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Happiness is...winning a medal!

Stouffville participants like Andrea Boyd (above) and Stephanie Barclay (right) collected a total of seven medals Saturday at the conclusion of the Upper York Inter-Club figure skating competition. Andrea receives her award from Marlane McKee, Wetheral, Director of Recreation. Other medal recipients were Brenda Hachey (2), Janine Jeffrey (2) and Holly Ramsden. Newmarket were Club Champions with 147 points followed by Richmond Hill with 129. Marsha Vautier, committee chairperson, praised the skating skills of the Stouffville entries and their

sportsmanship off the ice. "There's good feeling among the members," she said, "they were all cheering for one another." Mrs. Vautier said it's difficult for a small club like Stouffville to compete against larger organizations like Newmarket and Richmond Hill. "With more members their chances of winning more medals are that much better," she explained. Mrs. Vautier said the competition went very well, resulting in many compliments from out-of-town skaters and parents.



Stephanie Barclay proudly displays the silver medal she received in the Open Interpretive Class. — Jim Thomas

Places fourth in Nationals

Eleven-year-old Amy Smirnov, daughter of Vlad and Judy Smirnov, Stouffer Street North, Stouffville, placed fourth in an International Power Tumbling competition at Montreal, recently.

There were eleven entries in Novice class.

For the Grade 6 Summitview student, it was her first time in a high-ranking event.

Amy trains at the Shenderey Gymnastics Centre, Newmarket.

Pair pace Clippers past Port

Kyle Norton and Ryan King almost exclusively carried the Neil Patrick Novice Clippers to a 5-3 win in the first game of their playoff series against Port Perry.

The Friday night contest featured a four point performance by Ryan with his hat trick and an assist, and a five point night for Kyle notching two goals and three assists.

Stouffville took control of the game right from the start.

Forty-eight seconds into the game Ryan potted his first marker from Kyle and Andrew Hutchison. Three minutes later Ryan and Kyle connected again giving the Clippers a two goal cushion.

With three minutes remaining in the period Kyle netted his first of the game as the home team led 3-0 after one.

The scoring blitz continued in the second. Kyle knocked in his second of the game and minutes later Ryan completed his hat trick with some help from hardworking Mike Wood and Kyle Norton.

Going into the third frame Port Perry took advantage of a tired Stouffville team and slipped three goals past Evan Boyd.

Nonetheless, the Clippers, with good defensive play held on to win 5-3.

Volleyball opponents too strong

By BLAINE KANEKO

The Stouffville Dist. Secondary School Jr. Girls didn't like what they were served Feb. 10 at the high school — a barrage of Newmarket volleyballs.

After winning impressively over Sutton 15-10, 15-12, in the first match of their tri-meet, the Spartan girls were confident going into the second match against Newmarket.

On the serving of Cammie Ratchliff, who served six straight points in the first game and the fine net play of Heather Moffat and Ann Beecher, the Spartans earned a hard fought win over the Sabres in the first game.

The second game went much the same way as the first, but some miscommunication and inconsistent serving made the contest closer than it should have been.

Stouffville's problems in their victory was a prelude to their game against Newmarket.

The home team powered their way to an early 3-0 lead on Cammie Ratchliff's serving, but the lead was short-lived as Newmarket rallied to six consecutive points.

The Spartan girls were unable to control the difficult serving of the Raiders. When they did return the ball their incapacity to put it away and miscommunication cost them, losing 15-5 in the first game of the match.

The second game didn't go much better. Strong delivery by Newmarket resulted in a 15-9 pasting.

Before the game coach Scott Croucher admitted the key to the games would be consistent serving and the ability to handle the serving of the Raiders.

It wasn't the first time the Stouffville girls met their rivals from Sutton and Newmarket. In matches early in the schedule the Spartans lost to both teams in close three set matches.

According to coach Croucher the loss means the Stouffville girls currently fourth in the division standings, must win the last three of four games to earn a playoff berth.

Four of the top teams in the division reach the playoffs.

Stouffville Bantam 'Clippers' 'on the ropes' in playoffs

By BLAINE KANEKO

Frustration began to show in Peter Fitzpatrick's normally stoic face as he watched his Bantam Clippers push themselves to the brink of elimination.

Monday night's 4-3 loss to a physical team from Cobourg at the Recreation Centre puts the home team in a must win situation against Port Perry.

A victory Wednesday would force a playdown to determine who goes to the finals against Cobourg. A tie won't benefit the Clippers.

Before the game Coach Fitzpatrick must have wondered which Bantam club would show up for the game — the hardworking, grinding Clippers or the complacent, lacklustre squad. By game's end he had his answer.

"It's the same old story," said the first-year leader. "They were too worried about not going in the corners. Once they start getting hit they're afraid."

