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Second Section

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SDSS Midgets fall short in York title bid

By ALAN SHACKLETON

Sports Editor

"Could have" and "should have" are sayings which coaches hate, but in the case of the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Midget Spartans girls basketball team's performance in last Friday's York Region Championship they have to be used.

SDSS could have won the championship, but instead lost 30-26 to the Unionville Wolves at Huron Heights in Newmarket.

"We just didn't score," said SDSS coach Bill McKnight. "We should have won."

After running up a perfect 12-0 regular season record, the Spartans have only lost two games in post-season play and both of them to Unionville.

"The girls played their hearts out, but we came up short," McKnight added.

Friday's win gave the Wolves a perfect season in York Region play as they haven't dropped a contest all year.

Two weeks ago the Wolves beat SDSS 33-23 in the Region Elimination Tournament.

The key to the championship was Unionville's defence. They paid special attention to the Spartans high-scoring sister tandem of Ann and Sue Baston.

"We knew Stouffville had a couple of really good players, the Baston's, and so we concentrated on defending against them," Wolves coach Ted Simpson said.

The strategy obviously worked as the duo were held to only 2 points, a basket by Ann.

McKnight agreed that neutralizing the high-scoring Baston's was the deciding factor. "We just weren't able to get the production out of our top scorers," he said. "We couldn't put the ball in the net."

With the Baston's held in check, the pressure was on the Spartan offence, and captain Jen Barker with 12 points and Julie Coleman with 11 picked up the slack.

The importance of the Baston sisters scoring for SDSS is huge. In the semi-final last week versus Brother Andre, Ann hit for 17 points while Sue netted seven.

For the Wolves, Simone Van Gelder played an outstanding game and scored 16 points. Carolyn Wilson with five, Janice Tennent and Cindi Mitchell, each with four, and Julie MacLean rounded out the scoring.

"It was an extremely close game," Simpson said. "We really hustled and played good defence. We played our game, and slowed things down when we had to."

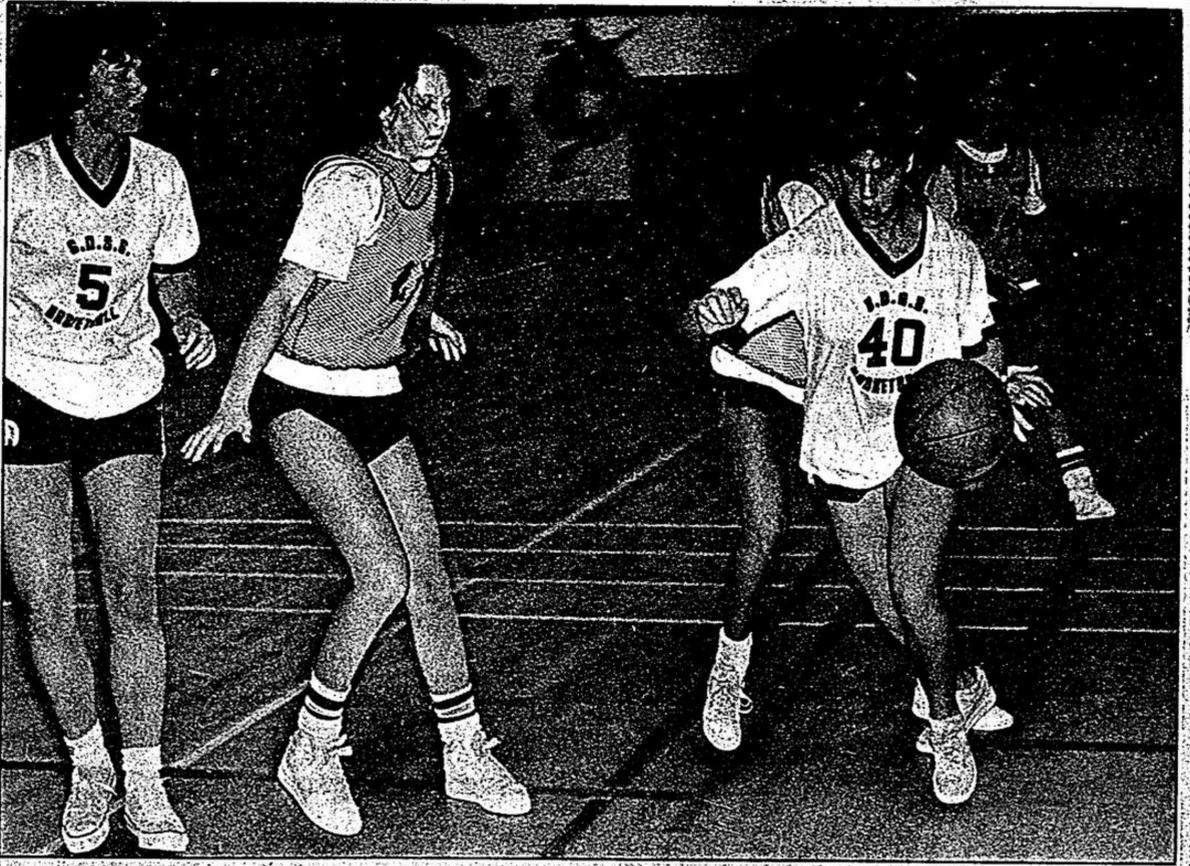
The game got off to rocky start with only one basket in the first five minutes, and SDSS led 8-2 at the end of the first quarter.

