

Sports & Leisure

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Tigers tame Spirit

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Correspondent

It was the real Spirit of Stouffville that showed up to play the Tigers in Aurora on Friday, but a second-period letdown enabled the host team to squeak out a victory.

The Tigers scored four times in the middle period, then hung on to claim a 7-5 win in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League contest.

The Spirit challenged in the third, but the Aurora squad iced it with an empty net marker in the dying seconds.

"It was a much better game than Thursday (a 9-3 loss to the Lindsay Muskies)," said Spirit head coach Dan Larmer, who had expressed extreme disappointment with how his team performed against the Muskies the previous night. "It wasn't even the same team out there."

HELD THEIR OWN

Larmer noted that the Spirit more than held their own in the first period, which ended in a 2-2 tie, while outscoring the Tigers 2-1 in the third.

"We played a real good first and third period, but we made some mistakes in the second, and Aurora capitalized. They've got some good players."

Winger Randy Stolec netted his third and fourth goals since joining the Spirit last month.

Defenceman Craig Giuliani notched his first marker, with Kevin Edgar counting his 19th, putting him one behind team leader Darcy King. Ed Kearney scored his third of the campaign.



Centre Phil Barski collected four assists.

The Spirit were without three regulars for Friday's game. First line winger Geoff Keillor injured his knee in Thursday's match, and could be out anywhere from one to two weeks, said Larmer.

Winger Joe Byles missed the game with the flu, while forward Paul Zderic was serving a suspension.

Larmer was willing to give his players the benefit of the doubt for being somewhat fatigued after a busy schedule that has seen them play 14 games over the last month, with twice a week practices as well.

NORTHERN TRIP TOOK ITS TOLL

Last weekend's gruelling road trip in northern Ontario also took its toll, he said.

"It's been a tough grind. That's a lot more hockey than what some of the players are used to. They're past the midway point of the season, and they may be suffering a little from the November-December blahs."

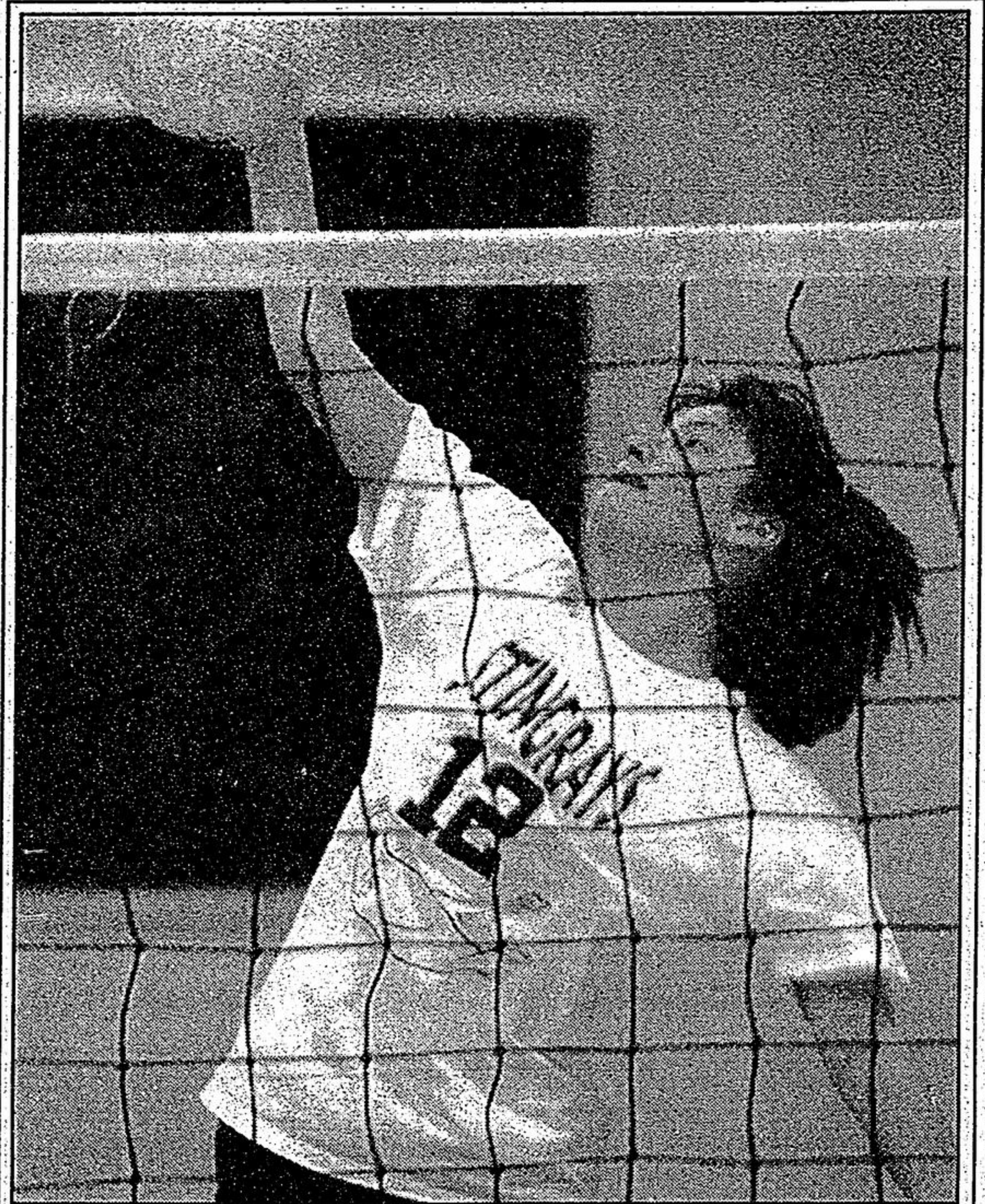
But the coach said his team has to get back on track if they're going to take a run at a playoff position.

