan, Sian Morrison and goaltender Greg Sanford continually frustrated Bowmanville's attack.

The entire novice bench, with the exception of McMann, Michael Boyd and John McKinnon, will move to atom next season. Cordell will stay behind to coach a new group of novice boys.

This year's championship squad consisted of: McKinnon, McMann, Boyd, Smith, Ryan Jefferson, Phil Pridham, Sanford, Lindsay Haylow, Colt Carcone, Sian Morrison, Brian Coughlan, David Mountjoy and Jason Reesor.

**CRUCIAL GAME**  
How certain was bantam coach Grant Nesbitt that his boys would beat Beamsville out of a championship?

"After last Wednesday's crucial third game — a 7-6 overtime win for Stouffville — the Clippers knew they had Beamsville by the throat."

"We were trailing 4-1 with 10 minutes left in game three," recalled forward Dan Larmer. "We came back and scored the tying goal with 30 seconds on the clock. That was the turning point."

Stouffville scored three more in overtime to take a 2-1 series lead. "We always say whoever wins the third game usually wins the series," added Kirk Smythe, who figured prominently in the scoring along with brother Kent.

Kirk's two markers paced the Clippers to the 3-2 championship victory on Saturday. Mike Ferguson opened the scoring.

It's rumoured a few bantam Clippers will quit hockey next season. Nesbitt also hinted he's considering throwing in the whistle after an illustrious coaching career that peaked with the trip to Denmark last December.

**UPSET**  
Coach Glenn Whitebread and his tenacious Peewee Clippers finally met their match — Amherstburg — in their OHA final. It proved fatal.

Thumping the Windsor squad 7-3 in the best-of-five opener two weekends ago, it appeared Stouffville was about to collect its fourth crown of the season.

see Peewee/B3

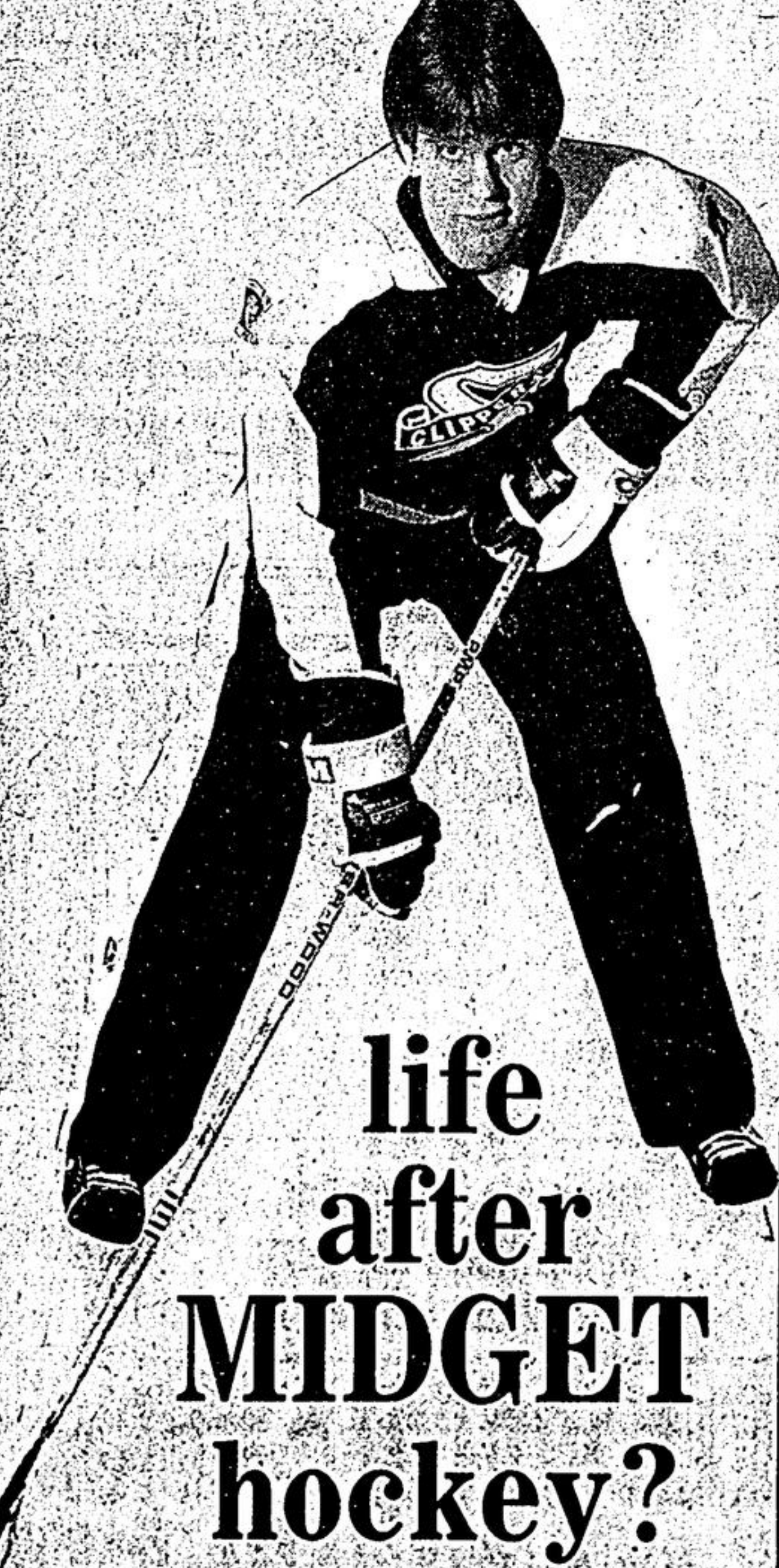


NEIL PATRICK NOVICE CLIPPERS



EDWARDS-MURPHY BANTAM CLIPPERS

## Is there...



life  
after  
**MIDGET**  
hockey?

