

Stouffville Sports



Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

Clearwater makes return to SDSS gym

There was a familiar face in the Stouffville District Secondary School gym last Tuesday afternoon, an old boy who had returned for a little pick-up volleyball on the same floor that had been the scene of so many of his high school triumphs.

For two-time SDSS Senior Athlete of the Year winner Don Clearwater, it was a chance to say hello to some of his ex-coaches as well as a few old buddies.

His contribution to the Spartans fifth place finish at last year's provincial volleyball championships is now a distant memory.

Clearwater's concerns now centre around the playoff prospects of the York Yeomen volleyball team.

Like so many others on the 1989 University Athletic Association championship outfit, the 20-year-old freshman is a newcomer in a rebuilding year.

All but one player on the Yeomen roster are first or second year men, and there are only four returnees from last year's team.

It took Clearwater, a hustling power hitter, six weeks to establish himself with the varsity squad, although for the highly competitive physical education student, that was six weeks too long.

"I wasn't playing much at the beginning of the season back in early October. But by mid-November, I was in the starting lineup. I found it hard to get used to sitting on the bench. I figured I was ready to go, I wanted to play."

He admits, however, it did take some adjusting to the higher calibre of play. "It was a challenge. The game is a lot harder at this level, and I had to adapt to it."

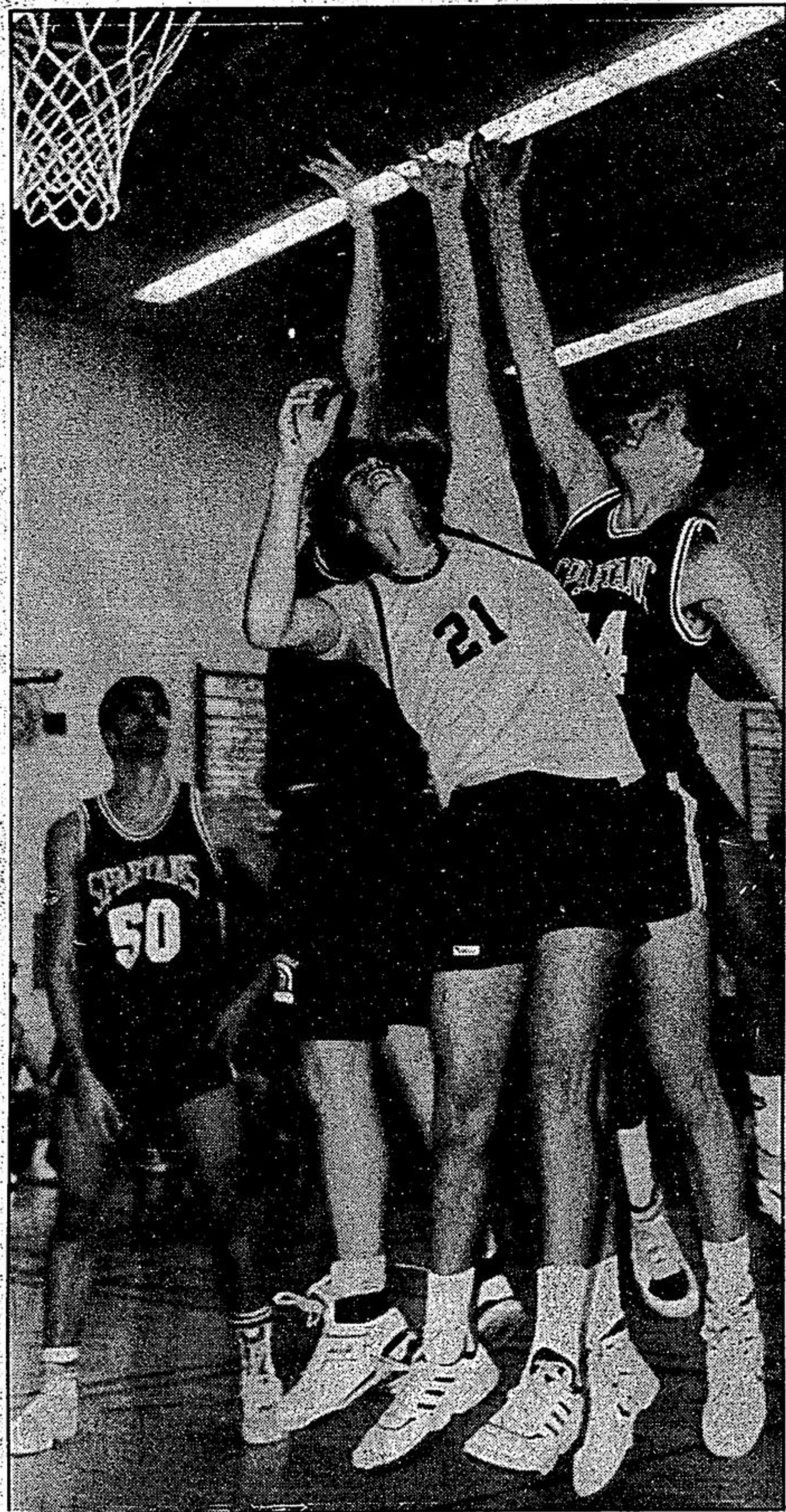
Clearwater, whose power smashes were one of the reasons the SDSS Spartans rolled over the opposition at last year's Durham-York (DYSSAA) finals, feels he has made a contribution to the Yeoman. "Yes, I feel like I belong there."

