

Sports & Leisure

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Senior Spartans caged by Marauders in hoop playoffs

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Stouffville District Secondary School senior girls' basketball club saw their season come to an end when they were eliminated by Markham District High School 91-24 in their York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) southeast zone semi-final game on Thursday.



The Spartans reached the semi-finals after downing visiting Brother Andre Catholic High School 46-39 on Tuesday.

Alison Crowder led the way with 14 points and Sherri Hartnett, 12. Nicole Aldcroft went to the hoop for six points, while Jacki Derasmo, Amy McElroy and Danielle Timms collected four points each. Laura Boyd had two points.

Meanwhile, the midget Spartans

advanced to the zone crossovers by downing host Milliken Mills 37-33 on Thursday.

Hannah McNamara led the way for the Spartans with 17 points.

The Spartans resume their zone crossover playoff schedule on Monday.

Prior to that game, the Spartans won their first-round playoff game on Monday over Middlefield Collegiate 31-25.

The Spartans received top offensive production from Andrea Moller and Hannah Fleming.

Sandra Giles contributed six points with Tracy Hoher adding two points. Michelle Babb, Laurie Blow provided outstanding defence.

SENIOR SPARTANS SPIKED

The Spartans senior boys' volleyball just couldn't get any service in Tuesday's York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) playoff quarter finals.

The Spartans missed six of their seven serves in dropping the third and deciding

match of their set with Markville S.S. by a 15-8 score.

The Spartans opened up the best of three set with a 15-12 victory, then watched as a 9-9 tie became a 15-9 Markville win in game two.

"We were prepared, but if you don't get the serves you can't win," said SDSS coach Jim Fletcher. "We were playing our best ball of the year against a Markville team that was much bigger than us. But we just couldn't get any breaks in that last game." The Spartans closed out the regular season earlier the same afternoon by sweeping Brother Andre C.H.S. 15-4, 15-12.

Fletcher said he had no regrets despite a season that included frequent interruptions related to teachers' job actions. "The boys got in a lot of play, we were in five tournaments."

The midget Spartans closed out their season with a 15-12, 15-10 sweep of Milliken Mills the same day.

Spirit sing the Blues in 4-3 loss

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The good news is that the Spirit of Stouffville proved every bit the equal of the mighty Collingwood Blues Thursday at the Rec Centre.

The bad news is that the Stouffville team couldn't buy a break around the net as they were edged 4-3 by the runaway Provincial Junior A Hockey League's Phillips division leaders.



The Spirit trailed 3-1 after a lacklustre first period, but recovered to outscore the Blues by a two to one count the rest of the way.

The Spirit had countless power play opportunities but either couldn't mount a threat, or couldn't find the corners.

Meanwhile, the Blues took advantage of Stouffville defensive breakdowns to net their quartet of goals.

"Our two downfalls are that our power play isn't working, and our defensive zone coverage is breaking down," said frustrated Spirit head coach Dan Larmer. "We spent 45 minutes working on each one in practices earlier in the week, and

the guys were doing it like clock work. But we get into a game and forget what we practiced."

But despite the disappointing outcome, Larmer was able to console himself by the fact his team came so close against the Blues, who have been almost invincible this season.

"We only played two periods, but we still only lost by one goal to the first place team. But when you're the first place team, you get all the bounces. Collingwood is 23 and three for a reason."

Kevin Edgar opened the scoring early in the first on the Spirit's lone power play goal of the night. Darcy King and Dave Zelasko assisted. But the Blues rallied with a trio of markers before the period was out. At one point the Stouffville team had three successive power plays but couldn't click.