As Coach Fitzpatrick said, it was the Stouffville team that started the game taking the body as they did in their previous round-robin games. And as in the previous contests, the Clippers forgot about the physical game after the opposition began dishing out checks of their own.

Consequently, Cobourg took advantage of their intimidated rivals and rolled to a 2-0 lead after one period.

Early in the second Cobourg widened the gap to three goals after solid forechecking and a give-away in the Stouffville end.

The Clippers replied minutes later when one of the few aggressive hometown players, Todd Balazs fought off a check and made the pass to centreman Jason Underwood who slapped it into the corner along the ice.

An altercation between Brad Blacktopp of Stouffville and Paul Wilson of Cobourg seemed to breathe some life into the lethargic Clippers.

With a five-on-three advantage, Todd Balazs walked out from the opposition corner and lifted a backhander into the top of the cage, narrowing the score to 3-2.

Cobourg's insurance marker came at 12:33 of the third frame. Stouffville allowed the Cobourg defenceman to gain an opening and fire the rubber to the short-side.

An individual effort by Jason Underwood into the five-hole made the contest close, but by no means as close as the score would indicate.

"We've gone over and over these plays in practice but it doesn't seem to sink in," admitted the disheartened coach. "They just don't know how to adjust to a certain style of play. They begin to revert back to the old style (no hitting)."

"When guys like Jason Under-

wood and Todd Balazs stop hitting and skating, the other guys on the bench start to think it's okay not to take the man."

"We only have a few players who can really put the puck in the net. We have to play a disciplined style. Jeff Cowley and Greg

Frederick are role players. They may have trouble sometimes scoring but they're players that do their job."

Brandon Pridham leads Peewees to big victory

The Stouffville Dist. Credit Union Pee Wee Clippers did it the hard way, coming back to win a 6-5 playdown with Cobourg.

It was the first time the hometown boys beat the rivals from Cobourg this season. It couldn't have come at a better time.

The win puts Stouffville in the seven game final against Port Perry.

Combining the leadership of team captain Brandon Pridham, with a disciplined performance

and tremendous effort, the Clippers persevered to three goals in a row in the third period to steal a win from Cobourg.

But it wasn't easy. The Clippers fell behind 3-0 after only 10 minutes of play. By the end of the first frame, Stouffville was behind 4-1. The Pee Wee's only marker coming from David Caramonico.

The second stanza was the start of something big as the Clippers rebounded on David Caramoni-

co's second goal and Brandon Pridham's first to trail the opposition by a single.

After falling behind by two goals early in the third, Brandon Pridham delivered the knockout punch with three unanswered markers, stunning the Cobourg squad and forcing them out of the finals 6-5.

At games end Clippers, trainer Terry Lamb presented each player with a memento donated by Spinneybeck Enterprises.

Atom lads lose a heartbreaker

By BLAINE KANEKO

The Fame International Atom Clippers undoubtedly felt like someone had picked their pockets, Monday, as the team from Cobourg stole a 3-2 victory.

And although the loss was criminal it also means the Clippers are down two points in the seven game final series.

With 1:50 remaining in the third and the score tied at two, Clipper Roger McMann was left alone in front of the rival goal, an outstanding save prevented the Stouffville forward from scoring.

The resulting rebound was sent down the ice, where Cobourg's Mike McCurdy caught the home team's defence flat-footed and slipped the disk into the short-side past goalie Greg Sanford.

Stouffville didn't concede after the heartbreaking goal and made a last-ditch effort by pulling the goalie to gain the advantage.

Although heavily pressuring the opposition net, there were no rewards this night as the Cobourg squad held on.

"We had a lot of heart and gave it a good effort," said co-coach Mike Jones. "Cobourg's a good team but we've beaten them be-

fore in the regular season and in a tournament in Peterborough.

"I think they got a couple of good bounces and their goalie played exceptionally well. We just have to skate a little harder and beat them to the puck," coach Jones concluded.

"I think it was a good team effort," added Clipper captain Ryan Burkholder. "It was a pretty close game, but by the third period we tired and didn't have the energy."

It was that lack of energy that resulted in the tying goal midway through the third frame. After two periods of outplaying their rivals, Stouffville found themselves ahead by only a single with Ryan Burkholder and Geoff Smith accounting for the Clippers 2-1 lead.

Midway through the third frame Cobourg tied the contest on a wristshot to the glove side of Sanford.

In spite of tired legs the Stouffville boys forged on but couldn't seem to find the range. Unfortunately for them Cobourg did, and took away a one game lead in their series.



Markham skater takes home gold at Upper York Invitational competition

The Markham Figure Skating Club rolled up a total of 106 points for a third place over all final in the Upper York Inter-Club competition at Stouffville Saturday. A gold medal recipient in

Sr. Silver Dance was Heather Vaughan. She received her prize from Marlane McKee, Wetheral, Director of Recreation. — Jim Thomas