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Big happenings set for WSMHA 50th anniversary

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) officials are racking up the overtime preparing for this year's 50th anniversary celebrations.

With jerseys of rep, houseleague and select teams all featuring the new WSMHA emblem, a special Gala 50th Anniversary Night planned for Oct. 3, an aggressive fundraising campaign about to begin, a new year-book and a monthly newsletter planned, the local minor hockey organization is overflowing with enthusiasm.

The WSMHA held a meeting Thursday night to unveil updated plans for the anniversary season. Executive members said they are hoping to involve the community in the celebrations.

They are actively seeking out memorabilia covering 50 years of minor hockey in Stouffville, which will be displayed in a large glass case at the entrance to the second ice pad.

On display at the meeting were the new Clippers rep home and away jerseys, along with an original Clippers sweater and jacket courtesy of former Clipper and Stouffville senior Les Clarke.

WSMHA first vice-president Andy Cartwright hopes Clarke's enthusiasm is shared by others who have worn Clippers colours through the

years.

"I went over to Les' house to spend a half hour with him, but I was there 2 1/2 hours while he talked about the beginning of minor hockey in Stouffville," said Cartwright.

The Oct. 3 gala will include a doubleheader involving the minor novice and midget Clippers, with commemorative mementoes to be handed out to all WSMHA players wearing their team jerseys.

Also on tap for the anniversary season are the following: a sign to be placed at the west entrance to Stouffville; an ice level 50th anniversary logo in Pad A at the Rec Centre; a dance/casino night for February or March 1998; a weekly Friday night "Hockey Night in Stouffville" doubleheader involving bantam and midget Clippers teams; a special WSMHA theme song to be played prior to Clippers home games; keep-sake 50th anniversary jerseys for all houseleague players; a monthly newsletter, to be sponsored by Boyd's Source for Sports, featuring houseleague, rep and select data; an annual yearbook including team photos, historical and general information; fund raising including a weekly WSMHA night at the Stouffville Country Market-Bingo parlour, and a mammoth Christmas Cake sales campaign.

WSMHA marketing/fund raising committee chair Gary McDonnell said the Christmas cake campaign has been a huge success elsewhere, and encouraged teams to get involved in "networking" the product among friends, relatives, fellow employees and clients.

"It has proven results," he said, saying individual teams have raised over \$14,000 with it.

Teams requiring information can call McDonnell at 640-4399.

On a separate note, this season's rep roster includes minor novice, novice, minor atom, atom, minor peewee, peewee, minor bantam, bantam, midget and juvenile teams.

Select teams include tyke, novice, minor atom, atom, minor peewee, peewee, bantam/midget, midget (additional entry), and juvenile.

The bantam and midget rep squads will play their home games Friday nights from 7-11 p.m. with all other teams at home Sundays between 1-8 p.m. Boyd's Source for Sports will hold an equipment fitting seminar Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Centre.

Coaches, parents and players are welcome.

There is to be a houseleague coaching clinic for all coaches Thursday at 8 p.m. on Pad B at the Rec Centre.



SAVE OF THE DAY: Uxbridge Potlickers' goalkeeper Dale Catherwood stops Stouffville Lost Friday's forward Scott Dunsmoor (right), on this breakaway attempt during action Saturday in the annual Uxbridge Blackhawks Pow Wow Oldtimers Hockey Tournament at the Uxbridge Arena.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

A Spirited weekend effort produces a win and tie for Stouffville

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville finished out the pre-season with a couple of solid efforts over the weekend.

The Spirit, who kick off their third Provincial Junior A Hockey League season at home against the Couchiching (formerly Orillia) Terriers Thursday night, edged the Bowmanville Eagles 4-3 in Bowmanville Saturday, then played the Lindsay Muskies to a 3-3 tie in Bradford Sunday.

The Spirit played comeback both nights.

Falling behind 3-1 in the first period Saturday in Bowmanville, they bounced back to own the final 40 minutes.

Lindsay broke a 1-1 third period tie with a pair of markers Sunday, but Kevin Edgar scored twice to give the Spirit the draw.

"We're building our team on character," said Spirit head coach Dan Larmer. "The guys are working hard. When they get down by a goal or two, they really pull together."

Rookie Kyle Harrison of Stouffville counted his first ever Junior goal Saturday. Geoff Keiller, Mark Brus and Edgar also scored. Darcy King set up a trio of goals. Larmer attributed the win to a strong defensive effort keyed by the outstanding goaltending of John Tamburo, another Stouffville resident.

"We really dominated them in the second and third period. And when they did break through Tamburo made some great saves."

Stouffville's Andrew Hutchison started the scoring for the Spirit against the Muskies as the teams were tied 1-1 after the first period.

The second period was scoreless, leading to the third period scoring flurry and another Spirit rally.

"It's back to that character thing," suggested Larmer, who got another impressive goalkeeping performance, this time from Corey Lloyd. "Lloyd played an excellent game. We're really happy with our goalkeeping. Lloyd is only 18, and he was with the Newmarket 87's when they went to the national championships two years ago. Tamburo is 20 and has been in the league a few years. We've got a lot of experience in net."

Larmer said Andrew Harper, another Stouffville resident, will be on call as the team's third goalie. Harper will play with the Richmond Hill Stars AAA midgets.

"He'll play 45 or so games with the Stars, and probably play another four or five games with us so he'll see lots of action."

Larmer said his players are anxious to get the season started.

"We're pretty much down to our final roster. They're chomping at the bit to get going after five weeks of nothing, but exhibition games, intra squad games and practices."

Larmer said the players appear to have gelled well.

"There's some really good camaraderie, they like each other. That's important."

Larmer said Thursday's opener should provide a good chance for his players to show what they can do.

"Couchiching will be a good test for us. They were in the top 20 Junior teams in the country last year."



SPORTING A NEW LOOK: Matt Cartwright (left), sports the new uniforms that will be worn by the minor clubs this season, marking the 50th anniversary of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association. Matt's father, Andy (right), who is the association's first vice-president, displays one of the association's original uniforms.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON