

Sports & Leisure

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Spirit top Tigers in rough game

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville finally overtook the Aurora Tigers Thursday night at the Rec Centre.

But the Stouffville team came far from taming the Tigers, who resorted to a rough house style of hockey as they fell 6-5 in a Provincial Junior A Hockey League decision marred by a punch out in the game's dying seconds. The ugliness didn't end with the final whistle as Tigers players and their entourage jostled with fans and exchanged pleasantries in the runway to the Aurora dressing room just after the game.

The score was hardly indicative of the play. The Spirit displayed a disciplined approach as they led 1-0 at the end of the first period, carried a 4-2 lead into the third, then went on to build up a 6-3 margin approaching the mid way mark of the final 20 minutes. A goal by Darcy King that clearly tucked in under the cross bar in the eyes of patrons seated just behind the Tigers net was disallowed by the referee. The phantom score would have made it 7-4 with just over five minutes to play.

King still managed to count two goals, tying him for the team lead with linemate Kevin Edgar with 12. He also added a team leading 28th assist. Steve Pocock, Kyle Chapman, Phil Barski, and Dave Zelasko also scored for the Spirit. Defenceman Jeff Morris had two assists.

The game-ending donnybrook was triggered by Tiger tough guy Jason Modopoulos, who delivered a vicious chop across the arm of Spirit player Mike Micheff with his stick. Modopoulos incurred 18 minutes in penalties in all, as well as three game misconducts and a match penalty that will likely result in a few more games missed. His instigator infrac-

tion was his fourth of the season, according to Spirit officials, and could result in an automatic eight game suspension.

"He's (Modopoulos) just a goon," mocked a usually composed Spirit head coach Dan Larmer after the game. "You know that's going to happen with Aurora. They've got no class. They've got a few guys whose job it is to do that sort of thing."

While Modopoulos and company took out their frustrations with two easy decisions over their Spirit opponents in the late fisticuffs, 16-year-old Spirit centremen Kyle Chapman proved the Spirit could hold their own with the gloves off when he scored a TKO over his Tiger counterpart in a fracas that broke out at the final faceoff.

Larmer suggested the second place Tigers are one of the meanest, physical teams his team is going to play. He suggested their nasty approach is part of the strategy of their head coach, former Toronto-Maple Leaf Brad Sellwood. "He likes his rough and tumble hockey players. That's what he's built his team around."

Spirit officials said they planned to send game videos to the OHA offices so league officials could get a first hand look at Aurora's infractions.

Larmer praised his players for sticking to their game in spite of the Tigers' disturbances. "We'd just get right back up," said Larmer. "We played a pretty disciplined game tonight. The guys worked really hard. They played non-stop hockey."

The win left the Spirit tied with the Couchiching Terriers for fourth place in the Phillips Division standings.

