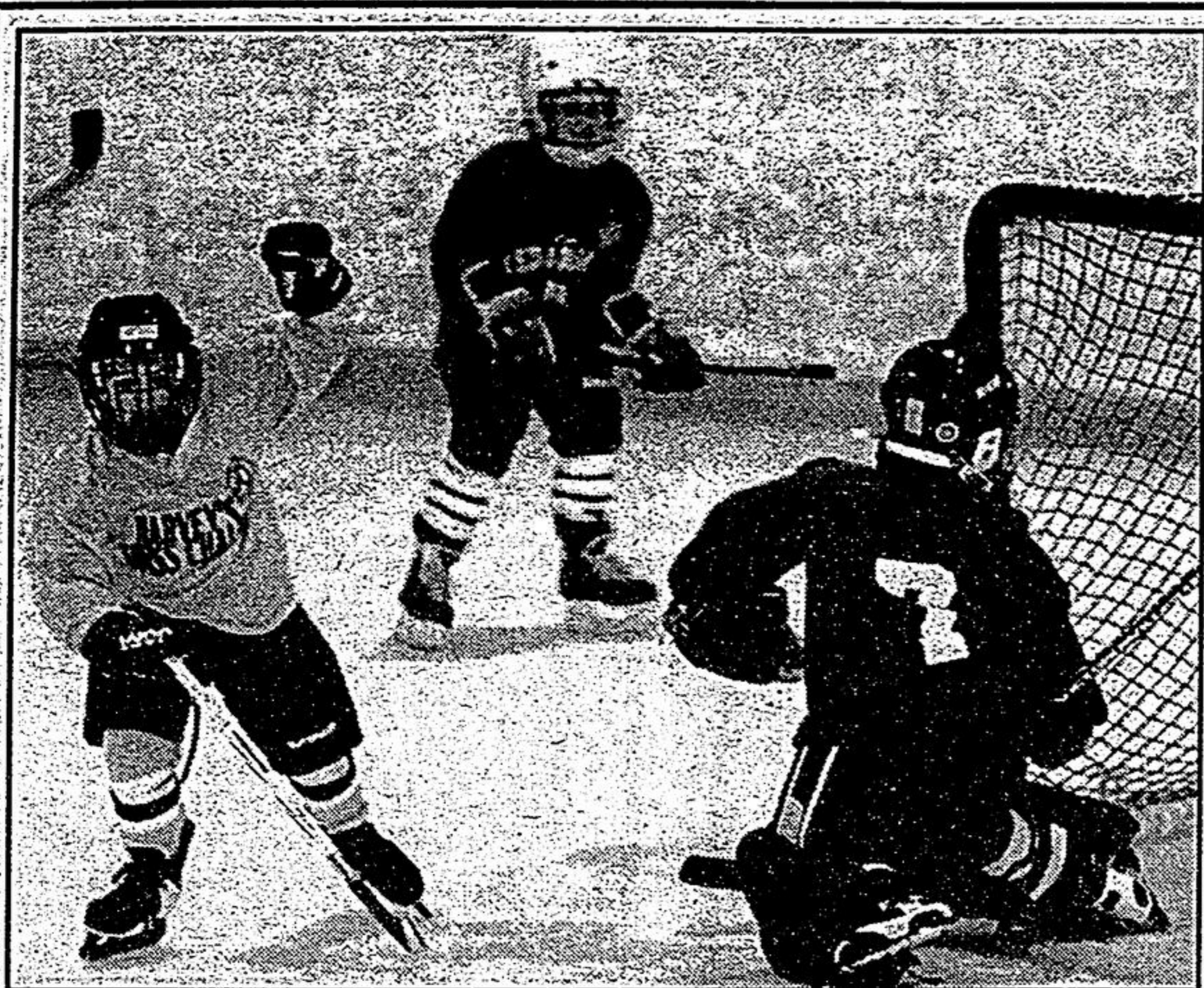


Spirit and Tigers tie one on

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Sports



HE SCORES! Harvey's/Swiss Chalet's Jack Sullivan raises his arms in triumph as he scores on Cedar Beech Park goalkeeper Matthew Benincasa during Saturday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association tyke house-league contest at the Rec Centre. *Photo by STOERD WITTEVEEN*

Call it another big breakthrough for the Spirit of Stouffville junior A hockey club.

The Spirit held the host Aurora Tigers to a 4-4 overtime tie Friday in their Provincial Junior A game.

It was the first point in three games against the Tigers, who previously downed the Spirit 14-5 at home and 5-1 at the Rec Centre.

The draw also broke a Spirit string of six straight losses to the three Phillips Division leaders - Aurora, the first-place Collingwood Blues, and Newmarket 87's Hurricane - dating back to the start of the season.

The game was tied 3-3 heading into the third, with the Tigers scoring with five minutes to go in regulation time after the Spirit had regained the lead earlier in the third. The five-minute overtime period failed to decide a winner.