BY KELLY CONNELLY  
Sports Editor

Is there life after midget hockey in Stouffville?

With no junior or juvenile club in town, midget hockey is the last stop for the majority of boys who are average players.

After midget there's nothing. They're too young to join the Sunday Amateur Hockey League and not good enough to make a junior club.

But Jeff Christensen is one of a few select players with an excellent chance at a post-midget life. The 16-year-old centre's future on ice now rests with the mailbox.

He's expecting a formal invitation to Orillia's Junior A summer training camp to come by mail in May. The scout who approached Christensen after Stouffville's dramatic elimination loss to Woodbridge a few weeks ago, also talked with teammate Eric Beam.

Christensen knows the competition will be tough and Orillia isn't exactly next door to Stouffville. But at least it's a shot.

"After midget you either quit or go on," said Christensen. "Am I nervous about training camp? I'll just wait till I'm out there and do my own thing."

The cool confidence waned a bit as Christensen considered the sacrifices he'd have to make if Orillia signs him on.

"Some junior clubs want you to move to their town. You end up leaving your friends behind and that can be hard," figured the leading point-getter on the Stouffville Beekers, Midgets.

"It's a big decision, but a lot of players do it."

Beam, a defenceman (pictured at left) knows all about being put under the microscope at an OHA tryout camp. Fifty skaters competing for



JEFF CHRISTENSEN



DAVE FOCKLER

five positions isn't unusual, he remarked.

Beam was cut from the same Orillia club last year as well as Markham's junior B team.

"I came back to Stouffville pretty disheartened," said the 17-year-old blueliner. "I ended up making the Uxbridge junior C team but Stouffville wouldn't sign my release."

Although Beam's plight appears to be an isolated incident, he maintained that being stranded in an OHA-less town like Stouffville often kills one's incentive to pursue a hockey career.

Local midget skipper Dave Fockler wondered if the situation would be different if there were a junior team in Stouffville.

Because OHA opportunities aren't always nearby, some players find the travel grind unappealing. Pulling up stakes to live in a strange town hundreds of miles away dissuades many boys from continuing after midget.

Beam and Christensen, of course, are exceptions. They're willing to accept the nomad life of a junior player. But then, they've got enough talent to fuel their aspirations while average skaters, who show potential, need that extra push.

Since the demise of the junior C Clippers a few years ago, Fockler, too, has noticed the incentive for the majority of puckhandlers to aspire to a higher level of play isn't as strong as it once was.

"If Stouffville minor hockey doesn't wisen up, we're going to be in trouble. We've got good boys coming up through the system. Where are they going to go," asked the coach.

see Midget/B3

### Top bowler

## Doug Stuart thrives on lots of pressure

Who is the top bowler in all of Whitechurch-Stouffville?

Only six men — from a starting field of 72 competitors — made it to the final round of the town's Beat the Champ competition last weekend.

Organized by the Monday night men's league, the sudden-death elimination showdown at Stouffville Bowling Centre started at 10 a.m. Sunday. When it was over, resident pin-hunter Doug Stuart was crowned champion. Cliff Dunkeld, Norm Webster, John Tait, Frank Chieffallo and Tom Gottschalk were runners-up in that order.

Stuart beat Cliff Dunkeld in the last game with a 243 average. Dunkeld struggled with a 187.

"I thrive on the pressure in tournaments; just knowing it's coming down to the wire," said Stuart, who collected a \$150 first prize.

"Cliff had a lot of bad breaks. He'd try to get a spare and one pin would be left standing up."

Dunkeld's one weakness came back to haunt him in the championship bowl-off. "I missed some corner pins which I've been missing all season. Spares make the game and I didn't get them," he explained.

However, Dunkeld wasn't too upset. He took home \$195 in prize money — \$45 more than the champion. How did he pull that off?

Because Stuart had the best average going into Sunday's finals, he received a bye in the preliminary heats and waited in the final game for an opponent.

"I was told after the competition that you're better to qualify at the bottom and work your way



DOUG STUART

up. The more games you win, the more money you make," reasoned the 30-year-old champion.

Dunkeld won two preliminary games (the equivalent of a quarter and semifinal match), to collect \$135 in winnings and meet Stuart in the final. After Stuart beat him, Dunkeld received another \$60 as the loser.

"I noticed everybody was nervous in the competition and it was really quiet. There were only two spectators," remarked the "rich" loser. "Only Doug and I beat our average."

Although it appeared to be a lucrative payoff to be second-best instead of number one, Stuart was pleased with his premier status.

"At least with a bye there's a certain security knowing where you're going to end up," he figured.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I went into the dressing room before the game. The kids were really rowdy. Right then I knew we were going to win it." Stouffville Novice Clipper coach Lillian Cordell explains the strong positive feeling she had before the Lakeshore hockey championship showdown last Friday. Her boys ousted the Bowmanville Toros 4-1 to clinch the crown.