

Stouffville

Sports

Program builds confidence of participants

Stouffville karate club earns honors

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

They sit cross legged in even rows on the hardwood floor of Stouffville's Masonic Hall, heads bowed and looking every bit like a religious order deep in spiritual meditation.

They spring to their feet as one, and within moments begin striking poses that see arms and legs extended, then pulled in, as their bodies turn and spin with graceful exertion.

At the head of the class, Stouffville's first degree black belt Karate-Kung Fu instructor Bill Bouwmeister and his assistants demonstrate their craft to this group of 40 or so youths ranging in age from six to 18.

Bouwmeister, who admits he is not a hard-nosed karate school, said the program aims to teach his total of 80 kids and adults the art of self-defence through controlled discipline.

Those who come out Tuesday and Thursday nights show enthusiasm, and are given the opportunity to excel at an activity that combines sport and the development of mind and body.

And, according to Bouwmeister, very few lose interest and quit.

"Ours is an easy approach," he said. "We teach discipline, and we teach them to fight so that they won't have to fight. The students at the one-and-a-half year old school range from six year olds like Stouffville's Justin Felschow, who signed up at age four because there was nothing else for him to join, right through Uxbridge's Rodney DeCaires, a teen with only three per cent of his vision because of his being born with cataracts.

George Garbutt, whose son Philip decided to join up so he could learn along with his cousin Dan Holden, has been delighted with the results.

"It has built up his confidence in himself so he can achieve



Photo/ANDRE WOLBERT

Marcus Milos gets a foot in the face from Dan Holden during a practice session of the Karate-Kung-Fu club which meets in the Stouffville Masonic Hall. Bill Bouwmeister teaches some 80 youngsters and adults the finer points of self defence.

something. It has helped him at school, and in everything else."

Rosanne Felschow, mother of blue belt Justin, says her son became interested after seeing the video The Karate Kid.

"He is a mature six year old," said Felschow. "Karate has taught him a lot about respect."

For the sight-impaired DeCaires, karate has been a means of proving he can still succeed despite his limited eyesight, said Bouwmeister. "All of a sudden, he feels like he's accomplishing something."

"I took karate for two years while I was at the school for the blind in Brantford," said DeCaires. "So it's all coming back to me now. I've learned something because of taking karate."

Bouwmeister attempts to expose his students to as much competition as possible, and enters them in numerous tournaments.

He boasts no less than 30 top four finishers in the annual Montreal Regional event March 4, which was contested by Canadians and Americans alike.

Justin Felschow took two first place prizes at the tourney, with golds also going to Stouffville-Uxbridge students Jonathan Hermanson, Jason Scuse, Ryan Gray, Kris Kobold, Jerry Visco, and Lisa Circosta.

Second place finishers at the Montreal competition included Hermanson, Scuse, Garbutt, Rob Keays, Art Matthews, Circosta, and Alex Frith.

Twenty-two of Bouwmeister's

students will attempt either their yellow or orange belts this week, with DeCaires among them.

Dan Holden and Marcus Milos will be presented with their blue belts, the fifth step towards the coveted black.

The program runs the year round, with students signing up three months at a time.

And while instructor Bouwmeister stresses that his is a recreational approach, he concludes there is definitely a practical side to it as well, in light of the stories dealing with street violence seen on television every day.

"The students end up prepared in case of a street attack involving knives or worse. I'd like to see them all become black belts, but that's impossible of course."

Feasby nets pair to pace Kings to win

There were no upsets as the Stouffville Intermediate Hockey League (SIHL) playoffs got underway last Tuesday at the Recreation Centre.

Doug Feasby fired a pair of goals and Lorne Potter, Naz Nicastro, Tom Lehman and Olaf Rabi added singles as the first-place Williamson Kings defeated the last-place A&S Construction Red Wings to get the SIHL playoffs rolling.

Kevin McGuckin with two goals, and Mark Barbara scored for the Wings.

In other playoff action, second-place Boyd's Sports dumped fifth-place Dave Blow Insurance Whalers 4-2. Mike Feasby, Barry Greenshields, Scott Sutherland, and Shawn Leonard scored for the winners, while Pat Duncalf and Brent Brown replied for the Whalers.

Also, Bryan Todd had a pair of goals, to go with solos by Bruce Rugelis, Peter Sinclair, and Mark Savery to power the third-place Consortium Group Rangers past the fourth-place Kellington Capitals 5-4.

