

THE TRIBUNE

## Sports &amp; Leisure

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HAVING A FIELD DAY: Milliken Mills' player Natalic Chin (left), and Stouffville District Secondary School's Megan Fockler, battle for possession of this ball during Thursday's YRAA girls' field hockey contest at Milliken Mills. The visiting Spartans won the game 1-0 on a goal by Alex Chacinski.

Photos by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## A Spirited interlocking schedule

Stouffville hockey fans get their first look at the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey Association (NOHA), when Timmins comes to town to play the local Spirit Oct. 25.

Interlocking play between the OHA Provincial Junior A Hockey League and the NOHA has been introduced for the first time this season. The Spirit will travel to Timmins for a return match Nov. 29, part of a northern swing that sees them play in Sturgeon Falls the night before. Sturgeon Falls comes to Stouffville Dec. 13.

### SCHOOL JUNIOR HOCKEY IN LIMBO

With the uncertain state of the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) athletics program, the future of the school's junior hockey team is yet to be decided. While SDSS teachers Bill McKnight and Ron Dempster are all set to take on the task of coaching the Spartans for the third year, the final decision won't be made until that duo get together with the school's newly-appointed extracurricular activities co-ordinator, Dave Connell. McKnight is optimistic. "We're having a meeting next week," he said Thursday. "Hopefully it will go." McKnight said there are several former players who have once again offered to assist with the team, which went to the YRAA finals in their initial season, then finished first in their division before falling short in the semi-finals last season.

### MABLEY A BUSY HOCKEY MOM

So you think YOU'VE got a busy family schedule.

Leslie Mabley, wife of WSMHA president Peter Mabley, had to tend to the logistics involved in getting her three hockey playing sons to no less than 12 games, all out of town,



### Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

in four days the other week. Leslie is team manager of the major novice Clippers, with her nine-year-old son Luke a member of that squad. Thirteen-year-old Jordan is on the Richmond Hill Stars AAA major peewees, while P.J., 16, is with the Stars major midgets. P.J.'s team alone will play six tournaments before Christmas, which is sure to take a lot of tire tread off the Mabley car.

Things could have been worse, said Leslie. "They wanted Luke in Richmond Hill (with the major novice Stars)," she said, "I said no way."

As manager of the major novice Clippers, Leslie looks after scheduling. With a shortened OMHA season, combined with the addition this year of more teams, the scene at the scheduling meeting was hectic as teams attempted to line up available home and away dates with each other.

"It was like the floor of the Toronto Stock Exchange trying to arrange dates!" she said. Not to mention tournaments.

But with her offspring scattered far and wide in their various puck pursuits, Leslie said at least she and her hubby are aware of their whereabouts.

"My kids aren't on the street."

With all the time she spends at the Rec Centre, Leslie is as good an authority as any on arena facilities.

She wonders why, with no seating in the second ice pad, the town can't take the three-step mini-stands from town park diamonds and set them up in the new pad. Her thinking is that with parents and fans paying \$3.50 a pop to watch a rep game, they should at least be able to sit down!

## Spirit withstand Hurricane attack but fall short

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The Newmarket 87's Hurricane came on like a typhoon in the early going of their game with the Spirit of Stouffville Thursday night at the Rec Centre, then skulked away with the two points and the pizza.

The defending Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Junior A Hockey League east conference champions jumped out into a 3-1 first period lead, but were hanging on in the dying seconds of a 7-6 win over the rejuvenated Spirit.

The Newmarket squad survived a near-miss penalty shot by Spirit sniper Darcy King with just 22 seconds left in the game to salvage the victory.

King, who had scored on a two-man Spirit breakaway earlier in the game, was awarded the unobstructed chance when the 87's intentionally knocked the net off its moorings as the Spirit blitzed their goal mouth in pursuit of the equalizer.

### PIZZAS INTERCEPTED

The Newmarket club added insult to injury after the game, going from Hurricane to scavenger as they intercepted the complementary pizzas destined for the Spirit dressing room.

Despite losing the game and their post game meal, the Stouffville team was able to claim a moral victory.

"The boys were disappointed to be so close to taking them (the 87's) into overtime, but when it settles in they'll be satisfied with what they did," said Spirit assistant coach Trevor Clark. "We were happy with their effort. Everybody worked hard."

Clark said his team was done in by needless penalties in the game's early going, allowing the visitors to carry a

two-goal edge into the second period.

"We need more discipline. Some stupid penalties cost us. And now that we know we can score we have to work on keeping the puck out of our own net."

The Spirit treated the crowd of just under 400 to a gutsy performance, refusing to fold despite trailing most of the night.

Jeff Morris gave them an early lead before the 87's came back with their first period trio of markers.

King's goal triggered a wide open second period, with the visitors quickly restoring their two-goal bulge.

### A SPIRITED RALLY

Ed Kearney narrowed the gap again, and Geoff Keillor tied it with his fifth goal of the season on a Spirit power play.

The 87's scored two more times before Mike Micheff beat the buzzer with a last-second goal to bring the Spirit back to within a goal.

Newmarket appeared to put a lock on it when they made it 7-5 just past the half way goal which set up King's last ditch penalty shot effort. King, whose partially blocked wrist shot rolled just wide of the 87's net, said it was a lack of execution, not nerves, that foiled his penalty shot effort. "I wasn't nervous at all. I had him beat if I had got it back on my back hand," he said.

Goalkeeper Cory Lloyd was a magician in the Spirit net, robbing 87's shooters on numerous occasions to keep his team in the hunt.

"Without Cory we wouldn't have had the chance to be close at the end," said Clark.

The Spirit were scheduled to travel to Aurora to take on the Tigers in the first of a home and home set on Friday.

The Tigers, last year's Metro Junior A Hockey League champions, are in Stouffville next Thursday evening.



DARCY KING

## OHA lays out guidelines

The OHA has reacted to recent abuses at the Junior hockey level by introducing its General Managers Guidelines, with OHA president Brent LaRids encouraging that organization's directors to help ensure that the document be utilized to the fullest extent. The risk management paper includes association policies affecting hazing, alcohol in the team environment, hockey and its people relating to discrimination, and sexual abuse.

### DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### Paul Lusky

Paul Lusky kicked up a storm for the Markham Lightning under-15 boys' soccer club when they took to the pitch at the recent Ontario Cup Tier II Championship final.

Although the Lightning suffered a 5-4 loss to Welland in the title game, the 15-year-old Markham native accounted for all of his club's goals.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA  
3120 Steeles Ave. E.  
East of the  
404 (Pkwy.) 475-0722