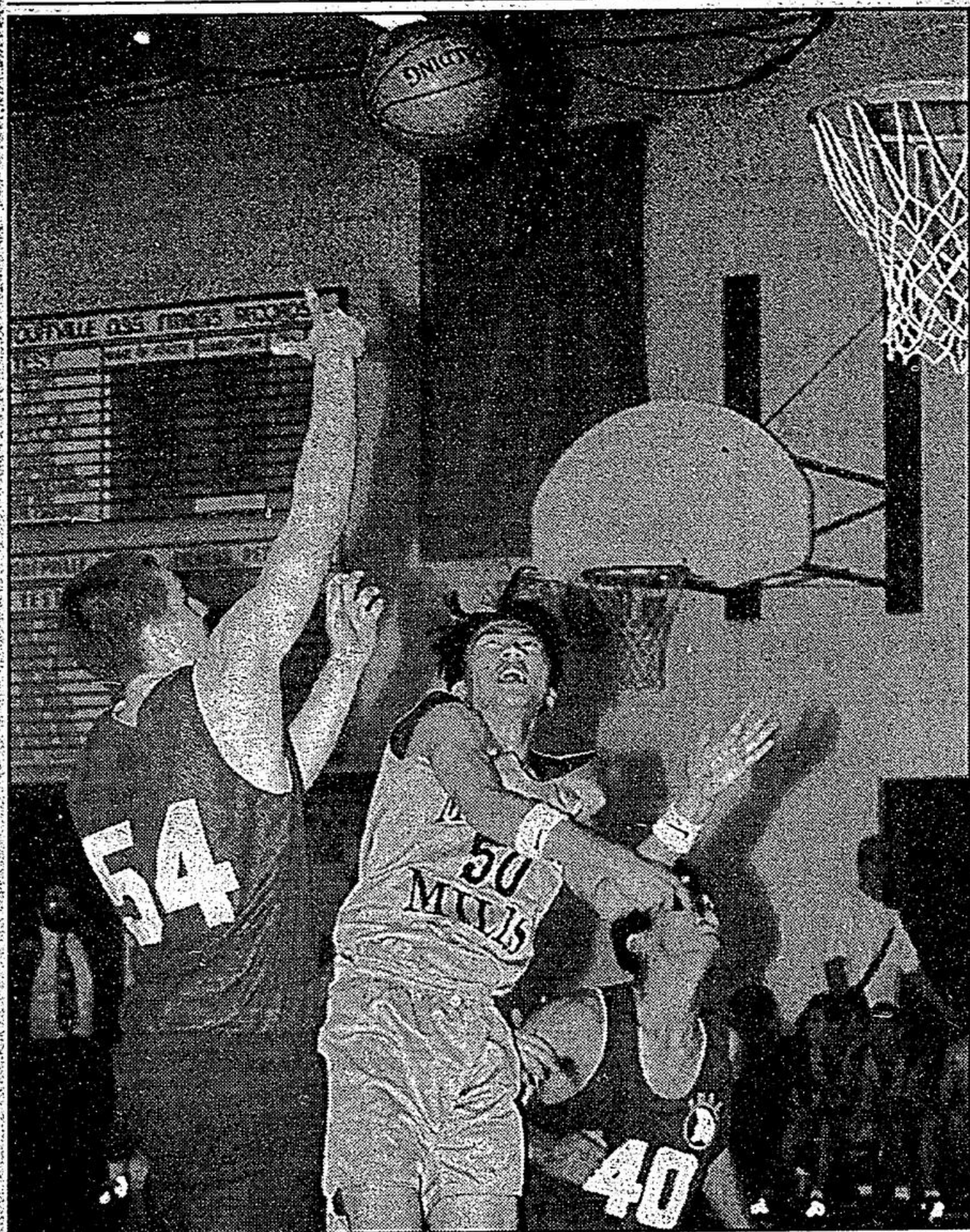


# Sports & Leisure

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**HOOPING IT UP:** Stouffville District Secondary School's Benny Bellissimo (54), takes this shot over Milliken Mills' counterpart Steve Looi during Wednesday's YRAA midget boys' basketball contest at Stouffville District Secondary School. The visiting Knights won this game 79-50. Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Spartans cage win and loss in opener

A quartet of Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) teams hit the court Wednesday as the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) boys' basketball and girls' volleyball seasons got under way.



The Spartans squads achieved mixed results. The short staffed junior boys' Spartans basketball team managed a gutsy 68-62 home court win over the Milliken Mills H.S. Knights.

The Spartans used a determined defensive approach to back up the offensive efforts of Jim Apolonatos and Mark Burkholder, who picked up 17 and 14 points respectively. B.J. James had 11 points, with Cory Turchan hitting for 11.

The midget Spartans dropped a 79-50 decision to a more experi-

enced Knights crew in the other half of the hoops twin bill.

Ben Bellissimo sunk 18 points for the Spartans, who went with a full roster of 22 players, most rookies, for the game. Shane Timms had a solid game at guard with seven points, while Curtis Cromwell showed outstanding hustle. Jason Davis had six points, Jon Ferguson four.

