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Fills the gap

Brian Coughlan unlikely hero

By BLAINE KANEKO

During the seventh and arguably the most important game of Stouffville Atom "Clippers" season, the visitors from Cobourg looked over at the home team's net and probably grinned like vultures circling a wounded carcass.

What they eyed wasn't regular Stouffville netminder Greg Sanford warming up, but instead



Brian Coughlan was an unlikely hero last week in Stouffville Atom Clipper action. The defenceman filled in for the team's regular goalie, and held off a Cobourg attack to lead his team to a 3-2 victory in the best of five final series.

—Blaine Kaneko

Disraeli Hanover

Son of Cam Fella gaining in races

STOUFFVILLE — Does lightning ever strike twice in the same spot?

For Norm Faulkner of Stouffville and Norm Clements of Uxbridge, it already has. They're hoping the phenomenon occurs again and again.

On Sunday, Disraeli Hanover, son of Cam Fella, won the first leg of a pacing series at Greenwood.

Arends leads Century 21

Ron Arends was a one-man scoring machine during Sunday's Stouffville Amateur Hockey game, as he lit the red-light five times leading Centurion 21-21. McHarg, overjoyed, embarrassed Canadian Tire.

Other Whaler snipers included Ron Brooks with a pair, Roy Ireland, Andy Perley and Bill Guest with singles.

Ray Mountjoy and John Hickman counted for the Blackhawks.

George Collins potted the hat-trick and Chester Gengarle fired a single for good measure to give the Nordiques the win over the Bruins. Steve Ellis was the only Bruin to pass the goal line.

Towne Restaurant's Village Landscaping 2-2.

Towne Restaurant Kings passed but the hats to John Barnard and Dave Boyce as they both scored a triple to easily top the Caps 7-2. Glen Hammond scored the other Kings goal while Rick Glen netted a pair for the Caps.

Stouffville Travel 3; Greens Restaurant 2-2.

Don Reesor counted a pair, while Ron Martyn, Pat Madigan and Pete Turner chipped in with singles to send the Flyers over Greens 5-2. Steve Ramer and Bruce Wilcock tallied for Green's.

McGinnis 3-3.

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spotted defenceman Brian Coughlan in full goalie regalia.

Consistently dependable Greg Sanford had been sick for three days before the Sunday night face-off. He managed to make his way to the arena, but while suiting up felt he couldn't continue.

Coach Mike Jones asked Brian, who had minimal experience as a back-up goalie the year before, to strap on the pads.

"Twenty-minutes before the game I found out I would be playing net," said the 11-year-old defenceman. "I felt a lot of pressure."

But Brian wasn't unfamiliar with pressure, scoring the tying goal with nine seconds to go in regulation time of the fifth contest.

But performing as a goalie tested the youngster's mettle.

"I felt really nervous because I hadn't even practiced playing goal the whole year," said Brian. "I kept thinking the puck was going to go in, but the team played really well defensively and they encouraged me with compliments."

The most anxious moment for the novice goalie occurred with about 20 seconds remaining in the game.

Cobourg had opted to remove their backstop in favor of an extra attacker. The rival squad swarmed the Stouffville end but were unable to tie the game which would have ended the Clippers' season.

The unlikely hero faced 20 shots leading his team to a 3-2 victory.

"It felt really good being the winning goalie," admitted Brian. "I like playing defence a lot more, but I had a lot more ice time playing net than I have playing defence."



Ryan Jefferson's aggressive efforts paved the way for the Atom Clippers' victories over Kingston on the weekend. The 11-year-old winger scored a goal and added an assist in Sunday's contest.

South rises again in basketball win

The South rose again as Reesor Park tripled Franklin Street 139-13 in the Area F Senior Girls Basketball Crossover Tournament March 4 at the Reesor Park Public School gymnasium.

The four-squad contest featured Ballantyne and Dickson Hill from the north and Franklin Street and Reesor Park from the south.

But a north and south conflict in the finals wasn't to be, as the south battered the north in the semi-finals 44-7 and 32-4 during the annual event.

The tournament's format placed the area's number one team against the opposition area's number two team in the semi-finals with the winners advancing to the championship.

Ideally a north and south showdown is anticipated, but this year at the Markham schools handily dominated their northern rivals.

Both Reesor Park and Franklin Street will participate in the York Region Finals held next week.

Actually, I thought we'd beat Ballantyne in the consolation match-up," said first-year coach Don Forbes. "We had beaten them before."

"We played our defensive game, but they scored on outside shots. We played a zone game, but they scored. It was kind of frustrating," says Forbes.

It was the second time in a week the two squads faced each other; seven days earlier, the northern rivals met in the Area F qualifier. Unfortunately for Dickson Hill the result was the same, losing 12-4.

In the previous tournament, Ballantyne and Dickson Hill went into play as underdogs and emerged as victors, defeating favorites Orchard Park and Summitview.

This week, they didn't surprise anyone.

"We knew we wouldn't come close to Franklin Street (losing 32-4), " says Forbes.

This is the first time they (Dickson Hill girls basketball team) have come this far. Our goal going into the tournament was to finish in third place.

Before our first game Mr. Forbes told us we should play clean game and the beat we did," says Kristi Ingram.

McLanahan scored 12 for Dickson Hill, leading all scorers with four points. On defense, Julie Comito and Linda Jefferson were the top defenders.

Tanis Gornall added singles and Jenny Teeter was the other McNeil sniper.

Stouffville roars over Kingston 7-2

By BLAINE KANEKO

If momentum counts for something, the Stouffville Atom "Clippers" might be considered a runaway train.

