

Spirit sing the Blues

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Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville got off on the wrong foot Thursday at the Rec Centre, and the visiting Collingwood Blues took full advantage.

The Provincial Junior A Hockey League Phillips Division leading Blues built up a 3-0 first-period lead, then cruised to a 6-1 victory.

But before the critics start questioning the grit of the third-year Stouffville entry, it must be noted that the win was the 10th in 11 games for the Collingwood club, whose only defeat so far this season came in overtime.

The Spirit fought toe to toe with the

Blues in the second period, with the teams trading goals. Darcy King notched the lone Stouffville marker on a set up by Jeff Keillor. The Spirit's Mike Micheff had two glorious scoring opportunities when he found himself wide open in front of the Blues' net, but couldn't find the range. The Blues put the game away with a pair of third period goals.

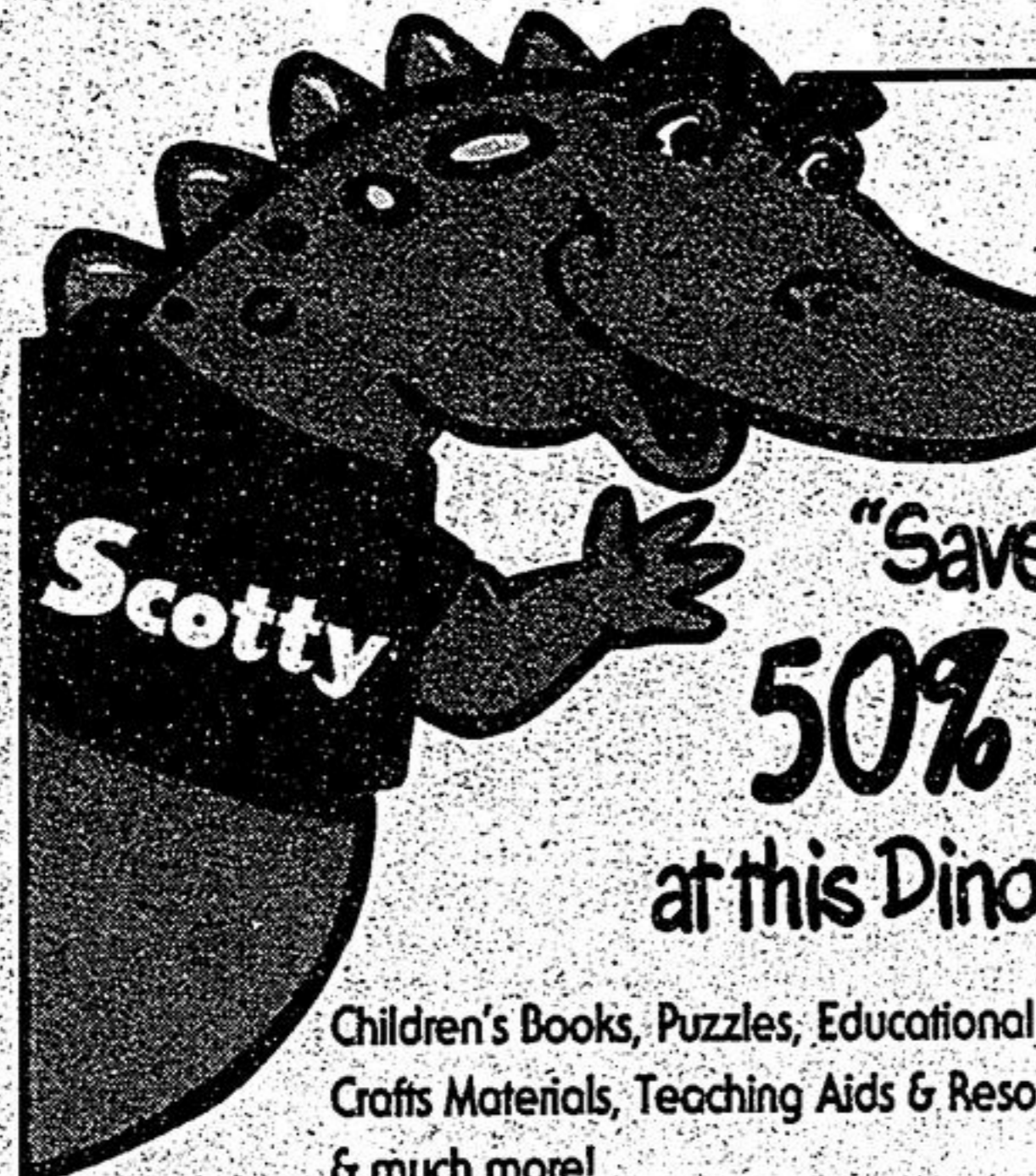
"It took us 20 minutes to wake up, we were a little slow starting," conceded Spirit head coach Dan Larmer. "You can't start slow against a team like that."

