

Sports

Minor Atom Clippers take series lead

The Choko Minor Atom Clippers stood poised to clinch their playoff series with Owen Sound after taking two of the first three games in the best-of-five set last weekend.

Goals by Tyler Markle and Jesse Wood gave the Stouffville outfit a 2-1 win in the opener at the rec centre Friday night. Shawn Barton set up both markers, with Wood poking in a Barton rebound for the game winner in the third period.

Clipper goaltender Brad Miller held an Owen Sound charge to help preserve the victory.

The Clippers fell victim to the long drive to Owen Sound Saturday, never getting untracked as they fell 6-1. Tyler Armstrong, from Jeremy Heyworth and Richard Cho, counted the lone Clipper goal.

But Miller was perfect Sunday, providing shut out netminding as the Clippers triumphed 2-0. Barton and Cho looked after the Stouffville scoring, with assists from Wood and Joseph Lombardo.

The Clippers were looking to wrap up the series at the rec centre last night.

Pee Wee tourney in Uxbridge today

It will be Pee Wee power at the Uxbridge Arena today as that town's two Pee Wee rep teams host their own tournaments.

The Brandon Ford/Allright Roofing Pee Wee IIs were to kick off the two tiered competition with a game against the Oshawa Canadians at 7:30 this morning.

The other two squads in the Pee Wee II flight, Pickering and the Oshawa Red Wings, faced off at 8:30 a.m.

The Tiers I/DA Pee Wee Is were to face King City at 9:30 a.m. with the remaining Pee Wee I outfits, the Markham-Stouffville Credit Union Pee Wee Clippers and Port Perry, going to it at 10:30 a.m.

The remaining games will be decided by the results of the opening matches.

Both tourneys wrap up this afternoon.

Bowler of the Week

Aaron Ringwood was 112 points over average on his way to a 691 triple in Monday Night Men's League play last week.

Ringwood's big night, which included singles of 242, 229, and 220 earned him the Stouffville 5 Pin Bowlers Association Bowler of the Week award.

Bruins' season ends

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The good news is that Uxbridge Bruins coach Jim McDowall will have lots of time to get ready for the upcoming golf season.

The bad news is that the Uxbridge Bruins were downed twice this week by the Little Britain Merchants to fall four games to one in their first round Central Ontario Hockey League playoff series.

"I guess the golf season is going to start real early this season," McDowall said, trying to mask his disappointment after his club suffered a 7-1 home ice drubbing Tuesday, followed by a 6-1 defeat in the Scugog town Wednesday.

The Uxbridge squad deserved a better fate in Tuesday's contest at the Uxbridge Arena. The Bruins took a 1-0 lead on an early goal by Chris Winn, only to have the Merchants square things, then go ahead with a power play marker with just six seconds left in the first period.

The Bruins buzzed the Little Britain net in the second half of the middle stanza, breaking in alone several times on the Little Britain net.

But they couldn't beat Merchants' goalie Kevin Petronski.

Once again, the Merchants connected late in the period, breaking the Bruins backs with another power play goal with 19 seconds left.

In the third period, it was all Little Britain, as the Merchants scored times in the

first 10 minutes to turn the contest into a rout.

The lone bright spot of the night for the Bruins was when Greg Ferraro was presented with the Central League's Rookie of the Year trophy before the start of the game.

Ferraro, who had been sidelined three weeks with a broken foot, was given permission by this doctor to play in the match, and had several good scoring opportunities from close in.

The game threatened to turn into a donnybrook in the closing minutes. The final buzzer found Uxbridge's forward John Ashley squaring off with the Merchants Kevin Francis in a fracas which had been brewing since Francis was jostled in front of the Bruins net five minutes before the game ended.

