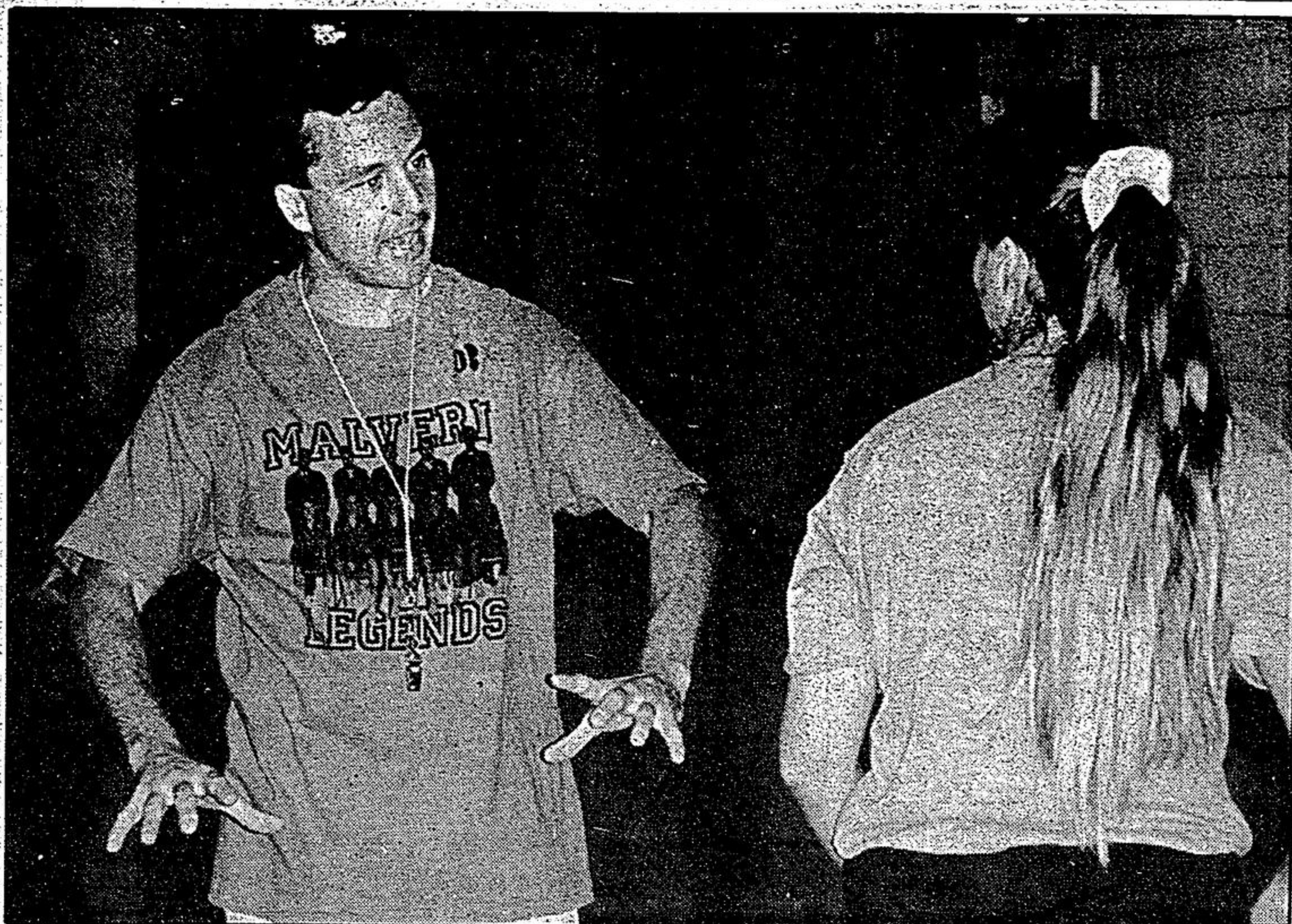


# Sports



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

Teaching is not confined to lessons learned in the classroom, says Stouffville District Secondary School teacher-coach Rusty Hick (left).

At a recent midget girls' basketball practice, he explains some of the finer points of the game to one of his players.

## Hick teaches valuable lessons in and out of the school classroom

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

At a recent morning practice, the coach finished up by simulating a last-minute, tie game situation with his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans midget girls' basketball team.

One player was given the ball at the foul line, and the squad was told that if the player sunk the shot, they could all go off and have a nice day.

If she failed, everyone would have to do three pushups.

The shooter sank the shot, the girls let out a collective cheer, then ran off to get ready for class.

Rusty Hick had succeeded in teaching his team yet another valuable lesson on the virtues of team work.

For Hick, in his fourth year as a teacher-coach at the Stouffville school, his success speaks for itself.

His midget girls' Spartan outfit captured the York Region title two years ago, while his junior boys' crew has reached the regional finals the past two seasons.

All this in a school with a smaller student body than most schools.

But there's a lot more to it than finishing first, he insists.

"I think winning is important, but you can lose on the scoreboard and still win," Hick said during a recent interview.

