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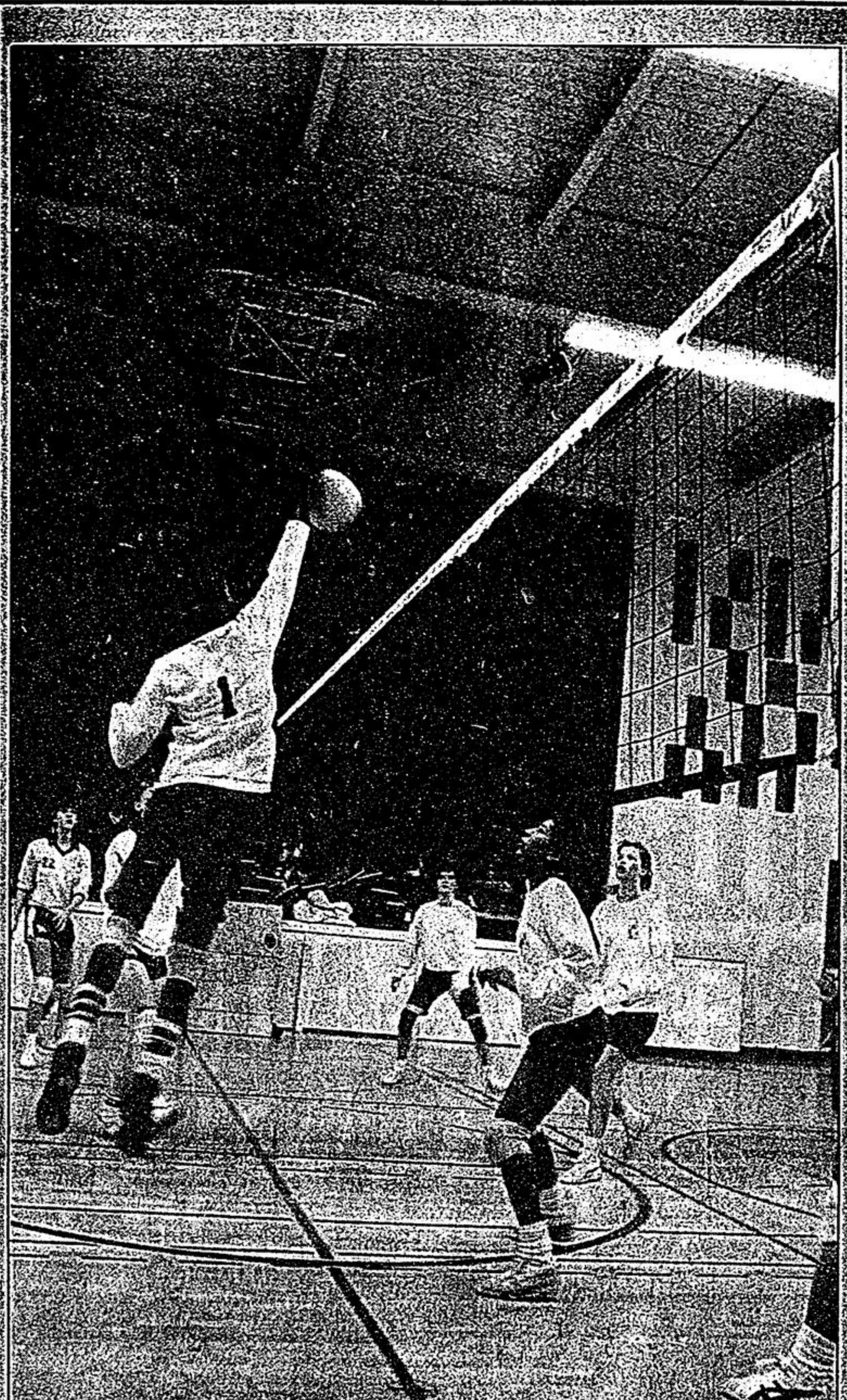
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Bantam Clips' lose last battle

By BLAINE KANEKO
The Stouffville Bantam Clippers sat in the dressing room during the second intermission in complete silence.
Down by three goals with not only a game on the line, but their season hanging in the balance... The Bantams' 3-1 loss Sunday at the Recreation Centre was a war and Stouffville didn't just show up; they went down fighting.
The one game playdown against Port Perry to determine who would play Cobourg in the playoffs began physically and ended the same way.
Unlike previous matches in the round robin preliminary, the Clippers played a complete game, with no letdown.
Stouffville could have easily come away with two points if it were not for Port Perry's goalie Jamie Brown who performed phenomenally to thwart the Clippers at almost every opportunity.
Out of range
Even with two Port Perry men in the box on two occasions, Stouffville couldn't manage to find the range past the netminder despite applying incredible pressure.
"We were all over them but the goalie just stoned us," said coach Peter Fitzpatrick in a post-game interview. "They (the Clippers) are really upset and disappointed. But they shouldn't be upset at how they played. Their goalie was hot."
The boards resounded with the vibrations of bodychecks as each team attempted to punish the other.