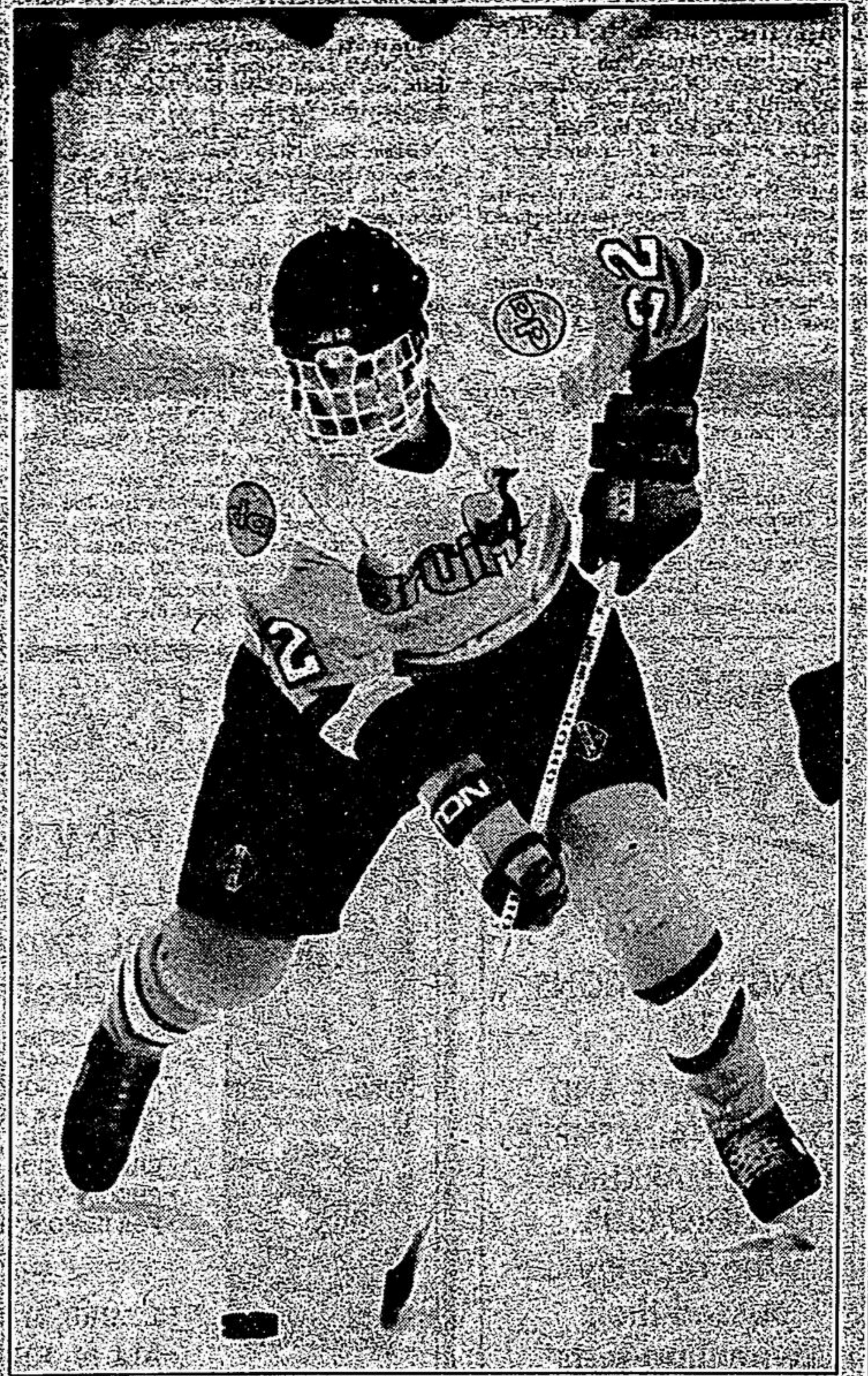
The Bruins Jamie Showers had to be restrained by the game officials from engaging another Merchant in fistcuffs.

But any fears that the bad feelings would carry over into Wednesday's game were quickly dispelled, as the teams stuck to hockey.

