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Muskies, Hurricanes dampen Stouffville's Spirit in junior action

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The Spirit of Stouffville ended up paying dearly for their biggest breakthrough of the Provincial Junior A Hockey league season, falling twice over the weekend after recording their first win of the campaign over the second-place Aurora Tigers earlier in the week.

The Spirit, depleted by suspensions, injuries and an early winter snow storm, fell 5-3 to the Lindsay Muskies on the road Friday.

They returned to the Rec Centre Sunday where a second-period no show resulted in a 4-1 loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes. It was the Stouffville's club's first loss in their last six home games.

Friday's game saw the Spirit with only 14 skaters on the bench. Front liners Mike Micheff, Philippe Lakos and Kyle Chapman all sat due to suspensions incurred in the donnybrook that marred Thursday's 6-5 win over Aurora.

First line winger Geoff Keillor twisted his knee two shifts into the game when he skated over a piece of tape, while rugged defenceman Jason Ellis missed the game due to a concussion suffered in a game the previous weekend.

Brian Fish ended up snowed in, while Larmer himself showed up late after missing the team bus due to the wintry conditions.

"We just ran out of gas," said Larmer. "We beat the second place team the night before, but it cost us some guys we rely on."

The Spirit took an early 2-0 lead against the Muskies before running out of steam. Darcy King netted a pair for the visitors, with Dave Zelasko adding the third.

The Spirit appeared to be on their way to their sixth straight home ice win Sunday. Jeff Marshall's early goal gave them a 1-0 lead, while a heroic string of penalty killing efforts enabled the Spirit to carry that slim margin into the second period.

But a combination of a Spirit sag, and the Hurricanes suddenly regaining their 1996-97 championship form resulted in the visitors striking for four goals.



The Spirit had numerous power play opportunities in the period, at one point holding a two-man advantage for a minute and a half.

But they were unable to apply any more than minimal pressure, with Newmarket goalkeeper Pat Herman making the big save the few times he was called upon.

The Spirit regained their form in the third period, but Herman barred the door.

"It was a bad period," said Larmer in reference to the sorry second. "We just broke down, and you can't do that against Newmarket. They're a really good skating team. Our first period was great, but they came out in the second and just sat back and figured they had it won."

Spirit general manager Clive Moody was a little more direct in his assessment of the Spirit's second period effort.

"Our guys are just absolutely horrible," he said mid way through the period.

A SPIRITED ADDITION TO THE LINEUP

Sunday's game marked the debut of 20-year-old winger Paul Zderic, whose rights were acquired from Shelbourne of the Metro Junior A League. The six-foot-four inch, 225 pounder, who logged 200 penalty minutes in 27 games last season, will play the role of enforcer, said Moody.

Team officials realized they needed a policeman after watching Aurora's Jason Modopoulos wreak havoc on their team Thursday night.

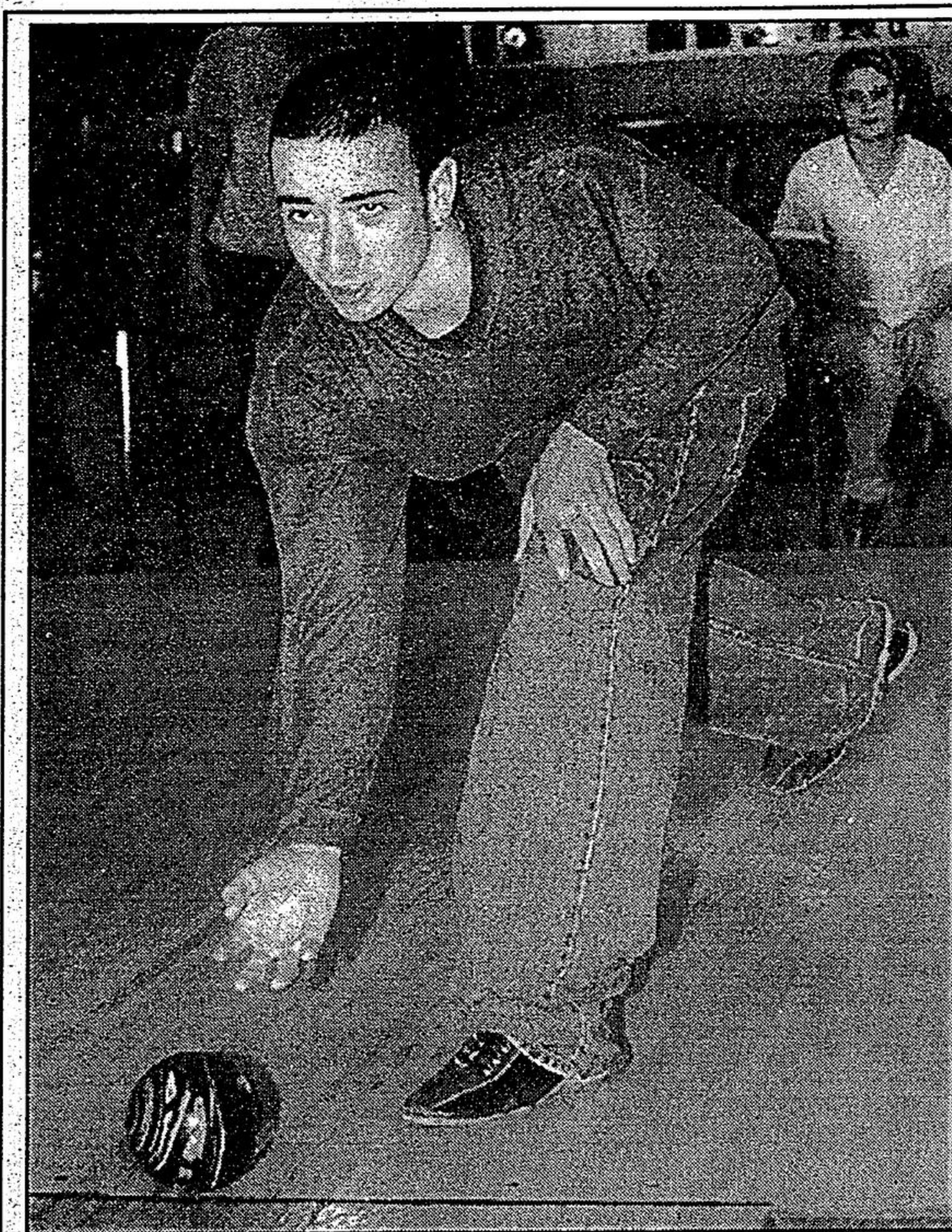
"We have to address that need," said Moody. "He brings some different qualities."