For Hick, who has taken on the extra assignment of vice chair for boys sports with OFSAA (Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association) this year, participation in high school sports is a positive part of a teen's development.

"People criticize the school system and say that nothing the kids are learning today is going to be relevant 10 years from now. But one survey I saw recently said the best indication of success later on in life is an involvement in extra-curricular activities in high school."

Hick's own high school sports experiences included being a part of the Malvern C.I. football

team that won a city B championship.

It was while playing high school football that he received his grounding in the essence of coaching.

"I learned team work, discipline, time management, setting goals, and respect for others. There are so many guys on a football team, and each one has his place. The term bonding may be an overworked term today, but you're very close on a team. It's a positive experience all around."

Coaching is a source of enjoyment for Hick, an added bonus to the teaching career he cherishes.

"There's a selfish aspect to it, because I love to coach. I love being out there with the kids, and I like being in the classroom too. This is what I was cut out to do."

Hick doesn't feel all teachers should feel compelled to put in the hours he does.

"Coaching involves a big time commitment. We run three or four practices a week, and there are one or two games a week, plus tournaments. But for me, coaching is part of the job. I don't have kids of my own, and that makes a difference."

Hick's own commitment goes far beyond running practices and accompanying his team to games.

When his junior boys' Spartans basketball team was playing in a tournament in Woodbridge on a Saturday three years ago, he drove all the way to Buffalo to retrieve three of his players who were playing in a weekend-long hockey tournament in that town. A parent then drove the trio back to Buffalo.

Hick felt it was as much a tribute to the parents and the kids as to himself.

"That said something about the commitment of the kids and the community," he said.

While he enjoys the motivational and competitive aspects of coaching, Hick said there are rewards to be gained by simply being a part of the teen scene.

"There are a lot of fun things that happen, it's a good laugh. It's generally just a good feeling to be with the kids."

## Bruins' roster loaded with local talent

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

With their season opener just over two weeks away, the Uxbridge Bruins would appear to have succeeded in their goal to localize the player roster.

Of the 26 players remaining in camp after two weekend practices, roughly half are residents of the Uxbridge and Stouffville areas.

The Bruins management promised to do everything possible to up the percentage of local boys on the Junior C squad after that ratio was allowed to drop last season.

Bruins coach Mike Morrison had his goaltending situation made a little more complicated when Jeff Reid showed up at training camp over the weekend. Reid, who shared the Bruins goaltending duties with Brian Harnden last season, leaves the team with four netminders.

"It was a pleasant surprise," said Morrison, who must now rethink who to keep out of Reid, Harnden, Jeremy Ranich of Beaverton, and Shawn Wilson of Stouffville.

Morrison, whose team trounced Schomberg 13-6 in the first exhibition game of the preseason Sept. 12, said he plans to go into the Oct. 8 season opener with a slightly short lineup so that he can fill in with players who become available after Junior A and B teams have made their final cuts.

"We're going to go a little lean at first," said Morrison.

"We're an adequate team now, but I think we're about three or four players away from being a good team."

The Bruins, who drew 250 fans for the Schomberg game, take on their long time rivals, the Port Perry Mojacks, in a home and home set this weekend. The teams face off in Uxbridge Friday night at 8:30 p.m., then go to it in Port Perry on Sunday evening.

In other Central Ontario Hockey League news, the Lakefield Chiefs have been saved from extinction. The Chiefs, who were to have folded in August, have been given a new life thanks to the infusion of fresh cash and some new backers, according to Bruins president Ivan Martin.

"We're pleased because the schedule had already been made up," said Martin. "Now everything's back in order."

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It's good news and bad news for Aaron Morrison, the son of the Bruins' coach. The younger Morrison succeeded in his attempts to catch on with the Junior B Newmarket 87's this season. Morrison signed with the club, but will be sidelined several weeks after separating cartilage in his ribs in an exhibition game three weeks ago.

The 16-year-old left winger played with the Bruins last season, scoring 10 goals and earning six assists.

## Spartan seniors served with a loss

The defending York Region and Durham-York (DYSSAA) champion Stouffville Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans senior boys' volleyball team began its season with a tough loss to Sutton D.H.S. in the season opening set played Tuesday at the Lake Simcoe school.

The Spartans fell 15-12, 15-13, after winning by a 15-8 count. The SDSS junior squad had more success, winning three straight against their Sutton opponents.

The senior Spartans had prepared for the new season by participating in a tournament at Unionville H.S. last Friday. The SDSS outfit finished second in its pool.

Seniors' coach Jim Fletcher said the Sutton crew was going to provide his team with stiff competition this season.

"Sutton looks good, they really want to go to OFSAA (the provincial high school finals)," said Fletcher. "It's going to be a big challenge for us this year. We've only got two players back from last year."

Elsewhere, the SDSS girls' field hockey team started off its season with a solid performance at the Bayview Tournament Tuesday. The veterans blended well with the rookies as the Stouffville girls managed a win and a tie in their four games played against tough competition.