Stouffville's Keith Piette and Jason Underwood played a major role in the body bashing trying to intimidate the bigger rivals.
"I tried to get them upset and uptight," said Keith, who had a run-in with Port Perry's goaltender. "I wanted to get them mad so they would take a penalty. This loss is really depressing."
"We played well but we couldn't capitalize on our chances," added centreman Jason Underwood. "When we got down by two goals we let down a bit. When your down it's difficult to come back."
Hopes dashed
Stouffville's only marker was scored late in the third frame by defenceman Lee Scaife, who walked in and finally beat Jamie Brown with a low shot between the pads to end his hopes of a shutout.
Despite the defeat coach Fitzpatrick was proud of his players and optimistic about his team's future.
"They've come along well," said Fitzpatrick. "It's taken them all year but they started to play as a team."
"This year they had to learn a whole new system. We (Fitzpatrick and assistants Tim Claridge, Rich Marshman) taught them how to play the way we like to play; positional hockey."
"A coach can tell the players before the game what they have to do, but it's up to the leaders on the team like Jason, Lee Scaife and Keith Piette to pump them up."
"But it's nice to see how well they've come along," he concluded.



SDSS Jr. Girls beaten by Aurora High
The Stouffville Spartan Junior Girls Volleyball team looks in fine form as Anne Beecher spikes the ball towards her Aurora rivals. But it wasn't enough as Aurora came back to win the Feb. 17 match 15-4, 9-15, 15-2. — Blaine Kaneko

Cobourg coach goes Goofy trying to beat Stouffville

By BLAINE KANEKO
The Neil Patrick Novice Clippers were playing Goofy.
Not in a spastic manner, but the Disney character.
Going into Friday night's contest the powerful Novices were ahead in their Round Robin Preliminary 2-0 in games against Port Perry and Cobourg.
Cobourg coach Max Holland de-

cidated an attempt at levity might pick his team up and throw the hometown boys off. As a result, Goofy was behind the bench in the form of Mr. Holland's assistant wearing a novelty Goofy hat.
It didn't help the green and gold from Cobourg as they lost a lopsided 3-1 game.
"We thought if (Goofy) would loosen our players up," said coach Holland after the game. "It was a psych job. We'd try anything."
Unfortunately for them, anything didn't work against the well coached and disciplined Clipper squad.
Stouffville was relentless on their attack of the Cobourg goal. But after one period the Clippers were up by only a single on Kyle Norton's wristshot to the glove-hand side.
The second period went the same way. Cobourg's netminder was forced to make save after save to keep his team in the game. Kyle Norton scored his second goal of the game from a perfect pass from Scott Assinck and later in the second frame Andrew Hutchison capped off a spirited performance with a wrap-around goal to boost his team ahead by three.
Cobourg finally beat a hardly overworked Evan Boyd after a slight let down in the third stanza.
Despite Cobourg registering six shots on goal in the final period, Stouffville outshot them 21-10.
"We had the goalkeeping and the kids played pretty well," said coach Wally Crowder. "It takes time with kids this age (8 and 9-year-olds). But the kids we got have done pretty well."

Stouffville Girls spiked

By BLAINE KANEKO
The Stouffville District Secondary School Junior Girls Spartans volleyball team was courting disaster when the opening match of the playoff round robin fell to first place Aurora 15-4, 8-15, 15-2.
Just before the game, in a team pep session, Stouffville Spartans' coach Scott Croucher told his players they were one win away from fourth seed in the York North playoffs.
The top four teams in the eight squad division advance to the second round, with the winner going to the regional finals.
Led by Anne Beecher, the hometown ladies played well in a losing effort. Fortunately for them, the loss wasn't critical.
Williamson High School, the Spartans' rival for the final playoff berth had already lost, leaving the gate open for Stouffville.
"It was our goal at the start of the season to make the playoffs," said first year assistant coach Don Clearwater.
"During the start of the year, I wasn't sure we'd make it, but they've started to communicate and play like a team."
"We still have to concentrate on returning serves. In Junior volleyball serving and returning serves are the most important part of the game."
"It feels great to be in the playoffs," said Spartan power hitter Anne Beecher. "I think we hit and bumped right but we weren't getting many serves in."
"We want to beat Aurora," she said of the next few games.

