

Midget Clipper veterans surprised at rookie talent

BY KELLY CONNELLY
The Stouffville Midget Clippers have come a long way since the beginning of the season when a group of freshman — some house-leaguers and a few bantams — comprised 90 per cent of the roster.

With only four returning players from last year's midget club — Paul Sinclair, Blair Steel, Sean McQuigge and Jim Baggs — things looked pretty green for the Becker's boys.

Baggs, the team's 'king pin' on defence, is certainly impressed with how quickly the rookies have adjusted.

"We're working in the new players pretty good. They've all played up through the ranks in Stouffville and are quite apt to play in this league," he suggests.

This year's team may not be as big as last season's, but it has the speed up front and that's what counts, he adds.

The high-scoring 'Smink' line, with Sinclair flanked by former bantam sharpshooters Kent and Kirk Smythe, has given the new midget club its much-needed fire power.

So far it's the only combination coach Ray Steel hasn't juggled. Russ King has been re-situated with Bill Butler and team captain McQuigge. Mike O'Connor and Wade Denney are alternating on a line with Jason Borthwick and



KENT SMYTHE



JIM BAGGS

Blair Steel. Rookie defenceman Dave Ledley has improved tremendously, said the coach. Blueliner Derek Hamilton has also adjusted well.

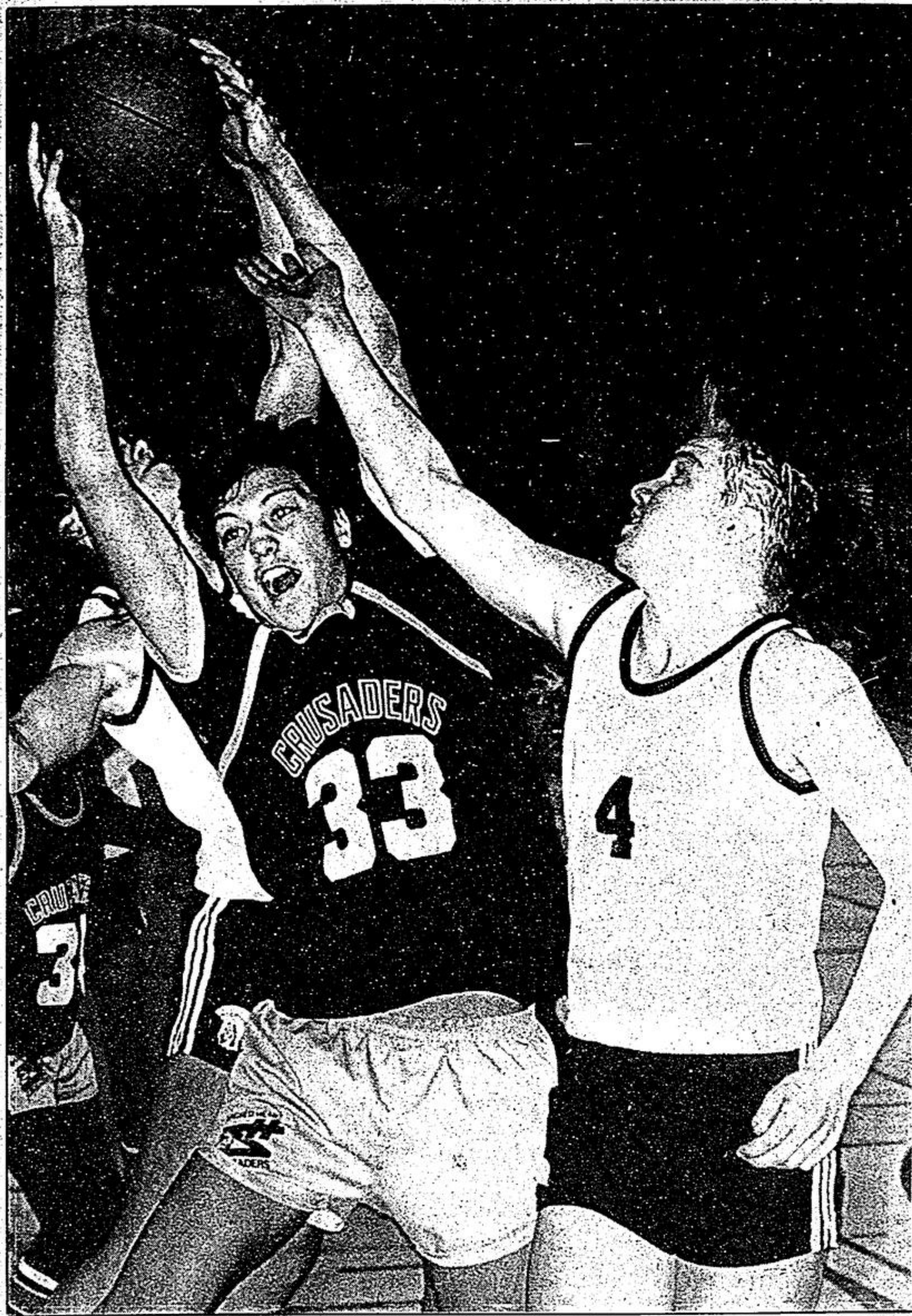
"We may lack size, we don't have the power hitters, but we have the speed," Steel pointed out. "As long as we can clear the puck out of our end and move it up fast, it doesn't matter about size... but if you happen to have a lapse, then you get hit."

