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Coach suspended after pulling team

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Joe Infurnari, who took over as coach of the Stouffville Bantam Clippers a month and a half ago, was handed an indefinite suspension last Tuesday when he pulled his team off the ice during a game in Cobourg.

The Clippers were down 11-0 to Cobourg in a playoff game when the incident occurred. Infurnari cited frustration with the of-

ficiating, along with the unruly behavior of the Cobourg fans, as the reason for his action.

"It was frustrating," said Infurnari. "The Cobourg team was taking runs at our players. The crowd was harassing our guys when they were in the penalty box and cheering when our players got hurt."

Infurnari insisted it was the worst case of officiating he had

ever seen. "With 2:32 left in the game, one of their guys jumped our goalie Jeff Willis. He punched Jeff about five times. Brad Blacktopp pulled the guy off Jeff and Brad got a game misconduct while their guy just got two minutes."

Infurnari claimed the Stouffville parents had to surround the Stouffville penalty box in order to protect the Clipper players sitting in the box.

"Some of the Stouffville parents approached me and asked me when I was going to pull our kids off the ice." Infurnari walked onto the ice and told the referee he was taking his team off.

"They told me we'd be disqualified from the playoffs if I did," said Infurnari. "I told them I didn't care, that I'd never seen such bad officiating."

Infurnari is now required to write a letter to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association explaining his action, after which the nature of his suspension will be determined. He has already talked to Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association President Jo Anne Steel, to whom he stressed that his action had been justified.

The Bantams went on to lose their next two playoff games to Port Perry and Cobourg.

Betz Clippers take tournament

John Blair scored six goals, including both markers in the 2-1 overtime victory in the final, as the Betz Clippers Old Timers captured the Ernestown Old Timers Tournament on the weekend.

The Clippers, who had been runners-up the past two years, took three of their four games played to win the Kingston-area competition.

Larry Penney's two goals led Betz to a tournament-opening 6-2 victory over the Thousand Islands Old Timers, with Blair, Ted Pickering, Eric Scaife and Joe Infurnari counting singles.

The Clippers bowed to the Amherst Alers in game two by a 2-1 margin, despite outplaying the opposition. Blair counted the only Betz goal.

But the Clippers came back to rout the Amherstview Night Hawks 6-1, with Blair scoring twice.

That qualified them for the championship game against the Alers on Sunday. Amherst scored early to take a 1-0 lead, which they held until late in the third period. But then Blair tied it up, forcing the overtime.

The Clippers played the last minute of the third period two men short and the penalties carried over into the overtime period.

Uxbridge rink scratched from OCA regional final

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Greg Timbers, holding a 4-3 lead without the hammer, gave up three in the 10th end and dropped a 6-4 decision to Peter Jenkins of Toronto Royals at the Thornhill Courty Club last week. The loss eliminated the Uxbridge rink from competition in the Ontario Curling Association Regional Tankard B final.

Timbers was playing catchup for most of the night, but in the eighth end he knocked one of Jenkins' stones out and stuck around for a pair to take a one-point lead.

"I was hoping for a four in the eighth," Timbers said. "I thought we could make it at least three."

Blanking the ninth end, Jenkins made the most of his chances in the 10th, capped by a nose hit for three and a key win.

"It took us so long to get a lead," Uxbridge vice Gary Grant said. "Once we got it..."

Timbers elected to bring the rocks right into the house at the top of the 10th. Lead Randy Grant's weight had been perfect all night. Rather than the top four, however, his shooters rested on the back portion. That set the wheels in motion for Jenkins.

"Randy is usually pretty good with his weight and I tried to get his rocks at the top of the rings and see what they'd do with it," Timbers said, replaying the final end.

"You can only wish you could play that over again. If I could, I would have thrown (the rocks) through. It's easy to say now."

The rink jammed a peel in the latter stages, leaving an unwanted long guard. Jenkins managed to completely cover a rock, resulting in several anxious moments for Timbers.

With a Jenkins stone at the top eight, Timbers attempted a come-around draw, but instead raised it further to the button. A nose hit on the Uxbridge rock salted the contest.

The first two ends were blanked, but Jenkins hit and stuck for a point in the third. Looking at two in the fourth, Timbers settled for a point.

Jenkins rolled to a back stone for one in the fifth end and with Timbers looking at four at one point in the sixth, Uxbridge reduced the number nicely with a hit and roll. There was a possible two for Timbers, but following a measurement Jenkins got the nod as second shot.

Jenkins had a chance for a pair in the seventh, but an attempt to execute a draw to the eight-foot ring was foiled when his shooter tapped a stone in front of the rings.