The GM said Zderic has a touch around the net as well, but will need a week or two to hit his stride after seeing duty in only a handful of games this season.

Things don't get any easier for the Spirit, who are now tied in last place in the league's Phillips Division standings with Lindsay with 18 points. The Couchiching Terriers have pulled ahead in fourth place with 21 points, with Newmarket holding down third spot with 22 points. The Spirit have games in hand on all three teams.

The Spirit play a home and home set with the first place Collingwood Blues beginning with Thursday night home date.

The two teams face off in Collingwood Friday, with the Spirit heading to Newmarket to play the Hurricanes Sunday.



CLASS IS NOW IN SESSION: Dan Haines, a Grade 11 student at Stouffville District Secondary School shows good form as he delivers this ball down the lane during Monday's physical education class at the Stouffville Bowling Centre.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Lemay has Devil of a time in helping team soar past Red Wings in SAHL play

Brian Lemay netted a pair of goals to help the Devils down the Red Wings 5-3 in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League under 40 division action Nov. 5 at the Rec Centre.

The win lifted the Devils into first place in the divisional standings, one point ahead of the Nordiques and Canadiens.

Brent Brown, Al Currie and Lee Brown also scored for the Devils, Lee Brown also had two assists. Ryan Burkholder scored twice for the Wing to give him 10 for the season, leaving him in a three way tie for the goal scoring lead with Ed Burkholder of the Sharks and the Bruins Greg Roberts. Steve Ryan had the other Wings score.

The Habs stayed within a point of first place with a 5-2 win over the North Stars.

Gary Moss, Derek Hamilton, Bill Anderson, Jim Walker and Ken McKay lit the lamp for the Habs. Naz Nicastro and Jaimie Bell countered for the Stars.

The Nords held the Rangers to a 2-2 tie to remain one point back as well. Dave Manilla and Graham Summerhays tallied for the Nords, with mark

Savery and Keith Jupp clicking for the Rangers, who got two assists from Bill English.

Ed Burkholder's pair helped the Sharks to a 5-3 triumph over the Flames. Paul Jarko had the hat trick for the Sharks, who got two assists each from Marty Bauer and Derek Harrison. Jeff Bower scored twice for the Flames, with Tom Hammond adding the third score. Al Guncyler had two set-ups for the Flames.

Greg Roberts made it a three way tie for the scoring lead when he scored twice, to go with a two-goal effort by Tim Folwell, as the Bruins downed the Ducks 5-2.

Dave Showers had the Bruins' other goal. Roberts also set up a trio of goals to give him 26 points for the season, putting him way out front in the points parade. Showers had two assists.

Brian Henderson's two goals was the difference as the Kings nipped the Flyers 4-3.

Rob Campitelli and Mike Sear rounded out the Kings scoring. Mark Paganelli had two assists. Steve Avoldo clicked twice for the Flyers, with Scott Steckley adding a single.

Major novices sail away with two victories wins and a tie

Call it five points in three games for the I.D.A. major novice Clippers in recent league play.

The Clippers started out with a 4-3 home ice win over Markham, then scored in the final minute to earn a 2-2 draw with Sutton on the road.



The Clippers broke loose for an 11-0 win over Pickering at the Rec Centre in their final outing of the week.

Luke Mabley and Adam Craig led the way over the stretch with Mabley counting five goals and four assists, and Craig adding four goals and three assists. Other Clippers point getters were: Chris Schell (two goals, two

assists), Nick Jago (one goal, three assists), Brandon Jupp, Chris Stewart and Taylor Campbell (one goal, one assist), Warren Tayies and Chris Normandeu (a goal each), Steve Brown (one assist).

The major novices will join the bantam Clippers in Fort Erie this weekend for tournament play.