The local boys played more like locomotives as they steamed over their opponents from Kingston Township on their way to an easy 7-2 victory Sunday afternoon at the Recreation Centre.

The Fame International unit was coming off an emotionally draining 5-1 victory over Cobourg in the eighth and deciding game of their eight-point series. It was a victory that put them into the best-of-five Ontario "BB" Atom quarterfinals.

It would be understandable to expect a lapse in concentration after their comeback over Cobourg, but it wasn't even a factor in the weekend's home and home match-up against Kingston.

"It (the series against Kingston) is sort of anti-climatic," confessed co-coach Don Reesor. "We haven't gotten over Cobourg completely."

"It would have been easy to come out flat."

"I thought the kids would come out flying, but we were hoping Kingston wasn't that strong."

Coach Reesor's "hopping" was fulfilled.

Heading into Sunday's match-up, the homeside was already one game up on the blue and gold from Kingston. The day before, Stouffville had bused to Kingston and deposited eight goals on the way to a lopsided 8-1 triumph.

Sunday's game was played in a different location, but produced the same result.

Almost as the out-of-towners were exiting their Greycop, they found themselves trailing 1-0 after only 46 seconds in the opening period.

Chad Dickinson stepped over Kingston's blueline and fed a perfect pass to a charging Ryan Burholder. Ryan cut through the defence forced goalie John Nalon to his knees and pocketed the marker. Before the period had ended, the Clippers were ahead by two on Brent Avery's goal with assists going to Brian Coughlan and Carter Carcone.

Halfway through the middle stanza, Stouffville had stormed to a 5-0 lead on a pair of goals by Philip Pridham and Brent Avery's second with credit to Geoff Smith, Jason Davis and Ryan Jefferson.

Mark Hanlon fired a deuce for Kingston to end the period, but it was clear Stouffville was in complete domination of the chippy contest.

Five minutes after Jason Reesor one-timed a shot from Lindsey Haylow and Chad Dickinson to push the spread to 6-2, appropriately Ryan Jefferson ended the scoring after playing and inspiring aggressive game, barging into the rival's zone and causing havoc with his antagonizing manner.

"I played so aggressively because we were missing two guys (due to injuries)," said 11-year-old Ryan Jefferson. "We needed guys in the corners to force the play. I did my best."

One year before, Stouffville had defeated an even weaker Kingston team in the quarterfinals.

The squad will travel back to Kingston Saturday in hopes of ending the series.

If the Clippers can get past Kingston they will face off against Midland, the team that ousted the hometown from the playoffs last year.

Bonnie Hollingworth plays out a dream

By BRUCE STAPLEY

When Bonnie Hollingworth was 10 years old, she sold all her possessions at a garage sale, and went to her parents with the \$45.

"This is everything I have," she told them. "I want to play hockey."

Up to this point in her young life, her parents had refused to allow her to pursue the sport they felt was designed for boys.

"My mom had been a figure skater," Bonnie recalls. "And she wanted me to be one too." But when Bonnie showed her parents that playing hockey meant everything to her, they consented, even adding to her \$45 so she could have proper equipment.

The girl who would go on to become perhaps the most talented goaltender in Stouffville girls' hockey today would cut her teeth on a pond at the rear of the family home on 16th Avenue, Markham.

"I'd be out playing hockey from the time I arrived home from school until they'd call me in to go to bed," Bonnie recalls.

The 22-year-old self-confessed hockey nut, wouldn't discover goaltending until she was 16. "I had to learn to skate first," she insists. But since she donned the pads, she's proven herself invaluable to Stouffville girls' teams, winning four provincial championships.

This season finds her tending goal for the Stouffville Senior C-Betz Pools Team, in the Metro Ladies' League. It's been a new experience in that she always played house league hockey in the past, with a select team being chosen to compete in provincial tournaments once-a-month or so. The Betz club represents the cream of the 80 players from the house league.

And so far, the team is holding its own against competition that includes several 'B' level squads. Their record includes a recent tie against one of the 'B' level teams that had beaten the Betz Ladies twice before.

"I guess I always had it in me," says Bonnie, who was named Outstanding Goalie in the Provincial Championships when she was 17. "Mike Palmateer (ex-goalie of the Toronto Maple Leafs) was my hero when I was a kid. He made goaltending look like fun."

Bonnie considers herself a keen competitor; a self-motivated individual who lives to play.

"Playing goal is a great way to be alone, but still play on a team," she says. "There's a high you get by making a big save at a crucial point in a game. It's great to see the team come together to produce a big win."

"I'd love to play senior hockey some day," she admits. "I'm hoping that by the time I'm 25, I can play for the national team."

Bonnie is a strong advocate of girls playing hockey, if they feel they will enjoy it. As a child, she recalls encountering much opposition among her peers for her fixation with hockey.

"When I was growing up, I took a lot of insults for playing hockey," she says. "But I really didn't care because I loved the game so much."

Even now, it is a part of her life that her friends "just have to accept." Her superiors at the Markham Shoppers Drug Mart where she works have been told to forget about any overtime work on game nights.

Bonnie's interest in sports is not restricted to hockey alone. Last summer saw her playing baseball with no less than three clubs. Her Betz Pools Slo-Pitch Ladies' team placed second in the Provincial finals. She also played on a mixed slo-pitch squad in Claremont and on a Stouffville fastball team.

"And I still found time to play ball hockey," she laughs.



BONNIE HOLLINGWORTH
Striving for girls' hockey elite