

Volleyball championship tribute to coach Fletcher's dedication

Last Wednesday's York Regional Senior boys volleyball championship at Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) was as much a celebration of Jim Fletcher's dedication to school and sport as it was a competition.

Fletcher's fervor for any team wearing SDSS colors is legend with both staff and students at the high school.

And not only is he the consummate booster, he also knows how to get results from the teams he coaches.

While Fletcher knew that his Spartans were more than capable of walking away from



Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

Wednesday's tourney with their third straight regional title, he wasn't taking anything for granted.

For he has known right from the start that winning traditions are not self-perpetuating.

Consequently, it's not uncommon to see him driving home

from the high school on a Wednesday night at 10:30 after putting his charges through a full scale workout.

You learn by doing, Fletcher maintains, and how can you argue with the way his Spartans do it? They smash, float, set up, bump and block with authority. Rarely do you see them lose their composure on the court. They know what they have to do to win and they do it.

Fletcher paid an honest tribute to the Richmond Hill team that was wiped out 15-0 in the deciding game of Wednesday's best of three final, telling them they were the first Hill team in years to have beaten the Spartans in even a single game.

But accolades to the SDSS coach were evident everywhere in the school gym, as his praises were being sung by staff and students alike.

He smiled when he saw the "Fletch Lives" sign his boys had hung on the top of the net during their warmup for the title match, although, as convener of the event, he quickly had it taken down.

Ever the optimist, Fletcher really believes his team is all-Ontario material.

Fletcher's team could very well repeat as Durham-York (DYSSAA) champs in next week's tournament at the school gym.

The all-Ontario title will probably elude him again however in this, a rebuilding year, although anything is possible when the Fletch is involved.

Couperthwaite hero in Midget basketball win

Tanya Couperthwaite came within a foul shot of seeing her hero status turn into goat horns last week at the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) gym.

Tanya, whose seven points made her top scorer for the Midget girls' Spartans basketball team in their game against Aurora, fouled with only four seconds in what was left in a tight one-point ballgame.

The Spartans were leading 23-22 as the Aurora shooter stepped up to the foul line.

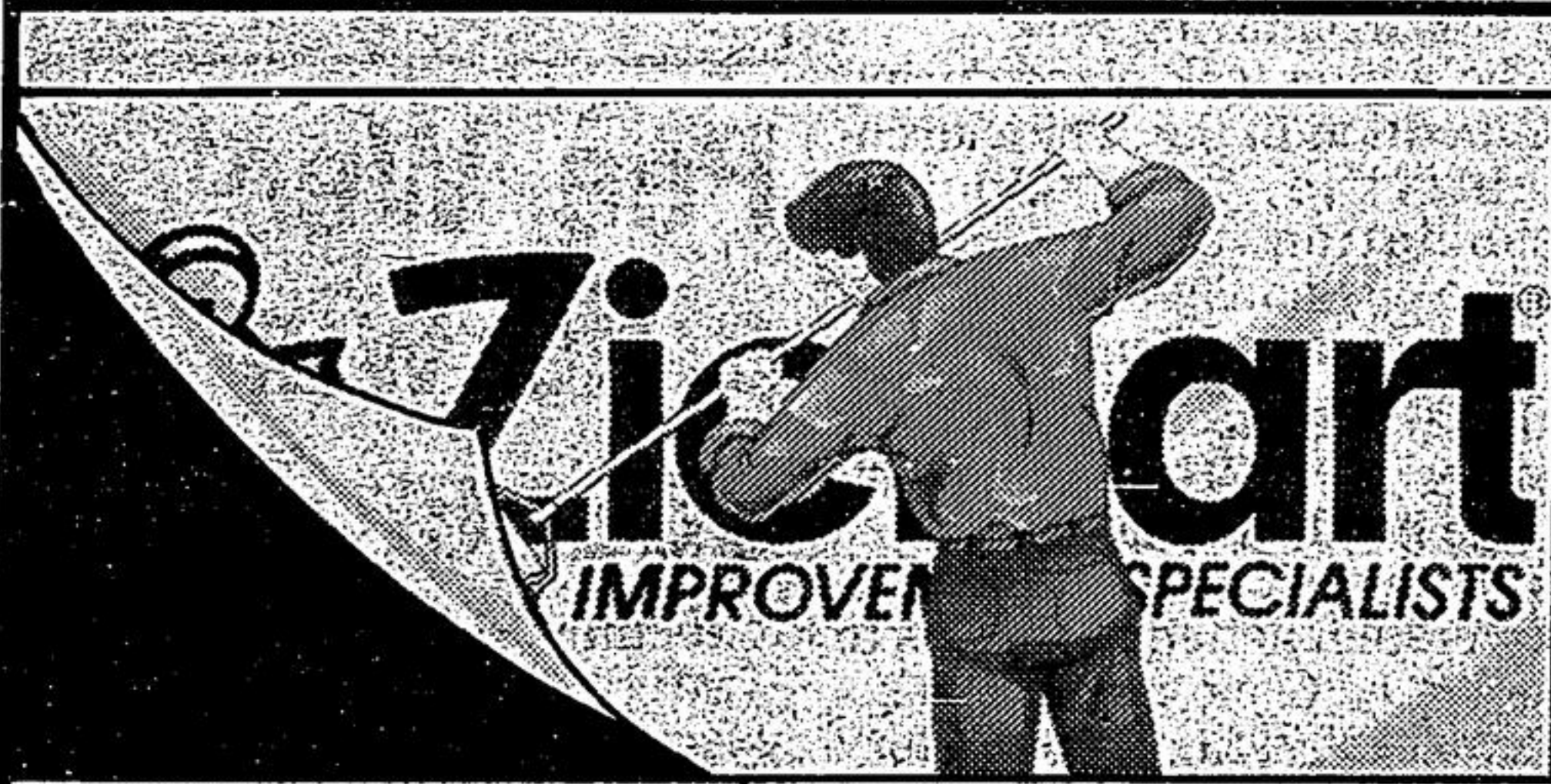
However, the pressure was too much for the Aurora shooter, and she missed the shot, and Stouffville held on for the win.

The victory was the first of the year for the Midget cagers in a season consisting strictly of exhibition games.

The Spartans trailed 22-17 halfway through the final quarter, but rallied to claim the victory.

Natacha Amour and Lisa Garbutt also hooped seven points each for SDSS, with Julie Clare adding two.

Erin Blenkhorn, Kate McKnight, Christine Jackson, Julie Johnstone and Michelle Martins played strong games for the Spartans.



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