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CENTRE ICE DANCE: E.M.S.' Kyle Cussion (left), and Tim Horton's Shane Gordon do battle for this faceoff during Saturday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association tyke houseleague contest at the Rec Centre. E.M.S. proceeded to win this game 8-4.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Spirit come up empty handed on weekend

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville will be hoping for a change of luck when they face off against the Aurora Tigers Thursday night at the Rec Centre.

The Spirit dropped a pair of weekend Provincial Junior A Hockey League matches on the road, falling 10-2 to the Phillips Division leading Collingwood Blues Friday, then dropping a hard-fought 5-3 decision to the Newmarket Hurricanes on Sunday.

The Spirit, who saw their losing streak extended to five games with the double defeats, were the authors of their own undoing Friday.

The Blues scored three quick goals to start the game, then carried a 5-0 lead into the second period despite a Spirit advantage in shots on goal for the first 20 minutes.

Stouffville starting goalie John Tamburro, who gave way to Cory Lloyd after the first period, blamed a total team letdown for the slow start.

MENTAL BREAKDOWN

"It was a complete mental break down," said Tamburro, who was brilliant in a close loss to the Ruddock Division leading Trenton Sting in his previous start Nov. 7. "It's pretty frustrating."

Phil Vito netted his first goal of the season for the Spirit Friday, while Darcy King notched the other marker.

In their Sunday contest against Newmarket

the Spirit seemed on the verge of recording their first point of the season against the Hurricanes. The Stouffville squad went into the third period trailing 4-3, then rebounded after falling behind 5-3 early in the final frame.

"We played well but we just got no breaks," said Tamburro. "And there were a few tip ins (on Newmarket goals) off our players."

King scored his 16th, giving him the Spirit team lead. Linemates Kevin Edgar with his 15th, and Dave Zelasko with his 12th, rounded out the Spirit scoring.

CHAPMAN SCORES UNANIMOUS DECISION

The Spirit's 16-year-old centre Kyle Chapman upped his standing as one of the Provincial league's heavyweights when he bested the Hurricanes' rugged Chris MacNamara in a fisticuffs match up Sunday.

Chapman also prevailed in his battle with an Aurora opponent in the rumble that occurred near the end of the Spirit's 6-5 win over the Tigers Nov. 13 at the Rec Centre.

The Spirit will be out to make it two wins in a row over the second place Phillips Division Tigers Thursday.

Spirit head coach Dan Larmer expects the game to be anything but gentle.

"We've had a few rough and tumble games against Aurora this season, and this one shouldn't be any different," he said.

The Spirit, who are still without Mike Micheff (suspension), Geoff Keillor and Andrew Patriarche (injuries), head north this weekend, playing in Sturgeon Falls Friday before closing out the week with a contest in Timmins against the Golden Bears Saturday.

Junior Spartans ice victory in season opener

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

So far, so good.

The Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans junior boys' hockey team got off on the right foot with an 11-9 win over defending York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) King City H.S. on Thursday.

Tyler Markle scored twice while picking up four assists to head up the Spartans' offence. Peter Mabley and Ryan Fontanna each netted a pair, with solos coming from Dave Brown, Brett Jennings, Andrew Lombardo and Matt Sullivan.

Cory Turchan had three assists, with Brad Clubine, Brown, Lombardo and John Gauthier each setting up a pair. Dave Howard, Bill Scott, Richard Cho and Sullivan also had assists.

"It was a football game," joked SDSS coach Bill McKnight.

McKnight suggested the King City

squad tired in the third as the Spartans took the two points by scoring the final three goals of the game.

"I was pleased. We just outskated them in the third period. They were wearing down."

The win was a morale booster for the Spartans, who ended last season on a sour note when they were ousted from the playoffs with a rare defeat at the hands of a Huron Hts. S.S. team the SDSS crew had handled easily during the regular season.

"They're (King City) the champions," said McKnight.

A realignment of the YRAA league has put all teams in the same division for the 1997-98 season. The league was broken into east and west divisions in the past.

The SDSS crew will attempt to defend its title at the annual St. Mike's Invitational Junior Hockey Tournament in early January. The Spartans play their next league game against Huron Hts. this Thursday in Newmarket.

Minor peewees extend their winning ways

It was a winning week for the Smalley Christmas Trees/Grey Power Insurance/Stouffville

Legion minor peewee Clippers, while the Barker Roofing major peewees won one of

three at a recent tournament in Niagara on the Lake while earning a tie in an exhibition contest.

The first-place minor peewees extended their undefeated streak to 12 games by defeating Pickering 3-2 and Newmarket 5-3.

Brian Taylor and Jordan Smalley each scored twice for Stouffville in the two matches.

Nick Hawkins, Chris Flanagan, Alex Bollo and Mark Sutcliffe had singles.

Assists came from Dana MacDonald and Hawkins (two each), Jesse Maillett, Mark Carruthers, Sutcliffe, Stephen Relf and Taylor Lougheed.

MAJOR PEEWEES WIN ONE OF THREE

The Barker bunch got goals from

Robert Hooper and Tyler McMaster, while Justin Cheshire and Lucas Hunter provided solid goalkeeping, as they prepared for the Niagara on the Lake tourney with a 2-2 exhibition tie with Uxbridge on Nov. 13.

Matt Wright and Andy Gibson had assists.

In tournament play the following weekend, the Clippers used a solid team effort to down Ajax 4-1 in game one.

The Clippers were edged 3-2 by Scarborough in a hard fought battle in game two, then fell by the same score to the host squad in their third outing. Hunter and Cheshire once again stood out all weekend.

Points came from: Hooper, Jesse Miller, Robert Steckley and Gibson (one goal each), Michael Cornacchia, Matt Wright, McMaster and Marcus D'Annunzio (one goal, one assist each), Cody Bennett (three assists), Josh Brillinger and Kyle Sandiford (one assist each).