Both teams may have been a little nervous as there was a large crowd in attendance for the championships at Newmarket's Huron Heights High School.

The score went back and forth with the Wolves up 13-12 at the half. However, SDSS exploded out of the gate in the third quarter and were up 18-13, before Unionville hooped 10 unanswered points to take a 23-18 lead early in the final frame.

The Spartans almost pulled it out in the final two minutes, but the Wolves put on a stall and managed to hold the SDSS shooters.

This Saturday, both Unionville and Stouffville will be back at Huron Heights for the Durham-York Secondary School Athletic Association Championships.



Comin' through

It appears no one will stop Julie Coleman (40) of Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) as she drives for the basket during last Friday's Midget girls York Region Championship game against Unionville. Despite the 11-point performance of Coleman, and 12 points

from captain Jen Barker (5), SDSS lost the final 30-26 at Huron Heights in Newmarket. Unionville is the only team to beat the SDSS Midgets this season, and they've done it twice.

— Alan Shackleton

Drew Ferraro tops at Lindsay meet

Drew Ferraro of the Uxbridge Swim Club was Top Point Winner in the boys 10-and-under division at last weekend's Lindsay Blue Streak Invitational Meet.

Ferraro collected three individual first place finishes, a second, and a fifth as well as pacing the boys relay teams to sixth and eighth place positions.

Ferraro was first in the 200-metre Individual Medley, 100-m Breaststroke and 50-m Freestyle. He collected second place honors in the 100-m Freestyle and swam to fifth spot in the 50-m Fly.

He was also a member of the 11-and-12-year-old boys relay team along with Michael Wasylenky, Tyler Hannah and Matthew Slater which was sixth

in the 200-m Medley and eight in the 200-m Freestyle.

Other strong performances by Uxbridge swimmers at the meet included the first place finishes of Melanie Bryon and Julie Henderson.

Bryon swam to gold in the 10-and-under girls 50-m Breaststroke, while Henderson took top spot in the 15-and-over girls 100-m Backstroke.

Bryon also helped the relay team in her age division of Krista Wasylenky, Chrissy Henderson and Julie Bryon to second place honors in the 200-m Freestyle.

Henderson powered the 15-and-over girls relay team of Jennifer Harding, Mandy Dacey, and Brenda Leask to second in the 200-m Freestyle.

Clipper Oldtimers second in tournament

Stouffville's Betz Pools Oldtimer Clippers were runners-up in the C Division Championship of the Great Lakes Cup Tournament in London recently.

The Clipper Oldsters were the best of six squads in the C/D Division, but they dropped the C Championship game 7-4 to St. Catharines' Rusty Krusty Realty.