With the Muskies and Couchiching Terriers now a full six points ahead of the Spirit in the battle for the fourth and final Phillips Division playoff spot, the Spirit has its work cut out for it.

"We've (the coaches) got to keep challenging them, but they should be able to motivate themselves."

The Spirit were to travel to Cobourg on Monday to take on the Ruddock Division Cougars, then meet the Muskies again in Lindsay on Friday.

The Sturgeon Falls Lynx are in town for a Saturday night Rec Centre date.



SPIKING UP A STORM: Stouffville Stingrays' Megan Bomberry gets set to spike this ball during first-round action against Georgetown in Saturday's Stouffville Stingrays Volleyball Tournament at Unionville High School.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Blues dodge Lightning, remain atop Over-40 loop

Herb Forgie and Steve Dabous were no man has gone for the past four weeks in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League Over-40 Division play at the Rec Centre on Sunday.

The Lightning players managed to score, against Blues' goalie Randy Osborne, breaking the goalie's string of four straight shutouts.

But the first-place Blues still managed to sneak away with a 3-2 win on goals by Randy Gray, Bruce Gribbon and George Sled. Larry Penny had two assists for the Lightning.

Meanwhile, the Senators remained five points back of the Blues in second spot with a 3-2 win over the Maple Leafs.

Blair Emmerson, Paul Guest and Rocky Copithorn had the Senators goals.

Bill Anderson and Damian Comito replied for the Maple Leafs.

Under-40 Division after the Sharks and Nordiques both won to pull even with the Devils.

SHARKS DEVOUR DEVILS

The Sharks went head-to-head with the Devils, with Ed Burkholder scoring twice in a 2-1 Sharks victory.

Paul Bergman had the Devils goal.

The Nordiques laid claim to their piece of top spot with a 7-1 thrashing of the Flames.

Dave Barss netted a pair for the Nordiques, with singles going to Kelly Burrows, Graham Summerhayes, John Barnett, Scott Naylor and Chris Leonard.

Naylor had three assists, with Brandon Pridham setting up two goals.

Steve Schneider scored for the Flames.

Gerry Ratcliff was invincible in the Flyers net as his team blanked the Canadiens 3-0.

Richard Bartley, Paul Dermondy and Steve Avoledo were the marksmen.

Tim McNeil netted a pair, and Ryan Burkholder added to

his divisional-leading scoring lead, as the Red Wings downed the North Stars 4-1.

Wayne Smith had the fourth Wings goal. Jeff Bower counted the lone Stars score.

Gary Carr netted a pair, with his 13th and 14th, to pull into a second-place tie behind Burkholder in the goals race, as the Ducks tied the Rangers 3-3.

Jamie Showers had the other Ducks goal.

Mark Savery also counted his 14th for the Rangers, who got their other goals from Dave Mehaffey and Murray Pat-tenden.

Mike Sear scored twice to enable the Kings to hold the Bruins to a 4-4 tie.

Chris Miller and Troy Cadaret rounded out the Kings scoring, with Cadaret picking up two assists as well.

The Bruins goals came off the sticks of Jamie Dunbar, Greg Roberts, Dave Showers and Tim Folowell. Roberts also chipped in with two assists to up his divisional leading points total to 33.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



RANDY OSBORNE

Randy has been perfect in net while posting four consecutive shut outs for the Blues in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League 40 and Over Division play.

Way to guard the twine tent, Randy!

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The Ducks got goals from Dale Vick and Paul Robinson, with Jack Holder clicking for the Whalers, in a 2-1 win for the Ducks.

Bob Smith, Frank Jago and Joe Infurnari lit the lamp to lead the Black Hawks to a 3-1 win over the Flyers.

Garth Krisman had two assists for the winners.

There's a three-way tie for first place in the

Paisley figures well at Eastern Canadian divisionals

Clinton Paisley was draped in gold at the Eastern Canadian Divisional Skating Championships in Peterborough last weekend.

The 16-year-old Goodwood area resident finished in first place overall in the Novice Men's category at the meet.

The former Uxbridge Skating Club member posted second-place finishes in both the short program and in his free skate. This was good enough to earn him a first

place overall finish.

Paisley's big win qualifies him for the Canadian Men's Figure Skating Championships, which will be held in Hamilton next month.

Paisley advanced to the Eastern Canadian Divisional finals by taking the gold at the Central Ontario Sectionals in November.

Paisley has skated the last five years as a member of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club.