While not the world beaters they were last season, he is confident the York crew will make some noise in post season play.

"We've had better cohesion as the year has gone on. Waterloo is the power of the league, and they beat us in three games, but that was early in the season. We've improved since then, so we'll definitely be in there."

Does Clearwater miss his old high school?

"Oh yes. I miss Fletch (SDSS coach Jim Fletcher) and SDSS. I had a good time here."



Photo/BILL LANNING

Basketball battle

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans player Tom Letkeman, right, battles for the ball with Newmarket's Clint Glass during York Region playoff action Friday. Karem Amer, 50, looks on. Newmarket won the game 63-55.

SDSS Senior cagers drop playoff opener

Close, but no cigar.

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Senior Boys basketball team took a one point lead into the second half of Friday's opening playoff round contest against a strong Newmarket unit, but wound up dropping a 63-55 decision.

The game was being played to determine which team would be given home court advantage for the remaining York Region Double-A playoffs.

The Spartans were forced to play more than half the game without star forward Travis White, who fouled out in the first half, then had a tooth knocked out when he crashed

face first to the floor in the third quarter.

Power forward Kevin Harmer led the SDSS attack with 20 points.

Karem Amer hooped 15 points, while Tom Letkeman was a defensive bulwark with 13 rebounds to go with his 5 points.

The Spartans led 28-27 at the half, but were unable to contain Newmarket's leading scorer in the third and fourth quarter, as the power forward proceeded to put the cap on a 34-point performance.

The SDSS cagers will try to get their regional title hopes back on track Thursday, against an opponent that had yet to be determined at press time.

Stouffville volleyball squads get ready for playoff series

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

It's the moment of truth for the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Junior and Senior Spartans girls volleyball teams.

Both squads contested their respective York Region North Division finals Tuesday at Sutton High (see Weekender for results), with the regional championships to be held Thursday in an all-day tournament in the SDSS gym.

While the Senior Spartans are completing a mediocre campaign, Sheila Coleman's Juniors are primed and ready to go into post season play.

The Juniors placed first in their division, and have shown signs of brilliance throughout the season, according to their coach.

"I'm really excited about this team," said Coleman. "They are such a cohesive unit. They are going to be a power house."

The Juniors completed their regular schedule last Monday by taking two of three games against Williams, then dropping two straight to Sacred Heart.

Both opponents are rated Triple-A, while the Spartans are only Double-A, Coleman points out. "Sacred Heart are in first place in their league, so we were a little out of our depth."

The Spartans will see only Double-A unit in the playoffs.

Coleman is counting on big efforts from her mainstays. "We

need to have Carrie Swain and Leslie Palmer hitting in the middle, and we'll be relying on the power serves and back court hustle of Michelle Hofstee and Julie Coleman (no relation). Kelly Sheridan will play a key role too."

Midget Spartans beaten

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Midget Spartan basketball team were at the receiving end of a one-sided loss, and a narrow defeat, in last Wednesday's cage doubleheader.

The SDSS crew was doubled up 48-24 by Holy Cross in their first effort.

Mike Luce had 13 points to lead the Spartans' offence, with Mike Knapp contributing 8 points.

The Stouffville squad then dropped a 44-40 decision to Thornhill.

Steve Emes hooped 15 points for SDSS, while Rob Jones added 8 points. Jermain Franklin and Jesse Smith chipped in with 4 points each, with Smith's being his first points of the season.

Midget volleyballers win York North championship

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans Midget girls volleyball team came up with their best effort of the year Thursday, capturing the York Region North championship in an all day tournament played at the SDSS gym.

The Spartans registered a convincing double victory over Dennison in the final, sweeping the set 15-10, 15-7. The Stouffville squad had registered a 17-16, 15-1 win over the same foe earlier in the competition.

SDSS took a pair of games from Cardinal Carter, as well as Dennison, then split with Newmarket and Sutton, before beating Sutton two straight in the semifinals.

After the clincher against Dennison, Spartans' coach Christine Milton had nothing but praise for her charges. "The girls showed poise I hadn't seen before. They've never put it all together like this."

Milton singled out Julie Sanford for her superb hitting, spiking, and bumping while noting the consistent setting of Stacey Patten and Tanya Couperthwaite.

She also acknowledged the work of Christine Jackson and Natasha Armour, whom, she said, "played a thinking game."

Milton says that while the Midgets played well Thursday, they will need to be even better in tomorrow's regional championships at Sutton.

Nicastro's scores hat trick to lead Kings to SIHL victory

Naz Nicastro notched a hat trick, and Doug Feasby and Paul Barry each added a pair as the Williamson Kings downed the Dave Blow Insurance Whalers 9-6 last Tuesday in Stouffville Intermediate Hockey League action.

Aaron McWilliams and Lorne Potter also scored for the win-

ners, while Rob Parcels and Brent Downs, each with two, Jamie Dunbar and Marty Ellis scored for the Whalers.

In other action, Mike Feasby and Barry Greenshields scored two goals each to lead Boyd's Sports to a 7-2 win over the Kellington Capitals.