According to Gord Ness, Clipper coach Eric "Punch" Scaife and manager John "Judy" Boyd attributed the loss to the fact the Clippers "just met a better team."

Punch and Judy, Ness added, later conceded that the previous night's country and western sing-along at London's Comfort Inn may have gone on a bit long (till 4:30 a.m.) thanks to the enthusiastic leadership of Don "Waylon" Lloyd and George "Mumbles" Cowley.

St. Catharines built up a 6-1 lead, and the Clippers were doing more moaning than singing, Ness said.

Stouffville markers went to Wayne "Weiner" McMann, John "Brother" Blair, Steve "Trellis" Ellis, and Terry "Newsy" Weatherall.

Despite the rough ride in the championship, the Oldtimers had a great preliminary round. They knocked off Rusty Krusty in their first meeting 4-2, doubled Bowmanville Townspon 8-4, and then edged 5-3 in a close contest against East London Oldsports.

Senior D girls lose rough contest

The Stouffville Senior D's suffered their first loss of the season in North Metro Ladies Hockey League action as they took it on the chin 3-1 from Orangeville Sunday afternoon.

The Orangeville squad is rated a division higher than Stouffville at Senior C, and though the league is non-contact Orangeville had no qualms about using the stick.

Wayne McMann led the Stouffville scorers over the four games with four goals, while Bill "Pretty Boy" Ormson collected five assists.

The goaltending duo of Gary "Satchel" Williams and Dave "Beaker" Parrott played well between the pipes, Ness said.

As is usually the case when the Clipper Oldtimers hit the road, they were suffering from dehydration by tournament's end.

Senior D girls lose rough contest

Stouffville opened the scoring in the first period on Cathy Carr's marker, assisted by Heather Morrison and Darlene Ogden.

The lead held until late in the second frame when Orangeville potted two in the final three minutes before the intermission to go ahead.

Stouffville put the pressure on in the third, threatening on several

occasions but were unable to put the puck in the net. Orangeville scored the insurance marker with less than a minute to play to secure the victory.

On Sunday, the Senior D's hit the road once again to face Leaside, while the Betz Pools Stouffville Senior C's (full contact) host Mississauga at the Recreation Centre in the evening.

Thank you and goodbye

This is the hardest column I have ever had to write. It's my 'Goodbye Column' and it isn't an easy thing for me to say or do.

I have had a wonderful 11 months covering the Stouffville and Uxbridge sports scene here at The Tribune, but the time has come to move on so I'm leaving at the end of this week.

I've taken a job as a sports writer with a daily newspaper in Timmins, and as of Monday, that will be my new home.

My emotions on the whole thing are mixed. While I'm excited about the opportunity to work on a daily, along with moving to a new place, I'm also sad to be leaving Stouffville.

From a professional standpoint, my time at The Tribune was excellent. I had a chance to do some good work, and learn a lot. Emotionally, it was also a very good year as almost everyone I dealt with was extremely friendly and helpful.

Prior to joining The Tribune, I had worked on another, much smaller, paper and some of the garbage going on at that place had soured me on the entire business of journalism. (And that's all it was down there, a business.)

Working with Jim Thomas here at The Tribune made me remember why I wanted to be a reporter in the first place. My reasons had more to do with informing and entertaining the public, than they did with boosting other people's commissions.

I thank Jim for giving me a chance. A chance not only to work but to reaffirm some of the basic values of newspaper reporting.

But enough about me, already. What I really want to do is thank in print everyone who has made my time covering Stouffville and Uxbridge such a joy.

The logical place to start is with Cliff Dunkeld, Stouffville's Mr. Sports. I don't think there is anything about the sports scene in town that he doesn't know about.

When I first started here, he was one of the first people in to see me, and I remember thinking if everyone is as friendly and helpful the job will be a breeze. They were, and it was.

All the coaches over at SDSS were good, but Dave Connell and Jim Fletcher were also a lot of fun to deal with. One thing I'm really going to miss is watching Fletch's unique coaching style. Sometimes he gets more excited than his players, and I think that's great. It's a fact that his players love being on his teams.