Register soon

While it's difficult to think softball while hockey's in full swing, the final registration is March 5 for anyone wishing to join the Stouffville Softball League.
The location is the Town Recreation Centre. The time is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For additional information call Kathy VanKoughnet at 640-2803.

Stouffville Clippers fall at Uxbridge tournament

In between playoff games, the Neil Patrick Novice Clippers found time Saturday to take part in the Annual Uxbridge Novice Tournament.
Despite winning their preliminary games against Sutton 2-1, and Burlington 4-1 on goals by Grahame Smith, Kyle Norton, Adam Crowder and Ryan King, the hometown boys had trouble with their old nemesis Lindsay.
The local skaters couldn't

find their game legs and lost 2-1.
Going into the middle period of the finals Stouffville found themselves trailing 2-0.
Late in the period, Tim Smart reduced the deficit with the assist going to Matt Turner.
The squad from Lindsay managed to fend off the Clippers' attack through the final frame and came away with the prize.
Stouffville's outstanding play in the preliminaries unfortunately did not carry over to the finals as a tired Stouffville team was unable to over-

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Greens floor Jets 4-0

Art Nicholson notched a pair and it was all Greens Restaurant needed to down G&R Flooring Jets 4-0, during Sunday's Stouffville Amateur Hockey League action.
Wes Wilson earned the shutout while Mike Jones and Barry Hart counted for singles.
Other results are as follows: Village Landscaping, 2; Farquarson Realty, 1.
The Caps managed to squeak by the Penguins on goals by Ralph Cain and Rick Glen. Wally Crowder fired the lone goal for Farquarson.
Stouffville Travel, 2; Towne Restaurant, 0.
One good Turner deserves another as Flyers Pete and Dave Turner each scored singles to blank the Kings in their match. Kevin Keogh was in net for the shutout.
Canadian Tire, 7; Smurthwaite Heating Bruins, 1.
Bob McKinnon and Terry Weatherill each netted a pair to lead the Blackhawks over the Bruins in an easy 7-1 romp. Scoring singles for the winners were Ray Mountjoy, Phil Pirie and Lou



Time to take to the ice
The Whitechurch-Stouffville Rec. Centre was a busy place Friday. In the morning, free skating was provided by the Christian Education Department of St. James Presbyterian Church. In the afternoon, the

Atoms doubled by 4-2

By BLAINE KANEKO
Talk about spinning your wheels.
The more effort the Fame International Atom Clippers expend, the more ground they seem to lose.
Friday night's contest against Cobourg at the Recreation Centre was no different than the past two.
Stouffville lost 4-2 putting them in the unenviable position of having to gain either a win or a tie to extend their season.
The Clippers showed plenty of drive, but every time they started to build some momentum they encountered penalty problems collecting six in the game.
Cobourg had their own troubles in the fast-paced match but took advantage of their indiscretions.
Down in the first
Down 2-0 in the opening period, Stouffville was on the powerplay. Cobourg's Mike McCurdy stole the puck and shot towards the net. It bounced off goalie Greg Sanford's pads and dropped over the goal line siphoning the gas out of the Clippers' engine.
Going into the final frame, the home team was behind the eight ball trailing 4-0. Geoff Smith and Ryan Burkholder talked to make the score close but it wasn't enough.
"Tough game," said coach Don Reesor. "Cobourg is a good team. They were coming at us hard. I don't know if penalties were our problem. We had our chances. But we're in a hole. We're going to have to win."

Mite girl goalies sparkle

End-to-end action and a goaltenders duel highlighted George Ross Photo's 1-0 win over Bunnies Flowers in the Mite Division of girls' hockey.
Despite chances at both ends, the teams skated to a scoreless first period in the Feb. 21 contest at the Recreation Centre.
George Ross goalie Katie White and Cheryl Norton of Bunnies shared the spotlight after making outstanding saves.
Mid-way through the middle period, Laura Winterstein of George Ross finally broke the tie with an unassisted marker.
Encouragement from the players and the fans couldn't change the outcome as a single goal separated victory from defeat.