By BRUCE STAPLEY

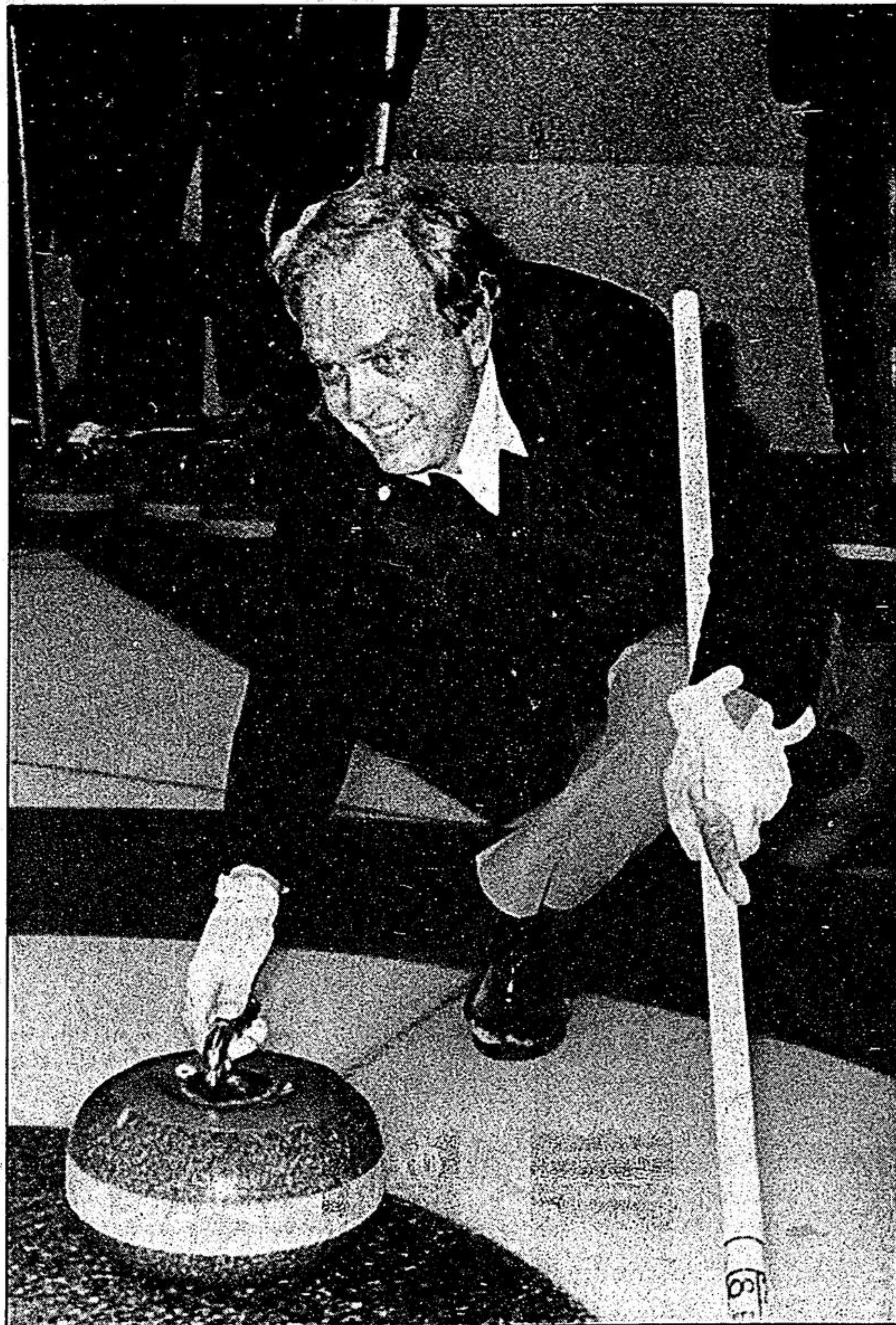
In a country where hockey dominates the sports scene from October through April, curling is still seen by many as "the other winter game."

For the likes of Bill Farthing, Harvey Acton, and Bill and Bert Geer, the Uxbridge Curling Club on Franklin St. has been like a second winter home ever since it opened in 1960.

The 194-member club has just completed its first schedule of the 1988-89 season and is now into the second half of the campaign.

The club attracts men and women between the ages of 15 and 85 and they come from Stouffville, Markham, Sunderland and Mt. Albert to play.

"It's a friendly club," says President Mike Smith. He adds with a smile, "and being a mixed



Curling is in its 29th year at the Uxbridge Curling Club, and has become a winter tradition for the 194 members who frequent the popular facility. Here, club president Mike Smith selects his draw weight in a house league match this week at the club. Curlers range in age from 15 to 85 at the Uxbridge facility.

Curling club celebrating 29th season

club, it's good if you want to get mad at your wife."

The club operates Monday through Friday evenings, with weekends reserved for bonspiels and practising. There are two separate men's leagues, one with 19 teams, the other with 13, a 12-team ladies league and a 10-team mixed league.

All operate in a house league setting with teams being chosen by the Match and Rules Committee. Members can play in as many of the leagues as they have time for.