Connell and Fletcher, and Midget girls basketball coach Bill McKnight, went out of their way to help provide information, or set up photos. It's a thing that a lot of high school coaches don't bother to do (their perceived apathy is a major sore point among many sports

Sidelines

By ALAN SHACKLETON

Sports Editor



writers on community newspapers) but it wasn't the case at SDSS. Since I'm leaving and the York Board of Education probably won't want to drive all the way to Timmins to kill me, I'd like to say that SDSS is getting seriously jobbed around by the region.

They have no running track, which is simply a disgrace, and only one gym. I think the York Board of Ed is doing a very bad job, on second thought they stink, when it comes to providing the residents of Stouffville with fair value for their education tax dollars.

And while we're on the subject of high schools, I can't forget those Uxbridge Tigers. They play football over there, and I truly enjoyed covering both the Senior and Junior squads. It was especially nice to see the Junior Tigers go all the way to a DYSSAA championship. And for them to beat Markham in the final, well that was a dream come true. It was a great season, thank you coaches Phil Mazza and Brian Manorek.

My thanks also go out to all the Stouffville Clipper coaches and the parent reporters who helped make the job of covering the teams easier.

Last season, both the Bantams and Midgets made it to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) finals and coaches Kerry Keller and Ray Steel respectively were helpful and patient during the pressure filled drives. Midget manager Maurice Hamilton was also a big help with stats and information.

Travelling to Beamsville on a Friday night to see the Midgets win the championship was a big thrill, and something I'll always remember. The flying champagne in the dressing room and the crazy guy who drove the tractor to flood the ice during intermission stand out from that trip.

During the summer, the Wednesday night thing to do was catch the Betz Pools men's fastball team down at Memorial Park. I'm glad that as a newspaper The Tribune was able to generate interest among local fans in the squad.

Manager Bryan Emery and sponsor Marvin Betz have to take a big bow, as their hard work and support led the team to a well-deserved Provincial Championship. I hope the squad is the beginning of a new tradition in Stouffville and that men's fastball never dies in this town again.

My thanks also to Howard Burkholder, coach of the Bantam Provincial Champions — they provided fans with a real two-game cliff hanger before pulling out the win at home.

Alfons Rubbens coach of the Stouffville Panthers Bantam boys soccer team, was a great help and extremely co-operative during the season. He knows that if soccer is to survive it needs to be promoted and he worked hard to that end.

There are so many other people I need to thank and all them helped me, were friendly and made my job and life easier.

Some of them are: Ted Lowery, Keith McGuckin, Jim Wagg, Randy Hall (Uxbridge Bruins coach), Joanne Steel (President of Stouffville Minor Hockey); Kathy Van Koughnet (Minor Softball scorekeeper — she did an outstanding job); Dianne White, Barb Sciafe, Cathy Richardson, Marlane McKee Wetheral, Vikki Davis, Sandra Redshaw, everybody at the Uxbridge Skating Club and Jennifer Cook, Julie Slater, Mary Bryon, Karl Winterstein, Blair Emmerson (Sno-pitch Social organizer); Todd Townsend and family; Clint Crust and family; Shane Redshaw; Keith Acton; Vic Wilson; George Johnson; Marlene Streit; Keith Brettell and family; Tracy Garbutt and family; Bob McKinnon; Jim McVeigh, Sheila McLeod; the Pielsticker family; Carl Myers; Carol Watson; John White; Al Piette; Frank Hendy and all the bowling scorekeepers.

There were dozens of others I've dealt with over the year, and I appreciated everyone's assistance. When the next Sports Editor comes along, and I don't who it will be, if the same courtesy is extended to them they will have a wonderful time, as I did.

Also, everyone at The Tribune office was great and they made it a fun place to work. My thanks again to Jim, Denise, McDonald, Doreen Deacon, Joan Marshman, Arlene Maddock, Lea Kitter, and Susan Berry.

And finally, I have to thank the ladies at the Stouffville Bakery across the street from The Tribune where I always got my morning coffee. Without them I could not have survived.

Thank you and goodbye.