

# Stouffville Sports

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Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

## Novice champs honored

The Stouffville Novice Clippers hockey team were honored for winning the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's Lakeshore Division title recently. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville presented the players and coaches with medals. Team members are Matt Turner, Rob Spytz, Mike

Wood, Brad Johnston, Shawn Carruthers, Dan Dickinson, Jason Brown, Andrew Hutchison, Dan Tardella, Ryan King, Jeff Hassard, Graham Smith, and Kevin Hackert. Coaches are Dave Turner, Gary Hutchison and Bill Wood.

## SDSS Junior hoopsters end season with quarterfinal loss

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Junior girls basketball team was knocked out of contention early in Saturday's Durham-York championship tournament at Woodbridge.

The Spartans, who earned the right to compete for the title by placing second in the previous

week's York Region finals, were thumped 49-17 by Cannington's Brock Secondary School in the quarterfinals, their only game played.

But Spartans coach Bill McKnight felt it had still been a valuable learning experience for his players.

"The kids learned a lot," he

said. "It was a great tournament, a good clinic."

He said it would serve to inspire his team to do even better next year.

"They've gone to the top now, they've seen how basketball can be played by kids their age," said McKnight. "Some will go to basketball camp this summer to work on their skills."

McKnight was particularly pleased with the way his players progressed this season.

"It can be hard to generate interest in basketball in a volleyball school like ours. But the girls learned well and they were fundamentally sound."

Susie Baston, Kelly Sheridan, Terrill Junkin, Julie Coleman and Michelle Hofstee stood out for the Spartans Saturday in a losing cause.

"The kids played well," said McKnight. "We were only down 11-8 in the first quarter. But then, all of a sudden, Brock just took off. They are a well-coached, established team which has been playing the same system since Grade 7."

McKnight saw his team's 14-8 won-lost record for the year as being indicative of their effort.

"It was a good season. I was especially impressed with how Terrill Junkin, who I coached two years ago, had improved. Half of the team will be back next year. I think they should do really well."

## Seniors beaten by Curtis

BRUCE STAPLEY  
 Correspondent

What comes around goes around.

That's the story of the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Senior girls basketball team's quest for the Durham-York (DYSSAA) title this month.

The Spartans, who staged a dramatic last quarter comeback to capture the York Double-A high school championship Nov. 17, blew a 12-point lead in the dying minutes of Saturday's DYSSAA match against Curtis of Oshawa, losing 51-39.

The loss knocked Stouffville out of the running for the two region title, which was eventually won by Cannington's Brock Secondary School.

The tournament was held at Richmond Hill's Langstaff Secondary School.

The Spartans took a 28-26 lead into the second half, and had extended the point spread to a dozen after the third quarter.

But two quick fouls to scoring star Stacey Black resulted in the Spartan's leader being taken out of the game momentarily, and the Curtis squad started to chip away at the deficit.

"We ran out of gas in the final moments," said Spartans coach Sheila Coleman.

"The breaks just started going the wrong way. They were hooping them, and ours weren't falling in."

Black, as usual, led the Spartans offence, with Kristy Saunders, Karen Carr, and Maureen Slater also contributing solid performances.

Coach Coleman was particularly impressed with perennial SDSS all-star athlete Slater.

"She was strong right through to the final buzzer, even though the team was getting discouraged. It was her best game of the season."

Coleman felt her team could have beat Curtis, but that the Spartans had done well just to get as far as they did.

## Senior Spartans fall to underdogs at volleyball tourney

BRUCE STAPLEY  
 Correspondent

The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans Senior boys volleyball team were taken by surprise at the all-Ontario (OFSAA) Double-A high school championship at Fonthill on the weekend.

The Durham-York champion Spartans, ranked third going into the provincial finals, were edged in two straight games Friday by an Orangeville team which had been seeded 11th.

The pair of tough 15-13 losses, followed by the Spartans' 15-10, 15-10 defeat at the hands of Woodstock's Huron Secondary School, knocked the SDSS team out of the running for the elusive Ontario title.

The SDSS squad beat St. Mary's 15-8, 15-8, to open the tournament Friday.

But they were blind sided by Orangeville, expecting an easier opponent, which is normally the procedure for the top-seeded teams in the early going at these competitions.

"Orangeville should have been ranked higher," said Spartans coach Jim Fletcher, noting that they eventually placed fourth overall on the weekend.

"It was sort of like having a quarter final right in the opening pool," Fletcher contended that it wasn't just the Orangeville team which had his players baffled.

"I don't want this to sound like sour grapes, but the officiating was poor, not the calibre we are used to at the York Region and DYSSAA level.

"We had the same ref twice, and we lost both times. She was calling things we had never been called for all season. The guys were disappointed. They would battle back, then she kept taking it away from them.

"I was a little disappointed. You've got to have quality officials at OFSAA."

The losses to Orangeville and Huron relegated the Spartans to the Consolation side, where they won their first match but then bowed to Kenora, who went on to win the also-ran award.

Chatham won the overall title.

Fletcher felt his team had performed admirably, and that they had nothing to be ashamed of despite falling well short of the provincial title.

"We played well, and it was close. I'm not disappointed with our play at all. They didn't choke," said the coach. "We were up against a good team (Orangeville)."

"Karam Amer and Scott Evans were smashing the ball. Karam didn't miss a hit. And Travis White turned into a championship calibre player at OFSAA."

## Burkholder weaves way to tourney title winning goal

Ryan Burkholder weaved through the defence and scored in the second period of overtime Sunday to give the Stouffville Credit Union Pee Wee Clippers the championship of the Haliburton Tournament on the weekend.

Burkholder's marker was the difference in a 2-1 win over tourney hosts Haliburton in the title game.

The Clippers had earned the right to compete for the championship by sailing through their first three games of the event.

Stouffville beat Bracebridge 4-1 on Friday, then blanked Bracebridge 4-0 on Saturday.

The Clippers then avenged a last-minute loss earlier in the week to league rivals Port Perry, winning 6-1.

The victory over Port Perry

advanced the Clippers into the championship showdown against Haliburton.

Haliburton opened the scoring in the first period.

Burkholder then took a pass from Coughlan and fired the puck into the net for his first of two goals in the game.

The teams played a scoreless first five minute period of overtime before Burkholder's game-winning heroics.

The goal earned Burkholder Most Valuable Player honors with his brilliant individual effort.

The Clippers Geoff Smith led the tournament scorers with seven points, while teammate Jason Reesor and Ryan Jefferson had four points each.