

SPORTS



Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

A helping hand

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) teacher Scott Croucher, standing, gets some help with his equipment during Tuesday's annual hockey game between the school's Teacher Terrors team and the students Grade 13 All-Stars at the Recreation Centre. The contest was a fast-paced and hard hitting affair, but in the end youth won out over experience and the students skated away with a solid 3-1 victory.

Students top Teacher Terrors in annual SDSS hockey game

The young legs won out in the end as the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Grade 13 All-Stars tamed the Teacher Terrors 3-1 in the school's annual fun hockey game at the Recreation Centre Tuesday afternoon.

Craig Brethour gave the Terrors an early 1-0 lead, with Jim "Flash" Fletcher and Howie "Meeker" Burkholder drawing assists.

The lead held until the Grade-13's found the secret to solving Jeff Willis, the import goalie tending the Terrors net.

Jay Piden scored for the students with two-and-a-half minutes left in the game to tie the score, and then the floodgates opened.

Todd Balacz followed with the winner goal, and then Scott McKinley put the puck into the empty net with just one second remaining on the clock.

The game was fast-paced and hard hitting, with the Terrors Dave Connell, the school's phys ed head, being levelled by what sources called the best hit of the game.

Thornhill nets seven in girls hockey action

Nicki Thornhill was all set to change her last name to "King of the Hill" after hitting for a touch down as her Stouffville Bowling team beat The Kinsmen 8-2 in Stouffville Junior Girls House League hockey action Sunday.

Samantha Comito backed up Thornhill's seven-goal outburst with a solo marker, while Kristi Ingram, who was playing as a substitute, fired both Kinsmen scores.

Ingram then went on to net a quartet of goals in her MPH Earth-moving squad's 8-1 victory over George Ross Photo.

Kelly Cornell clicked twice for

the winners, while Tavannah Herman had a single. Elyse Johnson recorded her first score of the season for MPH.

Deanne Hibbert responded for George Ross.

The girls house league games scheduled for Sunday, January 13 have been rescheduled to Friday, Jan. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in order to accommodate a minor hockey tournament being played at the Recreation Centre that weekend.

The 7 p.m. game will see George Ross versus Stouffville bowling, with MPH and the Kinsmen facing off at 8 p.m.

Stouffville Atoms edge Uxbridge 2-1

The Stouffville SDL/Ricoh Atom Clippers scored twice in the first period, then hung on to claim a 2-1 win over the Uxbridge Bellamy Chiropractic Bruins Dec. 17 at the Recreation Centre in Stouffville.

Mark Meyer opened the scoring, from Shaun Caramanico, in the game's first minute.

Chris McDonald made it 2-0 for Stouffville on a set up by Matie Eagen. Marty McClorey notched the lone Uxbridge marker in the second period. Caramanico shone on defence for the Clippers, preventing several Uxbridge breakaways.

The Bruins also came up with an impressive defensive effort in what was a tightly played game.

Holiday skating hours

The following are the hours for public skating at the Stouffville Recreation Centre over the remainder of the Christmas Holidays.

Today, Boxing Day, the arena is open to the public for skating between the hours of 3-5 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 29 the rink is

open from 7-8 p.m.. On Sunday Dec. 30, the hours are 2-4 p.m..

On Monday, Dec. 31 the hours are 1-3 p.m.. The arena will be closed New Year's Day but is open Jan. 2 from 1-3 p.m..

The Recreation Centre will also be open on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 3 and 4 from 1-3 p.m..

Laughter best medicine for Smurthwaite

If it's true that nice guys finish last, then that may go a long ways towards explaining why one of the more gentlemanly, enjoyable players in the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League finds himself facing the prospect of spending the Christmas Holidays in St. Michael's Hospital, awaiting the results of an angiogram.

Ken Smurthwaite is the last person you would ever think would suffer a heart attack, given the commonly accepted notion that this kind of affliction is brought on by a lifestyle characterized by uptightness and stress.

Ken is so laid back, so given to that easy joviality often displayed by old time farmers, that one would think you were surely talking about someone else if you tried to tell them the miniscule heart attack Ken suffered last Sunday was his second in a



bruce stapley

sports notes

year.

Now it must be remembered the operative word here is "miniscule"; the word Ken's son Doug used to describe his dad's heart attack when we talked the other day.

At that time, all that was known was that Ken had experienced pain in his chest while playing for his self-sponsored Smurthwaite Heating Bruins team Sunday morning at the Recreation Centre.

He left the ice, and was taken down to Markham-Stouffville Hospital, just as he had done when the same thing happened to

him early last spring.

The heart attack itself didn't actually occur until after he had checked into the hospital, according to Doug.

Now the last time Ken's ticker pulled a stunt like this, he simply went on with life, counting the whole thing as a once in a blue moon misfire, likely to never occur again.

He did everything the doctor told him to do, said Doug, eating properly, taking regular walks, and working out on his stationary bicycle.

But this time the doctors are pulling out all stops in an effort

to get to the bottom of what's going on. Ken was to be transferred to St. Mike's in Toronto to undergo an angiogram.

Doug said they want to discover if there is a blocked artery or any other irregularity that could have caused this double flutter.

Doug said his dad is quite comfortable, but that he's certainly not thrilled at staying in hospital through New Year's which is a possibility.

However, Ken and his family are willing to accept the trade-off of the holidays at home for future certainty. Even Ken's sense of humor has its limitations, and the good man doesn't need this kind of thing hanging over his head.

In the meantime, Doug said the heating company, of which he is an employee, is geared to handle the boss's down time without a whole lot of inconvenience.

The boys always close up shop around Christmas, said Doug, getting back to the business of installing furnaces and the like after the New Year. So in that sense, Ken's timing wasn't so bad.

And if any of those nurses at the hospital are going around the place feeling sorry for themselves because they have to work the holiday, Ken is just the guy to cheer them up and set them to enjoying a good laugh.

In fact, Ken will probably be challenging them all to foot races just like he did when he was laid up last spring.

So keep the mirth coming, Ken. I'm sure that you, more than anyone else, don't have to be reminded that laughter is the best medicine.

And we hope to see you back on the ice before too long. After all, you want to get your sponsor's money's worth, don't you?