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Spartans strike again

TOP TEAM: Winning the 'AA' volleyball title for York Region came easy for the SDSS Spartans. The team consisted of, from left in back; Clearwater. In front, from left are; John Hall, Colin McLean, Karsten Hennza, Wallace Barbour and Scott Evans.

Stouffville's Spartans take volleyball title

By BRUCE STAPLEY

It started off with a smash, and ended up with bang.

And when the dust had settled, the Stouffville Dist. Secondary School Senior boys volleyball Spartans had eclipsed the competition enroute to their second consecutive York Regional championship.

The Spartans have now taken the title four out of five years, and 18 out of the last 20.

Stouffville was heavily favored to take the crown. They didn't disappoint their fans, breezing past Richmond Hill 15-9, 15-5, and Toronto Waldorf 15-0 and 15-3.

The Spartans then annihilated Langstaff in the semi finals 15-2, 15-3, before facing off against Richmond Hill again for the championship in a best of five set.

The polished and poised SDSS squad showed their complete collection of tricks as they wiped out the Hillmen 15-0, 15-1 and 15-4.

Stouffville coach Jim Fletcher had predicted his troops would come out flying in the final round. He was all smiles after the big win.

"Don Clearwater started off the final round with a smash, and after that, everybody seemed to catch on. It spread like wildfire."

Fletcher felt his players superb conditioning was the key to their success.

"What impressed me was the tremendous shape they were in."

"Scotty Evans had a great day playing the middle. He and Don Clearwater were thumping the ball and the setting was there."

The Spartans will now go to Brock Nov. 25 to compete in the Durham-York Secondary School Athletic Association Championships. They have been asked to play in the Ontario Preview tournament at McMaster University this Saturday (Nov. 12). The tournament, made up of the top 12 teams from across the province, gives the Spartans a chance to compete against the same teams they will face in the provincial championships.

The Spartans are also hopeful of lining up an exhibition game this week against ex-arch rival Unionville, which will serve as a tuneup for the Durham-York finals.



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

SENIOR CHAMPS: Don Clearwater of the SDSS Spartans, accepts the York Regional volleyball trophy from SDSS vice-principal Rod Leonard. Jim Fletcher, at centre, coached the team to its 18th regional title in 20 years this week.

SPIKING PUNCH: SDSS spiker Karsten Hennza delivers one of the final blows against the opposition last week to successfully defend the school's 20 year hold on the York Region title. The Seniors now advance to the DYSSAA finals this week against the best from the Durham league.

Stouffville Midgets remain undefeated

There were fireworks on and off the ice last Wednesday at the Recreation Centre as the Stouffville Midget Clippers did battle with Pickering.

And when it was all over, the Becker's Milk Clippers still had its early season undefeated string intact, with a 4-4 tie which came within nine seconds of being a 4-3 win.

The lead changed hands three times throughout the game and the excitement obviously got to several spectators, who saw fit to demonstrate their enthusiasm by throwing firecrackers on the ice.

Referee Ron Bunker halted

play late in the second period and had arena Assistant Manager John Fockler order several fans from the stands. Police were called, and one youth was ultimately banned from the arena for the season.

But the fireworks weren't restricted to the seats. The game got off to a chippy start, with a total of 17 penalties being called in the first two periods.

The Pickering players were the chief offenders, but showed great penalty killing skills. Forced to play the final minutes of the first period two men short, the visitors kept Stouffville from scoring, and

were able to take a 1-0 lead into the second period.

But the Clippers came out charging in the second, with sustained pressure finally resulting in two goals in less than a minute.

Lee Scaife clicked from Chris Burkholder and Amard Date with 11:44 remaining in the period, and then Kelly McGinty hit from Bob Gould and David McNaught at 10:47.

Pickering roared right back, tying the game a little more than a minute later, then took the lead early in the third period.

But the Clippers' defence corps

came to the rescue, with Ted Stonehouse knotting things up with a blazing slapshot from the point. Jamie Campbell drew the assist.

McNaught then gave the home club the lead with a brilliant solo effort which saw him move into position in front of the net, then drill a wrist shot over the Pickering goalie's pad and into the net.

Both McNaught and Stonehouse were robbed as the period wound down, with goalie Chris Blake stopping McNaught on a breakaway, then getting his glove on another wicked Stonehouse slapshot.

The save would prove crucial, as Pickering took advantage of a Stouffville defensive lapse to tie the score with nine seconds remaining.

Clippers coach for the night, Vic Sheffield, was happy with his team's effort.

"It was a very exciting game for the kids and the fans. The boys did well," said Sheffield.

He was filling in for head coach Al McNaught, who was serving a one-game suspension due to his team's racking up more than 40 minutes in penalties in their last outing.

4-3 final Cobourg defeats Clippers

The Stouffville Fame International Atom Clippers went down to defeat Friday, losing 4-3 to Cobourg in a hard-fought game that could have gone either way.

Stouffville opened the scoring when Brent Avery grabbed the puck at centre ice and broke in to score. Cobourg hit for a pair of goals, however, and took a 2-1 lead into the second frame.

Cobourg made it 3-1 in the second, but Peter Smith scored twice to tie it up. Chad Dickenson and John McKinnon set up the first marker and McKinnon and Michael Underwood assisted on the second.

Cobourg notched the winner in the third while playing with a two-man advantage. The Clippers pressed in the closing minutes and had a power play opportunity, but were unable to register the equalizer.

The Clippers host Port Hope at the Recreation Centre tonight at 7 p.m. and then entertain Bowmanville Friday at 8 p.m.



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

HOT SHOTS: Ted Stonehouse, at left, and David McNaught, were outstanding on defence for the Stouffville Midget Clippers this week. Both scored a goal in the game, less than two minutes apart to salvage a 4-4 tie and maintain Stouffville's undefeated record so far this season.

Novices drop their first game of season

The bubble finally burst for the Stouffville Novice Clippers last Wednesday, as they say their early season four-game winning streak snapped with a 4-2 loss to Lindsay.

The Neil Patrick Clippers got off on the right foot, with ace Ryan King scoring from Brad Johnston with a little more than two minutes remaining in the first period.

But Lindsay hit for three goals in less than four minutes in the second stanza to jump into a 3-1 lead. Shawn Carruthers got one back on a play by Matt Turner, with two minutes to play in the period, but the visitors locked it up with an insurance marker in the third.

The Clippers regained their winning form on Friday, however, as they prevailed over Cobourg 4-2 on the road. Ryan King and Matt Turner looked after the Stouffville scoring, bagging two apiece, while Robbie Spytz had two assists.

The Clippers overcame a 2-1

first period deficit, coming back with three unanswered goals in the third period. King potted the tying marker on an unassisted effort.

Then Turner clicked for the winner on a pass from Spytz and King came back to score the insurance goal from Andrew Hutchison.

Right winger Danny Tardella was a formidable force as well, checking the Cobourg opposition into the ice. Jason Brown performed capably in goal.

Clippers coach Dave Turner admits to being a little surprised by his club's early success which sees its record stand at five wins and one loss after one tour of the league.

"We've played every team now. While I expected us to be fairly strong with five kids back from last year's team, I've been surprised how well the new kids are doing," he said.

The Clippers entertain Port Perry at the Recreation Centre this Friday night at 7 p.m.