"It was a great game, two teams who were working, working, working," said Spirit head coach Dan Larmer. "Our guys showed up and played an excellent hockey game."

Larmer called it a team effort while pointing specifically to the work of goalkeeper Corey Lloyd, who faced 35 shots for the second game in a row, defenceman Jason Ellis and winger Brandon Crossen.

Recently acquired winger Randy Stolec scored his first goal in a Spirit uniform, while adding an assist. Jeff Keillor picked up his eighth marker, Jeff Morris (third) and Dave Zelasko (sixth) also found the range. Darcy King had two assists, with Kevin Edgar and Scott Martin also picking up helpers.

While the Spirit limited themselves to just four minor penalties, the Tigers still pounced for three power play goals. The Spirit were two for six in the power play department. "It's a game we could have won," said Larmer.

While the Spirit went into the weekend tied with Newmarket for third place, a pair of wins by the Hurricane enabled them to pull ahead by three points. The Spirit have 14 points, one up on the fifth place Couchiching Terriers, who come to town Thursday for a 7:30 p.m. start at the Rec Centre.

Doner returns to direct softball association fortunes

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

June Doner is back for another year as Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA) president.

The dedicated, hard working Gormley resident will once again offer her capable leadership to the local minor ball program, which last season included a whopping 83 houseleague teams, nine boys' and girls' rep squads, and several select crews.

Doner was acclaimed at the WSSA annual meeting Thursday, along with new vice-president Pam Ross, who takes over from Stephen Buck. Lori Sellers stays on as treasurer, with Sandy Paynter adding the role of secretary to her list of responsibilities.

Other duties have been assigned to the following people: Con-

veners: Ballantrae - Sandy Paynter; Vandorf - Paul and June Doner; Claremont - Bob Tran. Girls Rep - Cathy Bennett; Boys rep - Lori Doner. Statistician - Cathy Holden. Schedulers: Rep/select umpires - Al Piette. Houseleague - Lori Sellers. Equipment manager - Darryl Sellers. Games scheduler - Mary Myers. Tournament - Cathy Bennett. Practices - Sheree Wood. Pictures - Lynn Lewis. Diamond lining - Gerrie Bolton. Diamond/boxes - Ken Wood. Auditors - Cliff Dunkeld, Al Piette. Rules chairs - Al Piette, Paul and June Doner. Five pitch, T-Ball - Lori Sellers. Squirts, mites - Fred Rantz. Novice/peewee/bantam/midget - Jim McLeod.

Doner thanked her executive, the conveners, and all others who helped last season, while congratulating the OASA champion peewee boys' rep team under the direction of coach Ted

Assinck. Steve Martin's mite boys were lauded for their silver medal provincial showing.

The president issued a plan to have player registrations completed by March 31.

"We were getting calls right up to when the season started last year," said Doner. "I don't think people realize what's involved in putting all the teams together. We have to line up sponsors and order sweaters well in advance."

She suggested players who aren't certain if they'll be able to play guarantee themselves a spot by signing up and taking advantage of the WSSA offer of a full refund if they change their minds. "Or they can give us post dated cheques."

Early registrations are held at the end of January, then again in February, said Doner.

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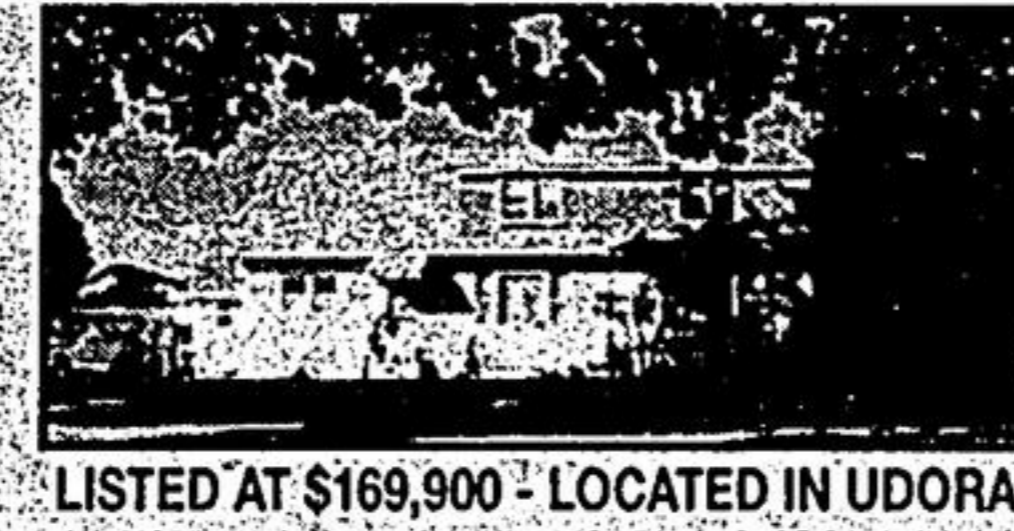
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