SPORTS

Larmer said that despite the loss he was able to find a few rays of sunlight.

"We wanted to keep our penalties down, and we only gave them five power play opportunities. And we started to get a few scoring chances after the first period."

The Spirit, who were to travel to Couchiching to play the Terriers on Friday, have dealt winger Mark Brus to Quinte of the Metro Junior A Hockey League for future considerations. The Spirit play their next home game against Cobourg next Thursday at 7:30 p.m.



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Mite selects win four

The Stouffville mite selects have been steam rolling over the opposition in preseason play.

The selects defeated Pickering 7-1 and 5-0, blanked Vaughan 6-0 and blasted Uxbridge 11-1 in their four games played to date.

Goalkeeper Ryan Adrian has shone in net, collecting the two shutouts while surrendering just two goals.

Ethan Werek has been the offensive mainstay, netting 16 goals. Patrick McEachen collected six goals and seven assists, Lee Averill three goals

and three assists. Kurtis Hulshof and Sam Carrick two goals each. Other assists have gone to Andrew Sanders, seven, Zack Stevens, five, Denver Gray, four, Heather Hughes and Chris Porter, one each.

Selects coach Dan McEachen said the team is coming into every game prepared. "The players work hard in practice and this has carried over into the games," said McEachen. "Our mites work hard in every game in our zone and the opponents zone. I'm very proud of them."



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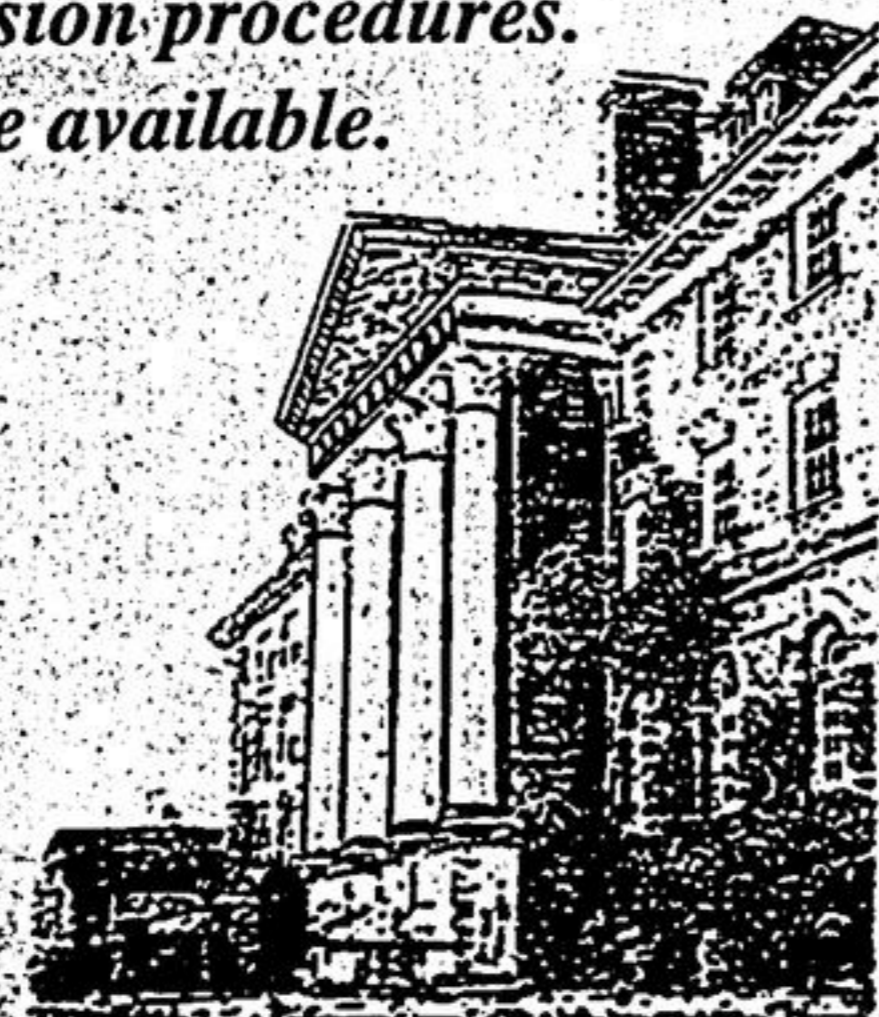
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