"Some of the guys who haven't played much competitive hockey before didn't realize how (physical) it is in this division. It was a real eye-opener."

For Kent Smythe who has played competitive hockey most of his life, the extra roughness even caught him off guard. "The game's a little faster, a little rougher. There are more cheap shots," he said.

Last Friday the local boys doubled Port Perry 8-4 which brings Stouffville's record to an unofficial 6-4-2. Although Stouffville is averaging four to five goals a game, opponents are putting in that many too, noted team members.

"Either we win by quite a bit, or we lose by quite a bit," observed Baggs. "I think it's better to be the .500-plus club we are because if we won every game all season, we might get overconfident and choke in the playoffs."



Out of reach

Stouffville Secondary midget player Kevin Harmer (left) was out of luck on this play as he attempted to knock the basketball from the firm grip of a Sacred Heart Crusader. The Midget Spartans lost the game

last Friday by a couple baskets. However, the Junior Spartans made sure Sacred Heart didn't sweep the two-game series.

—Kelly Connelly

Boots'N Saddle club honors Carilee Miles, B.A. Ferguson

The Boots N Saddle Western Horse Club held its annual awards night and banquet, Nov. 29 at Ballantrae Hall. Carilee Miles won Overall High Points in junior class and Beverly-Anne Ferguson won High Points in senior.

Trophy and gift certificates were given to the following Whitchurch-Stouffville club members:

JUNIOR DIVISION

Carilee Miles (1st Showmanship, 1st Hunter Hack, 1st English Equitation, 2nd Eng. Pleasure, 2nd Western Pleasure); Tiffany Pell (1st Eng. Pleasure, 1st Western Pleasure, 1st Western Horsemanship, 2nd Eng. Pleasure); Kevin Dent (1st Eng. Equita-

tion, 3rd Eng. Pleasure); Joani Kingsmill (1st Barrel Race, 1st Flag Race); Janice Mazda (2nd Western Horsemanship).

SENIOR DIVISION

Beverly-Anne Ferguson (1st Showmanship, 1st Trail, 1st Western Pleasure, 1st Western Horsemanship); Lea Spence (1st Barrel Race, 1st Flag Race, 2nd Down & Back, 2nd Pole Bending); Wayne Sharpe (1st Pole Bending, 1st Barrel Race, 1st Down & Back, 2nd Flag Race); John Alden (1st Pole Bending); Brian Nicholson (2nd Barrel Race); Holly Sherman (2nd Barrel Race).

The Boots N Saddle Club wishes to thank all its sponsors for their support in 1986. Those sponsors are: Stouffville Fish & Chips,

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Atoms lose energy in 3rd period Port Perry hangs on for 5-2 win

The Fame International Atom Clippers dropped a 5-2 decision to Port Perry at the Recreation Complex last Friday night.

Trailing 2-0 in the second period, Stouffville got on the scoreboard when Ryan Burkholder set Philip Pridham up on the

wing. Stouffville looked to be on a comeback until Port Perry extended the lead to 3-1 two minutes later. Stouffville narrowed the gap again when David Sporenborg found the mark on a nice setup from linemates Trevor Bardell and Darren Zeller.

Although the Atom Clippers are generally a third period team, they failed to turn on the jets on this occasion. Port Perry added two more goals for the win.

Stouffville is in Cobourg this Friday to play its last league game of 1986.

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