

Sports

Briefs

Uxbridge

Goalies flawless

Jeff Wilson was flawless in net for the Bellamy Chiropractic Atom Twos in their Tri-County playoff contest with Beaverton recently at the Uxbridge Arena.

But the Beaverton netminder was also unbeatable as the two teams skated to a scoreless draw.

It was the ninth game of the 12-game, seven-team, post season round robin for the Uxbridge squad, with all games being settled by one goal, or ending up tied.

The Bellamy bunch have 12 points out of a possible 18 in the nine matches.

Uxbridge will conclude the set with a game against Manvers this Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Uxbridge Arena, followed by a make up match in Manvers Friday, and a home encounter with Millbrook Saturday at 7 p.m.

The top two teams will then go on to contest the league championship, with the third and fourth placing crews playing for the consolation title.

Stouffville



DAVID MARKLE Devils Elbow Championship Second in ski race

A 12-year-old Stouffville area youth claimed second place in the 11-13 year championship race at Devil's Elbow Ski Resort March 3.

David Markle, a Grade 7 student at Whitchurch Highlands Public School, also placed second overall in the season's race schedule which wound up the same weekend.

Markle had taken second spot at the Bethany area resort's 11-13 year House League Championship race Feb. 23.

Chefero Classics No. 2

The Chefero Sand and Gravel Classics Oldtimers Hockey Team locked up second spot in the Art Thompson League with a 5-1 win over Rumors Roadhouse last week.

Doug Gornall had a goal and a pair of assists to back the solid performance of Classics goaltender Dave Miller.

Bill Hermanson, Wayne Jackson, Kim Kavluk and George Sled netted the other Classics scores.

Dave Farlow and Bob Leger each earned two assists for the winners.

With one game remaining in the regular schedule, the Stouffville oldtimers boast a record of 15 wins, three losses, and two ties.

Bruins down to wire

BRIAN SNELGROVE
Correspondent

The race for the Ontario Central Junior-C hockey crown will go right down to the wire.

The Uxbridge Bruins, losing Wednesday night for the third time in double overtime to the pesky Bowmanville Eagles, had a chance to win it all in home ice last night.

Instead the series was tied at three games a piece in the best-of-seven final as the teams headed into the deciding game.

"It just wasn't in the cards," said Bruin coach Jim McDowall after a heart-breaking 9-8 loss to the Eagles on Wednesday. "It seems that no matter what happened we were destined to lose that game."

The Bruins had ample opportunities to put the Eagles away, and save themselves a winner-take-all seventh game nail-biter.

Bowmanville fought back from a 6-4 deficit heading into the third period and scored the tying goal with less than a minute remaining.

Again, in the first overtime period, the Bruins were denied victory when the Eagles scored with 30 seconds to play.

"We hit the post with 15 seconds left in the first overtime," said McDowall. "It's just been a screwy



Uxbridge goalie Brian Harden (far right) eggs on teammate Derek Welsh as a Bowmanville fighter is held back by officials during a Uxbridge/Bowmanville playoff game last week.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

kind of series."

Home ice advantage should give the Bruins a big lift for the final game.

It's been a home and home series throughout as each team has won their three home games.

"The players aren't too happy after Wednesday," said McDowall. "They know they should have

wrapped it up in Bowmanville. It will be a real intestinal fortitude check on Friday night, but it's great to be playing it at home."

Despite the high-scoring contest, McDowall couldn't fault the goal-tending or defensive play of either side. "When you score eight goals in a playoff game you should win," he said. "But that's the kind of

wide open hockey that happens sometimes in the playoffs. It was certainly no fault of the goalie's."

The Bruins are hoping that whatever happens going into last night's game, they score just one more goal than the Eagles.

"It's been a funny kind of series," said McDowall. "I just hope we wrap it up on Friday."

Phys ed head happy with his lot in life

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

If success can be measured by the sheer numbers of students and teachers involved in the various athletic activities in a high school, then Dave Connell can rest on his laurels.

The boyish looking physical education veteran teacher has held the post of phys ed head at Stouffville District School since the late 1970s.

And while he would be the first to admit he hasn't done it all on his own, Connell speaks with obvious pride of the positive attitude towards things athletic that has developed through the years at his school.

Connell has coached, assisted, and taught pretty well every student who has passed through SDSS since his arrival. He has always managed to attract interest from the students despite a facilities checklist which falls short of most secondary schools in York Region.

But through the resourceful use of everything from the local bowling alley through the town ice surface just west of the school, Connell has been able to choreograph an overall program suited to both recreational athletics and highly competitive pursuits.

With the advent of the common one-hour lunch period, which came to SDSS six years ago, Connell and his associates have put together what has come to be seen as the jewel of the school's athletics approach.



Dave Connell has coached, assisted and taught pretty well every student who has passed through Stouffville high school.

Students and teachers alike are divided into teams which compete at softball, ice hockey, badminton, volleyball and floor hockey.

Most of the games are played during the lunch hour, although the ice hockey is played before school begins in the morning.

"The teachers like the lunch time leagues as much as the students," Connell insists, saying that it allows the two sides of the teaching equation to spend some common time in a positive recreational activity.

"And the floor hockey can get rather animated," he adds smiling.

Connell maintains that he and his staff attempt to balance pure skill with effort, participation, and attitude, both in physical education classes, and extracurricular activities.

He has developed a co-ed philosophy at the school which sees boys and girls together for gymnastics, badminton, volleyball, square dancing lessons, and drug and alcohol programs.

And he tries to stress the concept of versatility, encouraging students to develop their abilities in as many different sports as possible.

"We like to think that our kids could be jacks of all trades. We offer a variety of intra-school sports."

Connell also credits his staff for the school's many successes in inter-school events throughout the years. "We have some dedicated coaches like Jim Fletcher and Sheila Coleman who coach two sports," says Connell.

"Then there are those like Al Piette, Rusty Hick, Bill McKnight, and Doug McCammon who coach teams even though they are not phys ed teachers."

Connell thinks the enthusiasm of his coaches has rubbed off on the players through the years.

"The veteran coaches have brought enthusiasm and experience with them. That tends to bring the other coaches up."

They all give up a lot of their time to work with their players, and they get out there and play with the kids. That really helps."

The lack of facilities has never been used as an excuse for failing to initiate programs, or for falling short in inter-school competition, insists Connell.

"I often tell the kids it's not the building, but the kids in the building, that decide how good they are going to be."

He is excited about what the new Track and Field Complex will add to the school's lineup of athletic possibilities.

"Thanks to Ged Stonehouse and his group, we're going to have a whole new outdoor classroom, with the track, the tennis courts, etc. It's going to increase the quality of our inter-school track and field program."

As for Connell's future, he says he's perfectly happy at what he does, and with 10 years to go before retirement, he'll be staying put.

"This, I suppose you could say, is my niche in life."