

The Works
—Fitness & Aerobics Centre
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Sports



Stretching it to the limit

Stouffville District Secondary School's Neil Joneja (foreground), lunges out in an attempt to return this shot as teammate Shawn May looks on during boys' doubles action at the YRAA southeast zone senior badminton playdowns at Milliken Mills Secondary School on Wednesday.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Midget Clippers skate away with tourney title

The Bouwmeister midget Clippers closed out the season on a winning note by taking the title at the Markham Midget Spring Tournament over the weekend.

The Stouffville squad went undefeated in four games en route to the championship. They swept their round robin, posting wins of 5-2 over Uxbridge, 9-3 over the Markham Waxers and 3-1 over Markham A Towing.

The first-place Clippers then faced off once again against the Waxers in the playoff final, prevailing 3-2 to take home the tour-

nament title.

Evan Cain and Brett Boyd led the way offensively for the Clippers: Cain had three goals and seven assists, while Boyd scored three times while adding five assists. David Clark contributed three goals and two assists; Cory Turgeon chipped in with two goals and three assists. Kevin Hackert was good for two goals and two assists; Brandon Crossen fired three goals; Matt Turner had two goals and an assist; Andrew Korb, one goal and one assist; Ryan King and Brad Johnston, three assists each; Graham Smith, one goal; Kyle Harrison and Dan Tardella, one assist each.



Tyke selects even playoff series

Kyle Miller scored from Jake Carrick to back up the shutout goalkeeping of Tyler Lorenzen and Justin Gaudet as the Houston Ford Spirit of Stouffville Junior A Hockey Club tyke selects edged East Gwillimbury 1-0 on Sunday.

The win squared the best-of-five North York League playoff semi-final series at two games each.

METAURO, LADUCA EARN TOP PLAYER AWARDS IN WSMHA ATOM PLAYOFFS

Carlo Laduca will lead his Schell Lumber team as they hook up with TD Bank

in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) atom houseleague playoff championship game today at the Rec Centre.

Laduca was the leading scorer in the seven game playoff round with 13 goals and five assists.

The top goalkeeping honors went to Domenic Metauro of Metro Waste, who had a goals against per game average of 2.37, along with a shutout.

Today is also the day for the playoff finals in all other WSMHA houseleague divisions.

Covering greens in offseason is a big risk

SPORT NOTES



bruce stapley

A drive past the John Evelyn Golf Club on the 10th Line just south of Stouffville the other week afforded me a first hand look at the types of things golf course superintendents must contend with in their efforts to put their best foot forward each season.

Dave Wyllie was out there with an assistant stripping a huge sheet of plastic off one of his greens. Gusting winds were adding to the challenge, but eventually the two men succeeded in rolling up the winter cover as I stood by and admired their technique. He then proceeded to fill me in on the reasoning behind what is considered by many in the business to be a controversial piece of strategy for bringing greens through winter successfully.

He said the practice of using greens covers was pioneered by Bob Heron, superintendent of Aurora's Beacon Hall course.

"I always talk to Bob about greens covers," said Dave, who had never used the covers before coming to the Evelyn course three seasons back. "He's had good success with them. But there are guys who say you're crazy to use them."

Ultimately, the decision to use the covers is a little like playing the stock market. If everything breaks your way, you've got it made in the shade.

But on the other hand, it can also backfire.

Luckily for Dave, he's been a winner, at least up to this point. The thinking behind the covers is that they protect the greens from the kind of ice damage that occurs when the snow melts during a January thaw, then freezes up again. Ideally, when the sun finally breaks through the snow and ice again sometime in March, the clear plastic acts as a mini-greenhouse, giving the grass underneath a jump start on the growing season.

"You get instant playing conditions," Dave said as he rolled up a corner of the cover to reveal a lush, deep green bluegrass/bent grass combination.

The downside, he said, is when

you go to all the trouble of putting the covers down at season's end only to have a couple of weeks warm weather in November. "You'd have to take them off or the grass would get lush, making it susceptible to disease. And it's a big job putting those things down."

There's also the gamble you take when covers are removed amid the early spring sun we had this year, only to have the weather turn nasty like it did this past week.

"The grass doesn't know what hit it. But it should be okay as long as the snow and cold weather doesn't last too long."

This winter provided a text book justification for using greens covers, Dave said, with a January thaw followed by another freeze up. In the fall of 1995, however, it began to snow in early November, and the covers couldn't be put down. Like many other courses, the Evelyn course suffered considerable damage during that most horrendous of winters. But the covers still played a part in the recovery of the grass.

"When the snow melted in mid-March, we put the covers down," recalled Dave. "It enabled the damaged grass to nurture itself back when the sun started shining on it, and we were able to germinate some seed underneath the covers."

Dave said even the American Golf Course Superintendents Association, of which he is a member, is undecided on the issue of greens covers.

"They do a lot of research, and they show both sides of the argument. The superintendent must make up his own mind. After all, every course is different."

He admitted the pressure is greater than ever on those in his profession to come up with the perfect courses. "People expect conditions like they have at Angus Glen everywhere. The pressure is on us big time. I have a budget I must work with."

Dave said he's optimistic this season will see things return to normal despite the fact that last year's legacy remains.

"The water table is still high from last year. We had 67 inches of rain from April 1 through the end of November, in addition to all the snow that fell. I went home so many days with my boots soaking wet. But you have to be confident after what happened last year. Let's just hope we got it all over with." Amen to that!