

Panthers, Royals do well in soccer event

BY KELLY CONNELLY
Sports Editor

The tears trickling from Stouffville Panther Gary Bodimeade's eyes were joyful ones.

The soccer netminder had just made the save of his life during a dramatic penalty-kick finish to advance his club into the peewee division semifinal of the Robbie International Tournament on Monday.

The Panthers had never got that far in the prestigious Robbie before and Bodimeade was one relieved keeper. He made a stunning dive to stop the second last shot in the best-of-five penalty kicks against Mount Hamilton.

Both teams couldn't snap a 1-1 tie in regulation time and overtime, so it came down to the five-shot showdown — a soccer goalie's nightmare. Stouffville won it 4-3 and was one win away from a birth in the tournament peewee championship at Birchmount Stadium.

The pitch on Kingston Road isn't exactly Estadio Azteca in Mexico where 114,000 fans watched Argentina defeat West Germany Sunday to win the World Cup, but it was the stage for the best youth teams from across the globe to perform on.

All the different age-group championships were played at the stadium yesterday. Stouffville hosted the peewee elimination rounds on its new Recreation Complex fields last weekend. A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the long-awaited grass lawns Saturday morning.

FOUR SHUTOUTS

By Monday, the local boys had defeated Notre Dame (Montreal) 6-0, Arlington 2-0, Oshawa 1-0, North York Cosmos 1-0 and Mount Hamilton. Only one team stood in the way of a trip to Birchmount Stadium — Wexford.

Wexford, a Scarborough team oozing with experience, hefty players and two prior Robbie

championships (squirt, major atom), scored two goals to eliminate Stouffville only four hours after the victory against Mount Hamilton.

"Physically, Wexford was a stronger team and we played too much of their game," said Panther skipper Alfons Rubbens. "Experience was a factor too. We have never gotten this far (in a Robbie) before. Wexford has. There was quite a bit at stake for them to lose."

After the game, Wexford coach Ron McSkimming looked across the field at the blue shirts he had just defeated and shook his head. "I watched the Panthers two years ago and I knew they were good," he said. "They showed a lot of guts, determination and character. I was worried all the time in this game because all it takes is one fluke goal (to turn it around)."

Reaching the semifinal meant Stouffville was in the top four of a field of 48 peewee boys' teams from around the world. McSkimming added he wasn't anxious to meet Stouffville in the Ontario Cup.

ROYALS DO WELL

The Stouffville Royal bantam boys played their Robbie games in Scarborough and were knocked out by an American squad — Medford 70's — 4-1 in the fourth match last Sunday.

Injuries and weather worked against the club, said Royal coach Martin Johannessen. "The guys were tired, we had some injured players and playing in the heat can really sap your energy," explained the skipper.

The Royals were leading 1-0 on a goal by Colin Hales when Johannessen noticed time had expired on his watch in the first half. The referee, thinking the halves were 45 minutes long instead of 35, let the play continue and Medford tied the game. That was the turning point, Johannessen pointed out.

Still, the Royals like the Panthers had their best showing ever in the Robbie. "To get by the first round was just tremendous," said Johannessen.

The Royals beat a team from Michigan 2-1 in the opener, then edged Clarkson 2-1 and tied Bayshore 2-2 before meeting Medford. Greg Cook, Hales, Tab Lamoureux and Wally Barbour did the scoring.



Stouffville Panther Giles Francis in motion during Robbie.

Coach leaves them guessing

Stouffville mechanic Grant Nesbitt, easily recognized in his customary baseball cap and hockey jacket, was decked out in a suit and tie last Thursday night.



GRANT NESBITT

Why the change in clothes? Nesbitt received the Sports Personality of the Year award on stage at Stouffville District Secondary. The man of the evening, who has coached baseball and hockey teams for the past 14 years, gave a modest shrug when asked why he thought he earned the award.

"It's really no big deal. I've been involved in sports for quite a number of years, but this was a very good year for sure," he said.

Nesbitt and his Edwards-Murphy

Bantam Clipper boys won the 1985-86 hockey league championship. As well, he fulfilled a long term dream and took the team to Denmark for an international tournament at Christmas.

Amidst speculation that he would not coach hockey next year, the amicable sportsman just smiled. "I never said I was leaving. I could be back."

Has he had other offers? "If anywhere, it'll be Stouffville for sure."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There's no real pro league here. There are no goals in Canada. You're dreaming for nothing." Former Stouffville Royal midfielder, Vince Nardi, now a National Soccer League (NSL) player, says Canada is like a third world country when it comes to soccer — underdeveloped.

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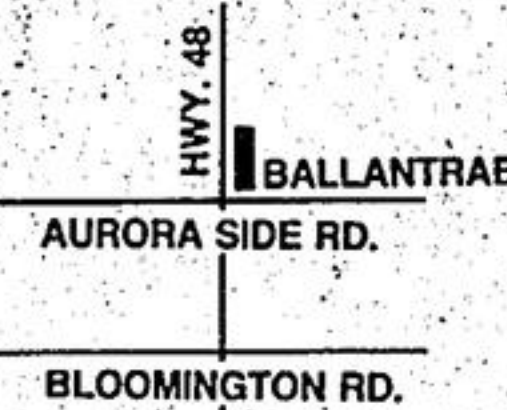
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NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSING

Proposed By-laws to stop up and close and sell a portion of the road allowance known as Nineteenth Avenue, east of McCowan Road, more particularly described as Parts 8 and 9 on Plan of Survey 64R-8254

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham intends to pass by-laws to stop up and close and to offer for sale to the abutting property owners a portion of the road allowance known as Nineteenth Avenue, east of McCowan Road, more particularly described as Parts 8 and 9 on Plan of Survey 64R-8254.

The proposed by-laws and a copy of the Reference Plan showing the portion of the road allowance known as Nineteenth Avenue to be stopped up and closed may be seen in my office in the Municipal Building at 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, Ontario, during normal business hours.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham shall hear in person or by his/her Counsel, Solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the by-laws and applies to be heard at a hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 15th, 1986 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, Ontario, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Christine Palmer, A.M.C.T.,
Deputy Clerk,
Town of Markham,
8911 Woodbine Avenue,
Markham, Ontario,
L3R 1A1

Dated at Markham, Ontario this 28th day of May, 1986.
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MARKHAM