### GIRLS SERVE UP WINS

Meanwhile in Markham, the Spartans senior girls' volleyball team was sweeping to victory over Brother Andre C.H.S. and Markham D.H.S. in their season opener.

The midget SDSS crew swept their Brother Andre opponents two straight, but were in turn swept by Markham.

The midget Spartans boys' basketball team prepared for the new season with a 71-64 exhibition game victory over Uxbridge S.S.

on Monday.

Tim Lowrie, Timms and Bellissimo each picked up 14 points, while Ferguson added 10.

The midgets are once again being coached by Andy Cherkas, who will share the load with the school's former senior basketball coach Jim Fletcher.

Returning to coach at the midget level for the first time in 11 years, Fletcher said he and Cherkas are out to mould their young team for the future.

"We're coming, we're building to take a run at the YRAA AA title in three or four years (as a senior team)," said Fletcher.

Grover Bradford has returned to coach the junior hoops squad, with assistance from Carey Spiece.

The SDSS teachers will face off against the school's OAC students hockey team on Monday at 2:30 p.m. at the Rec Centre.

## Major novices on a roll

A short staffed Stouffville IDA major novice Clippers team picked up five of six points in a recent three-game road trip, while the novice selects showed great heart in earning a tie in their first six matches of the season.

The IDA outfit, reduced to just nine skaters due to illness, got a goal from Luke Mabley on a penalty shot, and a second marker from Warren Tayles in a 2-0 win over the Markham Waxers.

Mabley and Eric Gainsbrook assisted on Tayles' tally.

Chris Schell, Chris Stewart and Taylor Campbell scored to enable the Clippers to tie Whitby 3-3 in their next outing. Tayles had two assists and Gainsbrook, one.

The Clippers closed out the road swing with a 4-1 win over Innisfil.

Mabley netted the hat trick, and Tayles, one. Assists went to Campbell (two), Brandon Jupp, Luke Harrison

and Gainsbrook. Jake Baldson was solid in net.

The novice selects, co-sponsored by Fairgate Homes, Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc. and Stewart's Truck Wrecking Ltd., dropped their first three games to Pickering 6-0, East Gwillimbury 2-1 and Bradford 2-0 before earning a 3-3 tie with Uxbridge.

Justin Lawrence scored Stouffville's lone marker in their loss to East Gwillimbury. Jeremy Schell and Wesley Davis earned assists.

Ben Sampson netted a pair in the tie with Uxbridge and Lawrence, one. Salvo Andolina, Davis and Schell earned assists.

The selects then got two goals from Simpson and singles from Lawrence, Schell and Mikhael Metauro in a 10-5 loss to Keswick. The selects rounded out play with losses to Richmond Hill 3-0 and Newmarket major novices 8-1.

## Major atoms sail away with win, tie and loss

The major atom Clippers had two wins and a tie in recent league play, while posting a win, a tie and a loss at a tournament in Bradford last weekend.

The town's minor atom selects were almost as busy, winning their league contest before skating to the finals in the Woodville atom tournament on the weekend.



The major atom squad started off with a 5-2 league win over Whitby, then followed up with a 2-2 tie with Bradford at home. The Clippers waxed the floor with Ajax 7-2, before finally falling 5-2 to Innisfil. The three games saw the team led by Justin Lyons with five goals, and Joshua Spang with three. Gabriel Barnett and Todd Nesbitt each had two goals and three assists. Lee Maxwell had two goals, Len Spiteri and Brandon Wild also had goals. Other assists went to Brad Steckley (3), Wild (2), Spiteri, Richard Little, Cam MacKenzie, Luke Dawson and Scott Robinson.

The Clippers started off the Bradford tourney with a 2-2 tie against Acton, but were blanked 4-0 by Bracebridge in their second outing. A vastly improved Clippers team edged Niagara Falls 2-1 as Stouffville goal keeper Dom Metauro excelled.

Scoring for the Clippers in the three games were Spang and Steckley (one goal, one assist each), Wonch, and Nesbitt with a breakaway game winner against Niagara Falls. Lyons, Robinson, and Wild assisted. Adam Davis was rock solid in goal for two periods. The Clippers are at home to Sutton this Sunday (Dec. 14) at 5:10 p.m.

### MINOR ATOM SELECTS EARN WIN

The minor atom selects got a pair of goals from Nicholas Singh, and a single from Kyle Buckley, in a 3-1 league victory over Richmond Hill. Assists went to Kurtis Paisley (2), Chris Rand, Brendan McNeely and Buckley.

At the Woodville tournament, the Stouffville select squad started off by defeating a major atom squad from Mariposa by a 4-1 count.

They continued their streak with a 2-1 win over Oshawa's major atom team, but were finally stopped by a well rested Uxbridge outfit in the championship game.

Tournament scoring was done by: Daniel James (two goals), Singh (two goals), Brad Hulshof (one goal), Paisley (one goal, one assist), David Hogg (two assists), Buckley and Dale Williams (one assist each).



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