

Bantam Clippers scrambling to get ready for post-season action

Stouffville Bantam Clippers are hoping they can succeed in getting their heads above water in time for the play-offs at the end of the month.

The Edwards-Murphy Decorating crew has been watching their margin of defeat grow steadily smaller during the season. Losses of 12-1, so common in the earlier stages of the campaign, have become a thing of the past.

Consequently, a 5-3 exhibition loss to Markham at the Recreation Centre Monday was seen as another step towards respectability. Forward Dave

Caramanico, one of the few consistent bright lights for the Clippers this season, feels his team could surprise a few people come playoff time.

The left wing-centremen, who scored one of his team's three goals Monday, says the key is that his mates have stopped racking up the high penalty totals that hurt them so much in the early going.

"If we stay out of the box, we can hold our own," says Caramanico, whose talents have resulted in his being called up by the Midget Clippers for several tournaments this season.



Sport notes
Bruce Stapley

Caramanico explains that in one game, a 5-1 loss to Cobourg, the opposition scored three times while the Clippers were playing two men short. When you are having enough trouble holding your own at full strength, it only makes sense to suggest that it's not a wise idea to put yourself at such a severe manpower disadvantage.

The Clippers will be looking to achieve a major upset if they are to go anywhere in the play-offs. They'll start off with a round robin against Cobourg and Port Perry, against whom they have been winless all season.

Yet the new attitude that seems to be permeating the team would suggest there just might be a spark about to ignite that would see the Bantams catch a few teams off guard.

New coach Joe Infurnari has

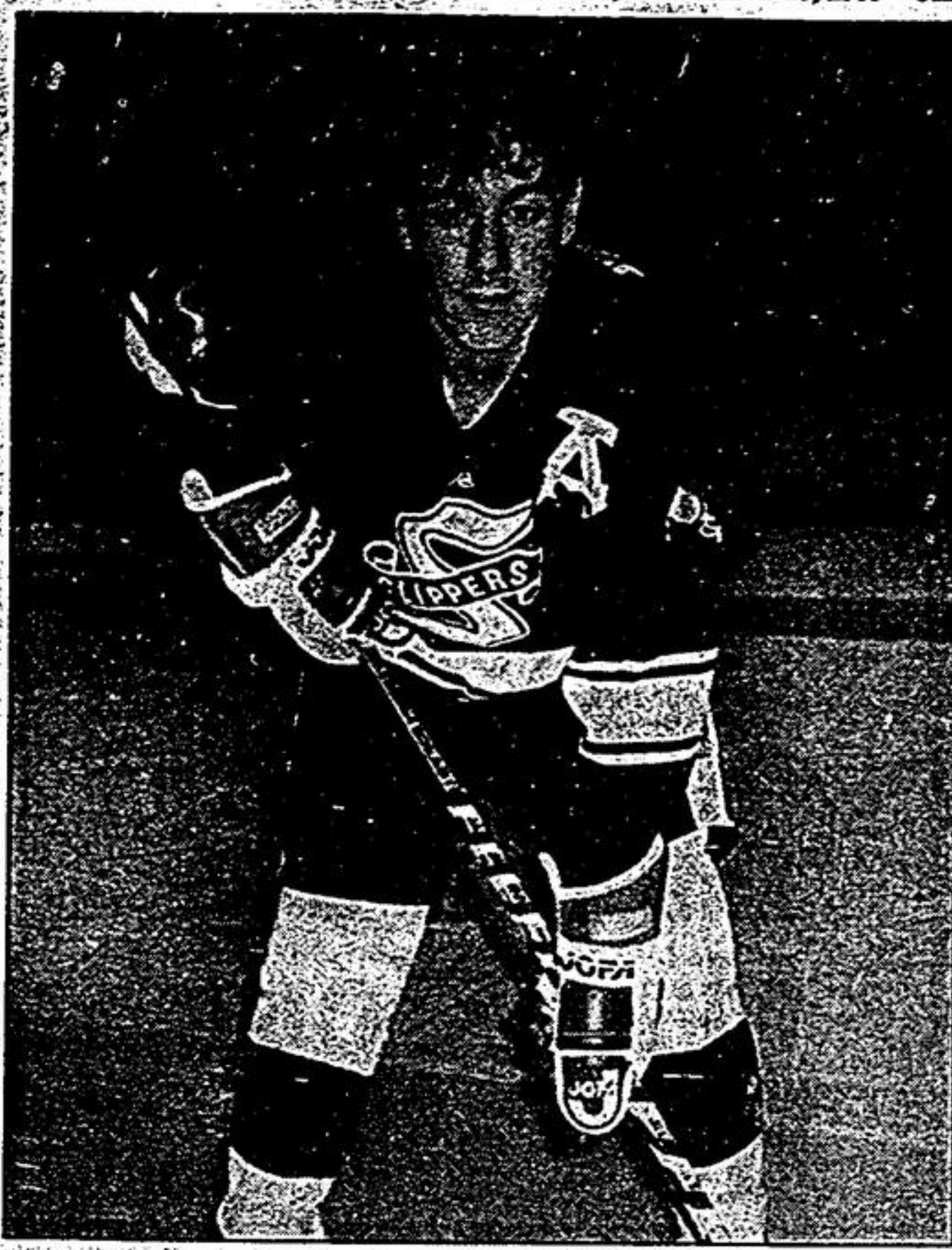
told his charges he simply won't tolerate the goon stuff, that if his team is going to lose, they are not going to beat themselves.

