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Midgets Clippers are undefeated

By BRUCE STAPLEY
While the score might indicate a routine victory, the Stouffville Midget Clippers had to hang tough to emerge 5-2 over Newcastle at the Recreation Centre last Wednesday.

The win, coming on the heels of a season-opening 4-4 tie at Millbrook, left the Becker's Milk crew undefeated in the early going of the new season.

The visitors took a 1-0 lead into the second period. Keith Piette then scored the first of two goals, with an assist from Kevin Cryderman. But Newcastle grabbed the lead again only 10 seconds later.

And while the Clippers would come back to tie it again later in the period on a goal by Brent Gould from Lee Scaife and Kevin Blacktopp, the squad coasted for the better part of the second stanza.

Four players, two from each crew, were ejected from the game for fighting, and 20 penalties were called during the period by referee Bob Farley.

Cryderman and Kelly McGinty were the Stouffville pair sent to the showers.

Amard Date put Stouffville ahead with a goal set up by Scaife with little more than a minute to go in the second frame. The goal, a power play effort, came on a blistering, ankle-high slapshot from the point that found the lower right-hand corner of the net.

The Clippers clung to the one goal lead for most of the third period but Piette gave them breathing room with two minutes to go, when he took a pass from Chris Burkholder, stepped around the Newcastle goalie, and slipped the puck into the net.

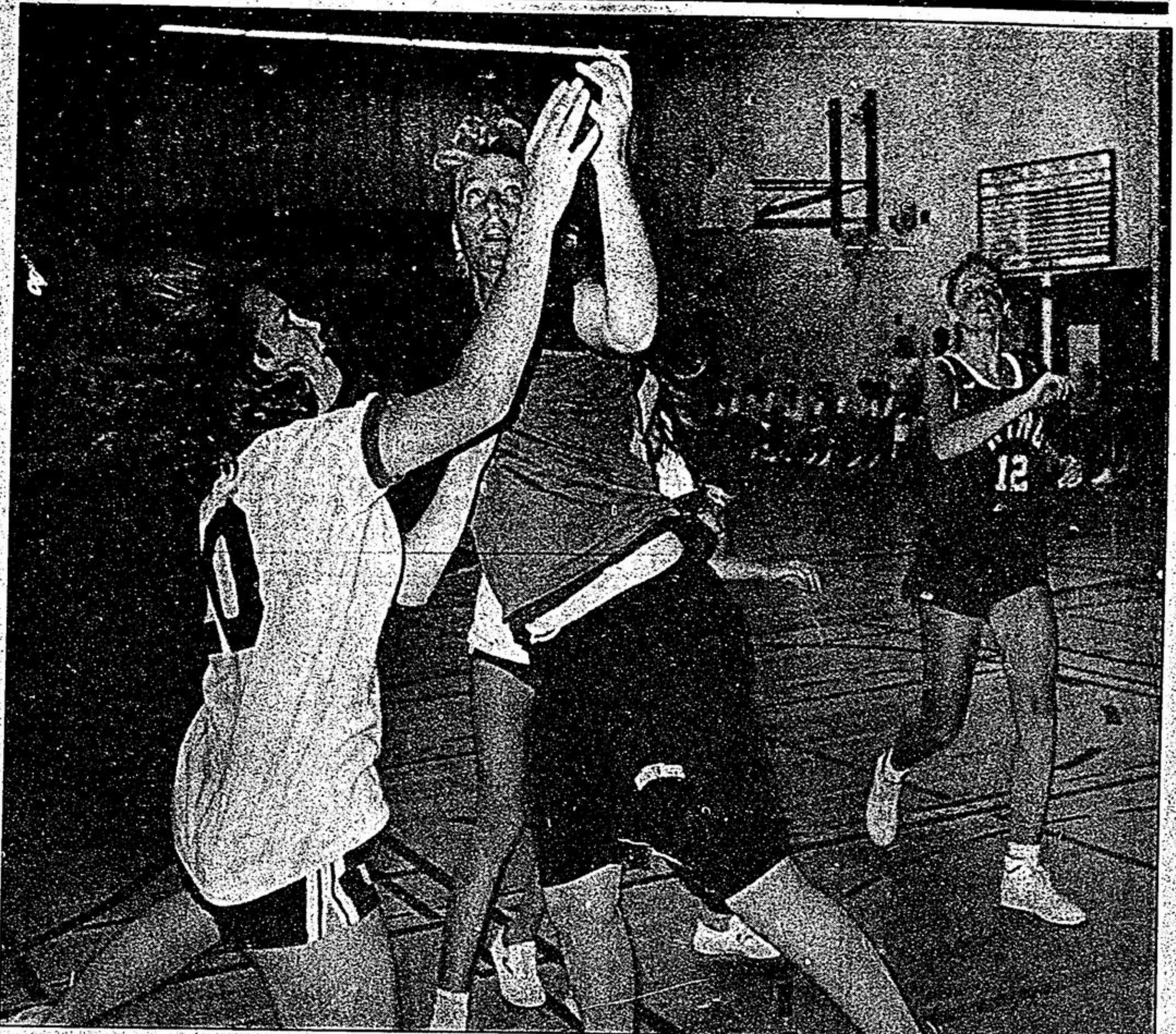
Ted Stonehouse followed with a marker to make it 5-2. The smooth-skating winger went around the defence, pulled the goalie out of position, then flicked the puck into the upper corner.

