

# Bruins player hangs tough in face of injury

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
It's been one of those seasons for Aaron McWilliams.

Stouffville minor hockey program was one of the last cuts with the Markham Junior 'B' Laidlaws this past fall, but managed to catch on with the Ux-

bridge Junior 'C' Bruins. The hard-nosed youngster with the mild-mannered off-the-ice temperament fits in well with the struggling Bruins, providing them a rugged rearguard capable of making things happen on the power play with his laser-like, ankle high, slap shot from the point.

He even managed to cut back considerably on a penalty count that served to diminish his effectiveness as part of the Stouffville Midget Clippers last season.

Aaron was an easy target for those players who like to sneak a quick illegal shot at an opposition player while the referee's back is turned.

The result, the man in the black and white stripes turns around just in time to catch the victim's reflex-like retaliatory infraction.

### Aggressive

A solid, well-built kid, Aaron had succeeded in avoiding serious injuries in the past, despite the willingness to play a somewhat aggressive brand of hockey.

But a torn rotator cuff back in the late fall caused him to miss five games.

He returned to action knowing, as the doctor had told him, it would probably cause him further trouble.

Sure enough, just after he'd gotten back in the groove, he went up against the boards with a Little Britain player in a game Jan. 13 and wound up dislocating the shoulder, as well as tearing ligaments and muscles.

He had to be helped from the arena, was treated at hospital, and released. The doctor told him he was through for the year, but now he has concerns about whether or not he'll ever be able to play again.

### Operation

"Before I can even consider playing again, I'll have to have an operation to shorten the ligaments and tendons in order to tighten the socket, he claims.

If determination has anything to do with it, then we'll probably see Aaron back in harness, hopefully next season. He wants to play, perhaps reach the Junior 'B' level.

Before the injury, he had improved, and was working on his weaknesses, which he sees as being his skating and his stick-handling.

### Pleased

"But I was pleased with my play. My shot was working well."

That in itself is enough to strike fear in the hearts of goalies everywhere. And when combined with a hoped-for depth of maturity that would teach him

discipline is more important than worrying about what's fair or unfair, Aaron would have seemed to be on his way towards reaching his peak as a hockey player.

But for now, it's a matter of waiting and hoping. Fortunately,

he has youth on his side, and it could be with a proper conditioning program, Aaron will be back in top form by the fall.

Until then, he's still involved in the game, as coach of the Stouffville Atom 'B' Clippers.

## Pee Wees drop two matches of playoffs

end of two periods, David Spoorenberg scoring for Stouffville.

Cobourg hit for three more in the third before Lee Wideman netted the other Clipper marker.

At home to Port Perry, the Clippers came up with another strong first period, with goalie Steve Servinis holding the Port squad at bay.

The visitors, however, took a 1-0 lead into period two. Jay Hause, on a from-behind-the-net effort, tied it for the Clippers in the second.

Port Perry took a 2-1 lead, but the home team continued to fight back, Ryan Burkholder tying things with a brilliant individual effort.

But two goals in 15 seconds near the end of the second period gave the visitors a lead they would hold on to, as they added a trio of goals in the final period.

The Stouffville Pee Wee Clippers started the playoffs by getting behind the eight ball last week, losing round robin contests to Port Perry and Cobourg by identical 7-2 scores.

Opening in Cobourg, the Clippers were unable to take advantage of some early scoring chances and fell behind 4-1 at the

## Action heats up in SAHL league play

Towne Restaurant blasted Century 21 Meharg 9-2 in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League play last week.

Bill Ormson scored four goals for the winners with Murray Thompson and Paul Guest notching two apiece and Ron Smurthwaite getting a single. Century 21 goals were scored by Pat Coughlan and Ron Brooks.

A and S Construction defeated Village Landscaping 6-4. Ron Ramer led A and S with two goals, while singles came from Sam Castorina, Duane Drew, Bob Slack and Doug Todd. Village Landscaping scorers were Kim Steckley, Walter McDonald, Randy Lee and Bob Davis.

G and R Flooring registered a 5-2 win over Farquharson Realty with John Barnett scoring two and Marc Moreau, Kim Kavluk and Don Reesor one apiece. Don Norton and Doug Joyce scored for Farquharson.

Smurthwaite Heating tramped Canadian Tire 6-1 with Bill Harman scoring two. Singletons came from Terry Weatherill, Ron Martyn, Lionel Villeneuve and John Beal. Canadian Tire's lone marker was notched by Rick Miller.

Betz Pools scored a 4-2 victory over Villeneuve Heating. Betz scorers were Wayne McMann, Bruce Woodley, Rich Hughes and Stan Kerswell. Mike Morrison scored both Villeneuve goals.

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