So even if the Bantams should bow out of the playoffs early, they will be able to say they gave it their all, that they just didn't have the firepower needed to keep up with superior opponents. And that's no disgrace.

But on the other hand, if they should pull it all together and come up with a few play-off victories, it would be a great character builder, setting the boys up for a strong season next year. There's nothing like a couple of wins at the end of a trying season to erase all the negative effects of a bunch of 12-1 shellackings experienced in the early going.

The enthusiasm will have to be felt from the parents of the kids, through management, then right on down to the players. Any time I've talked to parents of the players this season, it has seemed as if they have been looking for somebody to blame for the crummy hockey their kids were playing.

Come playoff time, there can be no excuses. Everyone pulls together.



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY
Dave Caramanico has been one of the bright lights on the Stouffville Bantam Clipper bench this season. The 14-year-old has played up to Midget and has contributed 11 goals for his club this season. He also scored a goal in the 5-3 loss to Markham in an exhibition match last week.

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Clippers drop 5-3 contest

The Stouffville Bantam Clippers skated with Markham for two periods in an exhibition game at the Recreation Centre Monday, but faded in the third as the visitors earned a 5-3 victory.

After a scoreless first period, Clipper ace Dave Caramanico gave Stouffville a 1-0 lead early in the second, with Frank Santeramo drawing an assist.

But Markham notched two goals in less than two minutes to grab the lead.

The Clippers fought back, with Dale Lewis tying it up with two minutes left in the period. Then, with a mere four seconds left in the second, Kevin Nicholls put the Clippers in front 3-2. Lee Wideman was given an assist.

But Markham hit for a trio of goals in three minutes well into the third to negate the strong Stouffville effort.

Club will compete in Newcastle

Twenty members of the Uxbridge Figure Skating Club will participate in the Pine Ridge Inter-Club competition Feb. 10 and 11 at Newcastle.

Successful entries will advance to the EOSIC level at Pettawawa and, if successful there, to the All-Ontario finals.

Representing the U.F.S.C. at Newcastle are:

Cheryl Stokes, Amy Chapman, Laurie Dyke, Crystal Heise, Angela Sullivan, Ivy Lea Lunau, Denise Taylor, Andrew Pilkington, Sarah Chapman, Shannon Kemp, Elissa Blowe, Tara Cake, Teresa Clarke, Tiffani Foster, Greg Irwin, Angie Dowson, Jennifer Bunker, Lee Pilkington, Sandra Cassie and Jill Cassie.