In the 4-4 tie at Millbrook, Blacktopp had two goals, while Cryderman and Burkholder had one apiece. The Clippers had held a 3-0 lead at one point, but were unable to hang on.



PHOTO/BRUCE STAPLEY

STORMS NEWCASTLE: Keith Piette of the Stouffville Midget Clippers was the key force behind a 5-2 win last week at the Rec Centre. He scored two goals to aid in the downfall of Newcastle. The Midgets are undefeated in the early going of the 1988-89 season.



PHOTO/BRUCE STAPLEY

FIRST WIN: The Stouffville District Secondary School Midget girls team had their first win of the season last week, despite being out-sized by King City High School's entry. Here, shooter Tammy Grove

goes for another basket in the upset victory. The win comes just in time for the girls, as they try to recover from several early-season losses.

Defeated King 27-16

SDSS Midget girls log first win

The monkey is finally off the back of the Stouffville District Secondary School Girls Midget Basketball team.

The girls, who came within two points of victory in their previous

outing, finally racked up their first win of the season in a decisive 27-16 thrashing of King City at the high school last Wednesday.

The action was fast and excitement grew as Stouffville came out charging, grabbing rebounds and constantly bringing the ball into the King zone.

Leslie Palmer led Stouffville with 10 points and seven rebounds. Tammie Wray score five points, Amy Beecham and

Michelle Osborne had four each, and Melissa Cooling netted two.

Team ace Nicole Ellis was restricted to two points, but contributed an impressive 11 rebounds as the team came forth with its best effort of the year.

The mob scene around the Stouffville bench at game's end said it all about the intensity of the match.

However, the bubble burst Thursday when Stouffville, weakened after several of its

members participated in a district cross-country race that same afternoon, bowed to Huron Heights 48-18.

The bright spot, however, was Ellis, who racked up eight points and had 12 rebounds. Palmer scored four points, with Julie Clare, Rhonda Tatone and Wray chipping in two points apiece.

The team plays Aurora this Friday.

Morning league popular with both teachers and students

The biggest difference between Stouffville District Secondary School's new morning hockey league and the local men's recreational league is the absence of beer in the dressing room at the end of every game.

So says SDSS Physical Education head Dave Connell. The four-team league has evolved this fall as another addition to the school's immensely successful lunchtime sports program, an intra-mural scheme which combines participants from all grades along with teachers.

The hockey league gives students and teachers a chance to hit the ice once a week for a good old-fashioned game of mixed-bag hockey, along the lines of shinny that used to be played in every southern Ontario park in the winter months of years gone by.

Grade 9s feed passes to Grade 13s and teachers get the same pat on the back as kids after scoring. And the teachers are happy to be there.