"We went out with class," acknowledged Bruins coach Jim McDowall.

The Bruins also went silently, with Greg Cook's marker putting the lid on the disappointing season.

McDowall was almost relieved it was all over. "It's been a learning experience," he allowed. "I could never figure these guys out. One night they'd play so well, then the next night you'd wonder what



PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Bruins' Greg Ferraro, chosen Central Ontario League rookie of the year, handles the puck during a game with Port Perry Wednesday. It was the last game of the season for the team.

happened to the team you had seen the game before."

The coach concluded by saying he was confident things would turn around next sea-

son. "I'm sure we'll be back in it next fall. And we've got a lot of time to recruit new players."

Bantam Clippers get a hold on playoff series

Defencemen Geoff Smith and Jason Reesor each collected four goals to power the Edwards Murphy Painting Bantam Clippers to a pair of lopsided victories in the first two games of their playoff series with Kingston last weekend.

The Stouffville squad started the set off by registering a 6-2 win in Saturday's road contest, before returning home to blank the Lake Ontario crew 7-0 at the rec centre Sunday.

The Clippers took advantage of Kingston's penalty-prone position, counting a trio of power play markers in each match p.

Joseph Van Gelder earned

the shut out Sunday, with Brad Hackert performing adeptly in the Clippers net in Saturday's encounter.

Ryan Burkholder was good for a pair of goals and five set ups, David Gianoulos a goal and two assists, John McKinnon a goal, Chris Leonard a pair of assists, and Graham Crowder and Steve Wilcox each chipped in with an assist.

The Clippers were out to try to clinch the best of five series at the rec centre last night.

If a fourth game is needed, it will be played in Kingston Saturday, with the fifth game set for 7 p.m. Sunday in Stouffville if required.

Howard S. Lee Novice Clippers win, lose, tie in exhibition

It was a win, a loss and a tie for the Howard S. Lee Realtor Minor Novice Clippers in exhibition action recently.

The Clippers scored three times in the second period to earn a 4-1 victory over the visitors from East Gwillim-

bury.

Fraser Smith clicked twice, with Jean Francois Bourqui and Jeremy Guest scoring as well.

Brandon Tardella, Smith, Bourqui and Jason McDonald had assists.

Pee Wee Clippers sweep playoff series with Ajax

It was a long time coming, but the Markham-Stouffville Credit Union Pee Wee Clippers made it well worth the wait.

The Stouffville pucksters, who were forced to wait two weeks for their first round playoff opponent to be determined, quickly disposed of the Ajax crew; they were eventually matched up with.

Tim Smart's two goals enabled the Clippers to edge Ajax 2-1 Sunday, giving the Credit Union crew a three-game sweep of the best of five series.

Andrew Hutchison assisted on both tallies, and Evan Boyd and Jason Brown were solid in goal for the Clippers. Matt Turner also turned in an assist.

The Stouffville squad started

off the set with a 4-2 victory, with Grahame Smith returning from a shoulder injury to score twice to pace the win.

Scott Assinck and Dan Tardella had the other Stouffville goals, with assists going to Kyle Osborne (3), Tardella, Jeff Hassard and Assinck.

In game two, the Clippers dominated again, skating away with a 5-2 victory.

Smart and Turner each lit the lamp twice, with Osborne counting the fifth Clipper marker.

Assinck, Adam Crowder, Hassard and Smart had set ups.

The Clippers hope to begin their next playoff series this weekend with a team from the Kingston area.

Dylon Harrison scored from Scott McDougall and Tardella to give the Lee outfit a 1-1 tie with Bolton.

But the Clippers surrendered a last minute goal to Uxbridge to end up on the short end of a 3-2 score.

The Novice Clippers had scored twice early in the third period to square the game at two goals apiece, with Andrew Lombardo and Bourqui finding the range.

McDonald assisted on both Clipper goals.