Smurthwaite smothered Towne Restaurant 8-3

Smurthwaite Heating smothered Towne Restaurant 8-3 in Stouffville Amateur Hockey Association play last week. Bill Harman recorded the hat trick with three markers while singles came from Bill Guest, John Visser, Clint Dickinson, Frank Kafun and Gord Ness. Towne scorers were Bill Ormson and Bill Anderson.

Identical 7-3 wins were recorded by A and S Construction over Stouffville Travel and by Canadian Tire over Villeneuve Heating. Duane Drew had three markers for A and S while Dan Harman had two and Roy Ramer and Henry Stevens had one apiece. Stouffville Travel goals came from Scott Conner with two and Terry Gregory.

Canadian Tire scorers were led by Stu St. John with three, and Doug Gornal with two. Singles came from Wayne Harris and Joe Infurnari. Villeneuve goals came from Don Lloyd with two and John Nesbitt with a single.

Village Landscaping defeated G and R Flooring 3-1. Village Landscaping goals came from David McVicar, Andy Kroen and Walter McDonald. Kim Kaviuk notched G and R's only marker.

Green's Restaurant and Farquharson Realty played to a 3-3 tie. Greens scorers were Robert Smith, Pat Madigan and Al Parker. Brent Stachel notched two for Farquharson and the single came from Kevin Davis. Betz Pools and Century 21 McHarg had a 2-2 tie in their game.

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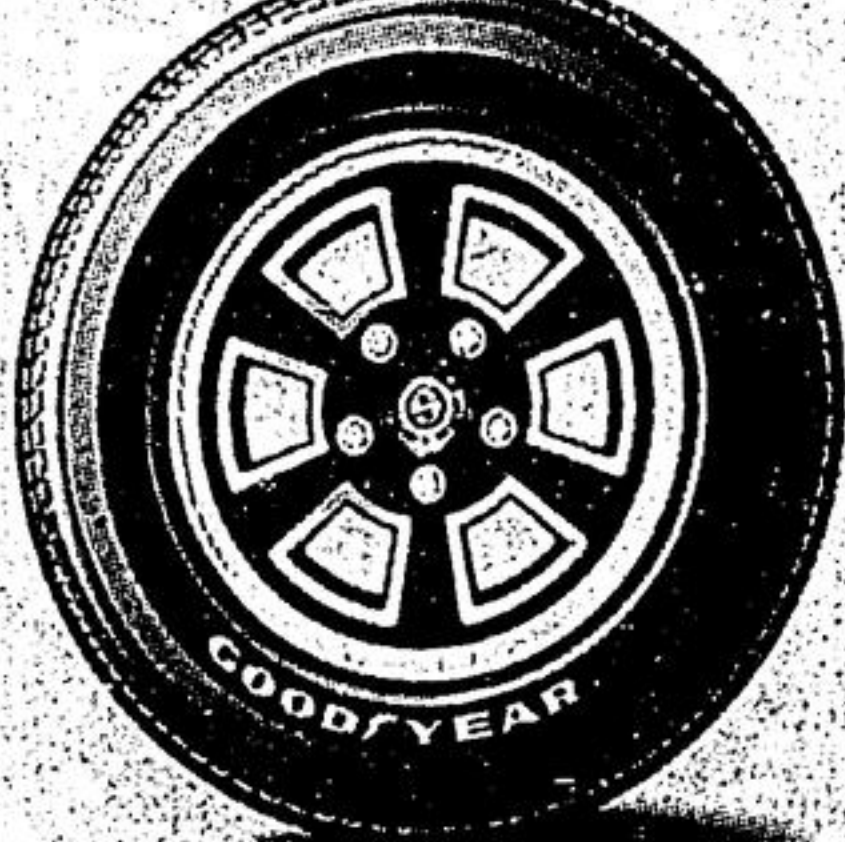
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