Phys. Ed. Teacher Jim Fletcher walks into the gym after a Tuesday morning game, smiling from ear to ear.

"That's the first goal I've scored in years," he enthusiastically notes. He then goes on to describe it for the umpteenth time.

The league has given teachers like Bill Knight and Doug McCammon the opportunity to spend some time with their sons, who are students at the high school.

Howard Burkholder, a local farmer who has coached kids hockey and baseball for several years, drives in with his son to play.

There are novices out there with the Midget Allstars, but everyone tends to assume the



Sport notes
Bruce Stapley

same overall level, claims Connell.

"The good players are encouraged to pass off to the others. No one's out there to be a star," he says.

Students Jaime Showers, a bruiser with the Junior 'B' Markham Travelways; and Aaron McWilliams, a rugged rearguard with the Junior 'C' Uxbridge Bruins, head up the refereeing staff.

And they are not above suggesting that a certain player should let up a little if they feel he is trying to steal the show.

Parity is constantly being worked towards, and slapshots and intentional body contact is strictly taboo.

Connell says some of the students have chosen to play in the fun league instead of the town's minor hockey programs because they are not required to constantly prove their manhood on the ice.

"I have a daughter whose boyfriend plays allstar hockey," says Connell. "He knows who is going to be in a fight before every game."

He points out that the attitude of players in the school league is both positive and refreshing. "It's very similar to old-timers' hockey. We're there to have fun, to skate, to play," he says. "If we win, that's great."

The league would seem to reflect the mood of many when it comes to hockey, and sport in general these days. The town's

minor hockey program was in danger of going without a midget or bantam team this year.

Part of the reason is that there is nowhere to go in Stouffville after midget, so there are the likes of Showers, McWilliams, Dan Larmer, Darren Baston, Chris Winn, Craig Stronach and Jason Underwood heading off to Markham, Aurora, Vaughan and Uxbridge to pursue their hockey interests.

But another big reason for the decline in interest is the feeling that the minor hockey program has become a forum for goon hockey.

And as long as league officials react leniently, the animal stuff will continue to hang around.

Contrast that with the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League, the men's fun loop, where fighting means automatic banishment. Not just from the game or the season, but the league. Gentlemen only, please.

The high school league then becomes just the tonic for those teens and teachers who have a genuine love for hockey; that passion the kids of days gone by showed for the game as played by Rocket Richard and the old Montreal Canadiens.

It's only a matter of time, I believe, before the minor hockey program will come to reflect this trend. Of course, that will partially depend upon the kind of example the big league pucksters set.

But in the meantime, the red and white shirts will continue to line up at the Recreation Centre Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 8:15 and a bunch of kids will throw the puck around with their teachers — for exercise, for sport and for fun.



PHOTO/BRUCE STAPLEY

SEIZING THE MOMENT: SDSS guard Rhonda Tatone (23) takes a second to plan her next move under the basket during last week's game against King City. Teammate Tammy Grove sets the pick.

Bantams lose 12-3

It may be too early to press the panic button, but the Stouffville Bantam Clippers are hitting the deck hard and often, at the outset of the 1988-89 season.

The Edwards-Murphy Painting and Decorating crew were routed for the second consecutive time at home Monday, this time 12-3 by Cobourg.

Led by the six-goal performance of right winger Jody Albert, the visitors just kept on coming, seeming to score at will. They came out of the first period 6-2, added two more in the se-

cond to go up 8-3, then potted four more in the third.

Paul Trentadue was the sole bright light for Stouffville with a pair of goals. Jeff Cowley added the other Clippers marker.

Dave Caramanico had two assists for the home side, and Trentadue one.

Clippers goaltenders Shawn Wilson and Jeff Willis were given little support by their defence, which seems to be experiencing early-season uncertainty.

Meeting's on

Local baseball enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and election of officers for the Whitechurch-Stouffville Softball Association.

It takes place Sunday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs lounge of the Stouffville Recreation Centre.

Suggestions, volunteer services and involvement are welcomed. Anyone can attend.

For more information, contact Elaine Haylow at 640-3208.