Members pay \$195 annually and the club is entirely self-supporting. And while most members are in it strictly for a bit of recreational competition, there are two teams, comprised of club members, which are sponsored and which compete in high-level bonspiels.

Betz Pools, the more prominent of the two, includes Stouffville's Randy and Gary Grant, along with Greg Timbers and Barry Acton. The rink won the White Rose cash league finals last season, winning out against all other teams in their zone.

The Betz rink has competed several times for the Labatt's Tankard, a competition that can eventually lead a team to the Brier and then to the world title.

The other sponsored team is Stouffville Machine, and it is made up of Bill Farthing, Les Soule, Ben and Bill Kester.

But for the house league, the payoff is strictly a trophy and a lot of satisfaction. Excitement is created for both members and others by the club's "Calcutta," whereby teams which make the season-ending playoffs are "auctioned off" before playoff action begins.

People "buy" a team, then share in the pot at the end, the owners of the more successful teams getting the lion's share of the spoils.

While the club admits new members on a regular basis regardless of ability level, there are several founding members still active in league play. Elmer Farthing, father of Match and Rules Committee Chairman Bill, has been a member from the start and served as president in 1972-73.

Uxbridge's Bill and Bert Geer are also originals, as is Bill Harwood. Harvey Acton of Uxbridge, while still a registered member, is no longer active.

"We're always looking for new people," says Bill Farthing. "It's a great way to have fun and it's a way to get some exercise as well."

Farthing, like so many others, claims he is hooked on the game, just as hockey nuts get addicted to their sport. "It's an exciting game," he says. "It's team-oriented. One person being hot cannot win a curling game."

The four-rink Uxbridge facility also happens to be the only curling club in the area, with the closest other club being situated in Unionville.

The members maintain the facility and there is licensed lounge downstairs where members head after the game to refresh hits and misses, as well as planning their strategies for upcoming matches and bonspiels.

The big board in the hall lists all the bonspiels available to the members. The lounge's television set is tuned in to the Sports Network so other events of importance in the world of sports can be monitored.

Mike Smith considers the success of his club and smiles. "It's a club that's here for the members. It's owned and run by the membership."

You might say the Uxbridge Curling Club, in its 29th year of operation, is as solid as the rocks its members set to sliding down the pebbled ice surface.

For second year

Credit Union girls miss chance

The Stouffville District Credit Union Senior D girls went to the Keswick hockey tournament Jan. 14 as defending champions, but despite a strong effort failed to make it two in a row.

Game one saw the Stouffville girls, having lost three key defence players from last year's top-rated squad, in against a select Newtonbrook team.

First-period goals by Teresa Deangelas and Wendy Brnjas, assisted by Allison Lowery, staked the locals to a 2-0 lead, halved in the second period when Newtonbrook scored to make it 2-1.

An early third-period goal by Sue Chin gave Stouffville a 3-1 lead, but with 5:28 left the gap was narrowed again when Newtonbrook's Sue Cook cashed a rebound. Stouffville's in-

surance tally was scored less than a minute later when Kerry Holland scored, set up in the slot from Chin and Deangelas.

A Newtonbrook goal with 1:04 left cut the score to 4-3 but it was too late as Stouffville advanced to the championship side. Stouffville's Deangelas was voted MVP for her goal and two-assist performance.

Game two against Brampton Canadettes clearly was to be a battle of wills from the start, with outstanding goaltending from Jill Clarke of Stouffville and Laure Sibbins of Brampton.

Despite numerous chances at both ends, the score remained 0-0 until, with just over one minute left in the first period, Brampton's Shelley Skillen put her team up 1-0.

With 4:54 left in the second

period, Stouffville tied the game on a goalmouth pass from Brnjas to Lowery. Despite chances at both ends and three clear-cut breakaways in the last two minutes of the game by Stouffville's Deangelas, Lesley Donaldson and Lowery, the

game ended 1-1, requiring a shootout.

Brampton's first shooter, Glenda Gibben, scored on a low, short-side shot while Lowery hit the goalie, deflecting to the crossbar but not going in, leaving Brampton 2-1

winners.

Lowery was selected MVP for her tying goal and numerous offensive threats.

The Credit Union girls next venture to the Newtonbrook tournament the first weekend in February.

Pee Wee Clippers thump Unionville

The Stouffville Pee Wee Clippers rode the two-goal efforts of Danny McNaught and Darrin Zeller on their way to a 6-1 drubbing of Unionville Monday.

The Clippers, coming off a 7-0 shellacking at the hands of Port Perry the previous weekend, also got goals from Steve Ennes and Trevor Bardell.

Jay Hause was prominent on defence, while Jermain Franklin, Joe Nucci and Brian Coughlan also chipped in with solid performances.

The Pee Wees commence playoff action this weekend when they visit Cobourg on Sunday before playing host to Port

Perry Monday at the Recreation Centre.

The Clippers have been winless against both playoff rivals in regular season play, although they had considerable success versus teams that finished higher than Cobourg and Port Perry in the standings.