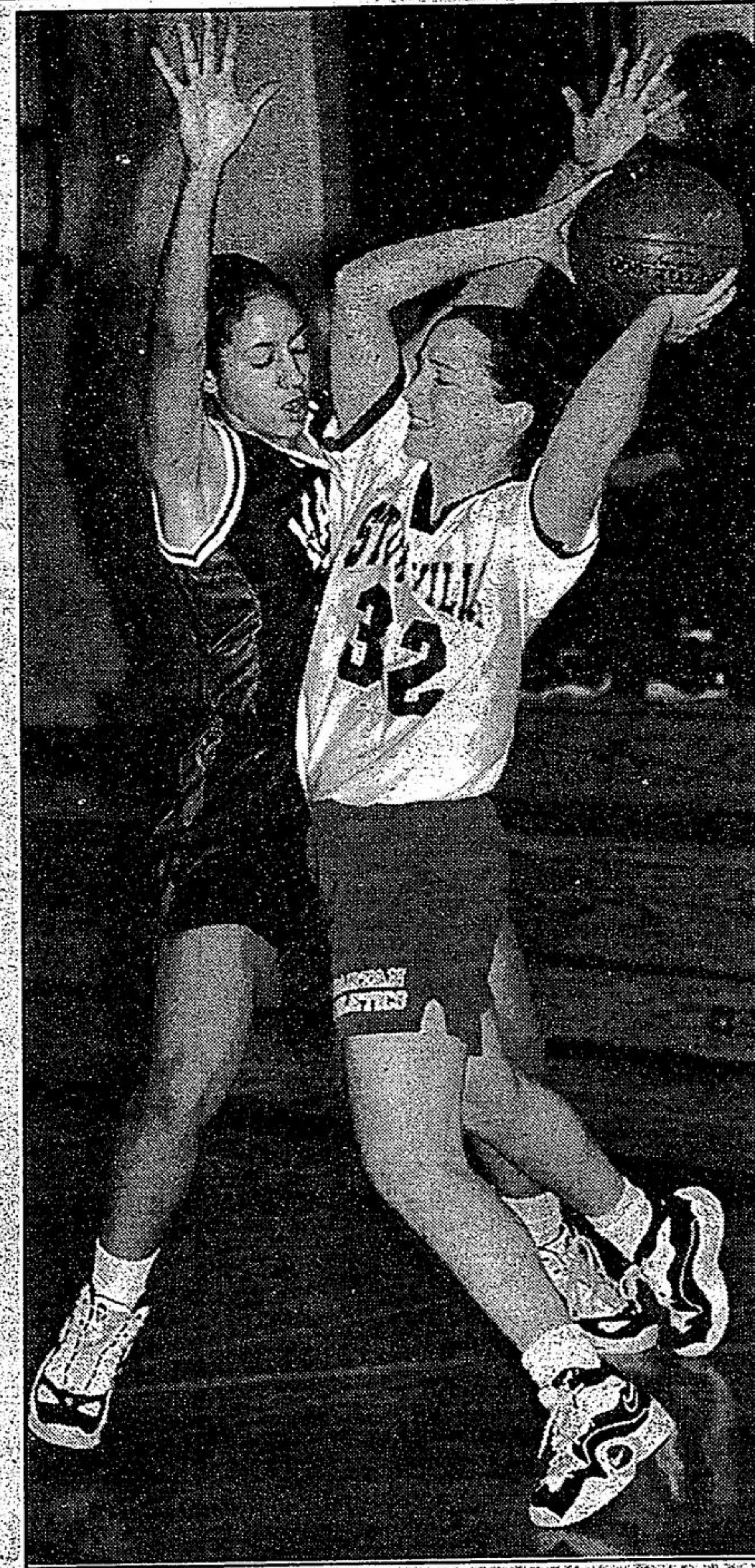
After a scoreless second period, Dave Zelasko netted his 11th of the year from King and Edgar a minute into the third to narrow the gap to one goal. But the Blues got that one right back on a power play a minute and a half later.

Edgar collected his second of the night, giving him 14 for the season, on a set up by Phil Vito and King with just over two minutes remaining. The Spirit applied the pressure in an attempt to net the equalizer. A Blues penalty with a minute and a

half to go provided them with a golden opportunity to pull even, but the Spirit took a penalty of their own with 45 seconds left. The Stouffville squad still managed to storm the Blues net after removing goalkeeper Cory Lloyd for the extra attacker, coming within inches of scoring as the puck flew everywhere but into the Collingwood goal.

The Spirit outshot the Blues 34-28. The Spirit remained tied with the Lindsay Muskies for last place, five points behind the Couchiching Terriers in the battle for the fourth and final playoff position.

After a Friday game in Collingwood, the Spirit will host Aurora Tigers next Thursday at the Rec Centre.



TIGHT QUARTERS: Stouffville's Alison Crowder (right), tries to get her pass off despite being closely guarded by Markham District High School's Michelle Blake during action in Thursday's YRAA zone semi-final game at Markham District High School. The host Marauders won 91-24.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Minor atoms ice win and tie

The State Farm-Legrow Agency/Cobequid Life Sciences minor atom Clippers skated miles last week, managing a win and a tie in four outings.

Matthew Cartwright had his shutout bid broken when the opposition scored twice in the game's final minute as the Clippers downed the Markham Waxers 4-2 at the Rec Centre on Nov. 12.

Scoring for the Clippers were: David Del Zotto, Cameron Allan, Brendon Laing, and Alex Bruno. Assists went to: Brook Stachel, Kevin Rainbow, and Shayne Paterson.

The next night in Pickering the Stouffville crew

faced some hot goaltending and took a 1-0 loss.

Back at the Rec Centre last Saturday, Del Zotto counted his second goal of the game on a power play with just two minutes left to play to salvage a 4-4 tie with Whitby.

Other Clippers goals came from Trevor Greenham and Bruno. Assists went to Allan (2), Paterson and Stachel.

In Lindsay Sunday, fatigue set in as the Clippers were flat in a 5-2 loss to Lindsay.

Scoring for the Clippers were Zach Popper and Laing, with Del Zotto earning an assist.

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