Pete Fitzpatrick, Scott Harper, Rick Hay and Paul Hardy scored for the Capitals.

With the regular season now over, Doug Feasby ended up earning top scorer honors for the year. He notched 32 goals and 35 assists for 67 points. Second spot went to Bruce Rugelis, with 35 goals and 31 assists for 66 points, while Ted Waite with 29 goals and 26 assists for 55 points was third. Mike Feasby and Naz Nicastro were both tied with 51 points.

Top goalie for the SIHL regular season was the Kings John Carrick, who allowed only 92 goals. Second spot went to Brad Hogg, allowing 94 and Greg Glen was third, allowing 118.

Girls squads reach finals

Laura Winterstein scored four goals Sunday evening to pace George Ross Photo to a 4-3 win over MPH Earthmoving in Whitchurch-Stouffville Junior Girls House League hockey semifinal action at the Recreation Centre.

MPH twice came from behind to tie the exciting contest, with Julie Comito, Kirsten Fraser and Kathy Tait scoring.

But Winterstein's fourth tally late in the third period enabled George Ross to advance to the league championships on Apr. 8.

In the other playoff encounter Sunday, Patricia Davies earned the shutout as Stouffville Bowling rolled over Lindy's Flowers 6-0.

Linemates Jennifer Williams and Stephanie Summerhill were responsible for much of the offence. Williams had a hat trick and an assist, while Summerhill had two goals and three assists.

Stouffville Bowling and George Ross will meet for the league title, while the other two squads face off for the consolation crown.

Oldtimers reunion promises to be full of hockey memories

Jim Thomas, before taking over as editor of this newspaper back in 1962, had spent the previous decade and a half covering the Tribune sports beat with Foster Hewitt-like dedication and intensity.

One only has to flip through old issues, carefully preserved on microfiche at the library, to get caught up in Thomas' "you are there" approach.

He'd report the fortunes of the old Stouffville Red Wings and Clippers and the Markham Millionaires, along with baseball teams like the Stouffville Cardinals, whose 1958 road to All-Ontario glory was chronicled by Thomas in the same way. World War Two correspondents followed the Allies victorious march into Germany.

Today, he recalls the golden age of sport in Stouffville as if it were yesterday. Thomas is acting as chairman of the committee which is busy planning the fourth annual Markham-Stouffville Oldtimers Hockey Association Reunion, to be held at the Recreation



Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

Centre Lounge May 11.

The function will bring together just under 200 people representing the players, organizers, and the faithful fans from the 1940s, '50s and '60s era of hockey in this area — back in the days when a playoff game between Markham and Stouffville pucksters would empty every house in both towns. Standing room only was the rule back then, and names like Bob and Nick Bangay, Polly Minton, Bud Watson, and George Stark were banded about in every household.

This year, rather than have a guest speaker, the reunion is calling on 10

people to stand up and give brief anecdotes of the notable events of yesteryear, either of comical or serious in nature.

Guests of honor will include Stouffville's super fan, Jimmy Clarke, and of course, Mayor Fran Sainsbury, who, according to those in the know, has an unproven back hand shot.

Three builders, along with a trio of players, will be given special recognition, although the names of these individuals are being kept under wraps by the committee.

Recognition will also be paid members of the old Peach's Hockey Team, which played in the Toronto Hockey League, as well as local community loops, back in the '50s and '60s.

Joan Lewis, wife of Recreation Centre arena manager Joe, will be applying her decorator's touch to the Rec Centre Lounge, adorning the walls in the old team colors and providing a fitting ambience.

And, of course, Bill Hood, the hock-

ey oldtimer who sits on the Board of Directors of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital, will be presented with a cheque for \$500 from the Oldtimers' Association. That makes it \$2,000 in all that has now been donated to the Ninth Line facility by the hockey oldsters.

As for Jim Thomas, he becomes as excited as a little kid just thinking about the event. Many of his one time heroes will be there, and he, like the former ice wizards, will be knee deep in memories.

Apparently, there are still tickets available for the function, and the committee stresses that the dinner do is open to fans and hangers on, as well as the players and builders themselves. April 1 is the deadline for purchasing a ticket, which is going for a mere \$15.

And don't worry. Despite the intensity of the rivalry that once existed between the teams from the two towns, Thomas assures me the rifts have all vanished, and the scores are completely healed.