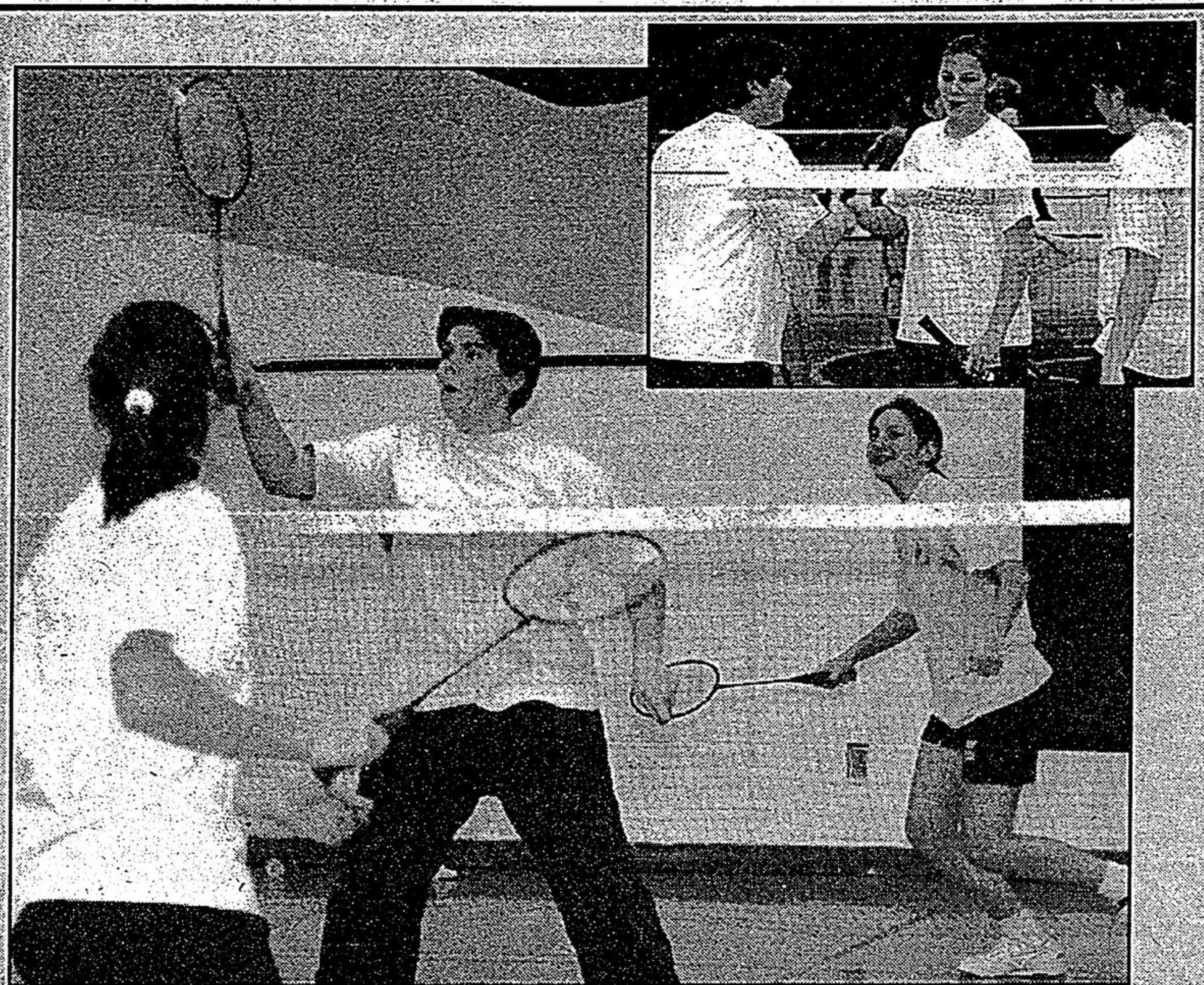
The Spirit, who were to play the Muskies in Lindsay last night (Friday), host the Newmarket 87's Hurricane tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at the Rec Centre.

Del Zotto shines brightly

Michael Del Zotto just keeps lighting the lamp. The Stouffville minor hockey product scored four goals to lead the Richmond Hill Tyke Stars AAA rep hockey team to an 8-3 win over Ajax in a game played in Richmond Hill on Sunday.

Stouffville's Jake Carrick contributed a trio of assists to the victory, which left the Stars undefeated on the season.

For Del Zotto, the goals gave him 12 in his last four games. He netted two goals in each of the Stars' previous two wins over Guelph and Ajax, and collected four more in a triumph over Pickering to begin his spree.



SHUTTTLING TO THE TOP: The Stouffville District Secondary School Grade 12's conducted a competitive badminton tournament in their physical education class on Wednesday. In the main photo, Brenda Robbins (centre), slams home a shot past Sara Giles (left). Looking on is Robbins' partner, Sherry Hartnett (right). In the inset photo Robbins and Hartnett shake hands with Giles, who along with teammate Katie Sandiford (not shown), go down to defeat.

Photos by STEVE SOMERVILLE

High school sports schedule set to resume

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The on again, off again athletic season at Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) is under way once again - for now.

The school's junior boys' and senior girls' cross country teams are in the Ottawa area today on the final day of the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) cross-country championships. The provincial final competition was to have taken place last Friday and Saturday, but was rescheduled upon the resumption of school after the recent province wide political protest.

The Spartans boys' volleyball and girls' basketball teams will go straight into the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) playoffs next week after the final games of the regular season were wiped out by the two-week layoff.

Jim Fletcher's senior boys' Spartans volleyball team, which was just beginning to hit its stride when the lights went out the last week of October, caught a break when they were the last team to gain entrance to the prestigious London-Saunders tournament this weekend. The team, of course, had to make up for time lost when the school pulled the plug on all extracurricular activities for a few weeks in September to protest a York Board ruling.

The Spartans were also scheduled to play an exhibition match against Port Perry H.S. on Friday. Fletch's son Jay is a member of the Port platoon. The tourney, along with the Port match, should help the Spartans in their bid for the YRAA AAA crown.

The school's girls' phys ed head Sheila Coleman said everything's hanging in the balance once the playoffs are finished.

Teachers may decide to work to rule in a continuing protest against Bill 160, she suggested, which could result in another stoppage to the school's athletic program.

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