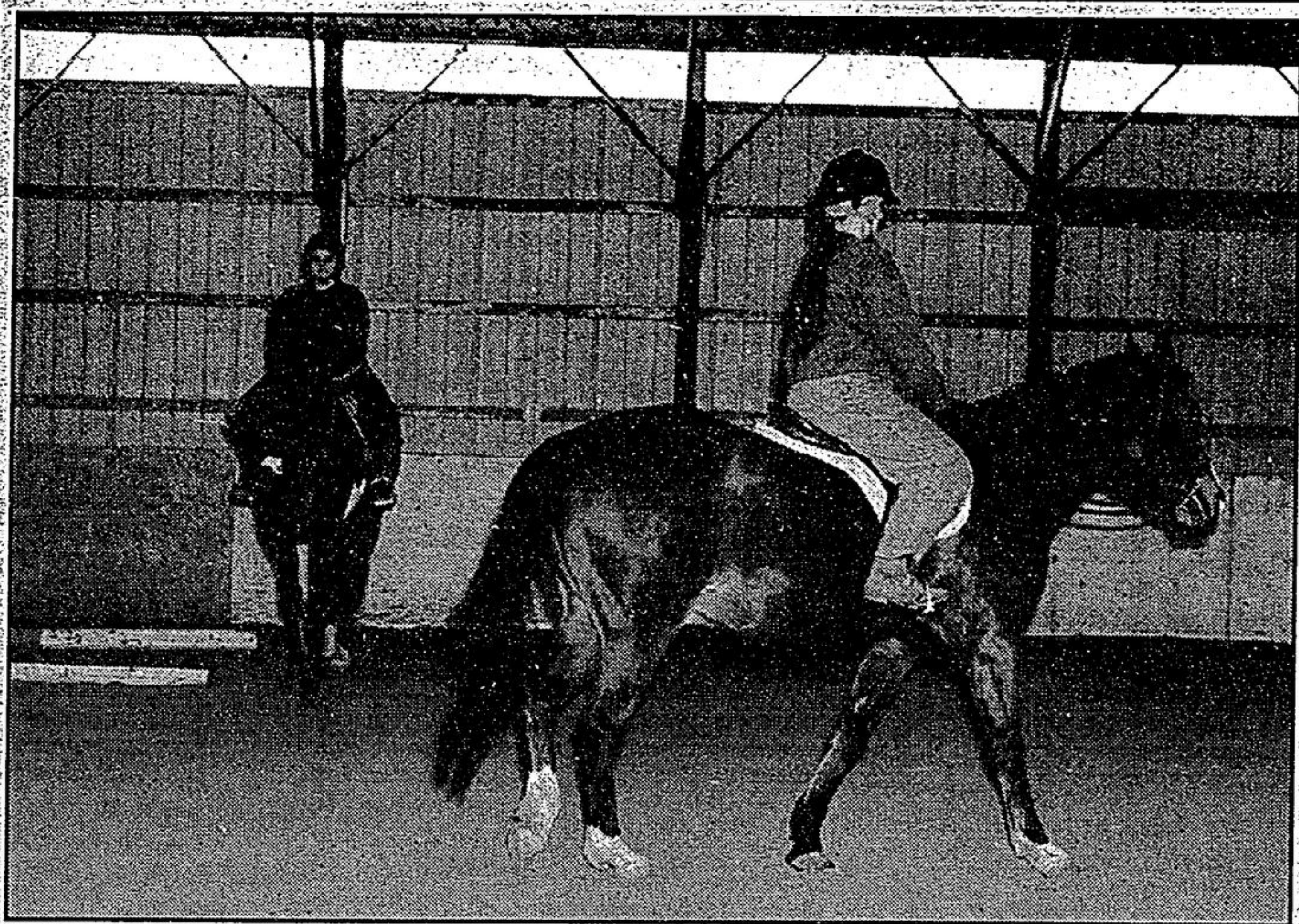


THE TRIBUNE

Sports & Leisure

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NO HORISING AROUND HERE. The Greenwinds Equestrian Centre was a busy place on Saturday as Candace Rahey (foreground) and her mount, Hal, along with her sister, Carla riding Bert, were warming up their horses for a lesson. The pair have been riding horses for 12 years.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

Here's the lowdown on minor hockey situation

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) vice-president Andy Cartwright would like to clear up some misunderstandings brought about by the recent settlement between the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League (MTHL) and all other Ontario Hockey Federation organizations.



Sports Notes

Bruce Stapley

"These areas of the agreement effect the WSMHA and residents of Stouffville playing outside the WSMHA," notes Andy.

"I am hoping you can find room in the paper to print the following highlights of the agreement as they affect players from Stouffville."

Andy, you have the floor.

1) The newly formed Lake Ontario Region does not include Stouffville.

2) Stouffville players at the "AAA" level must still try out for our affiliate, the Richmond Hill Stars.

3) Players released by the "AAA" Stars may then try out for any team in the Lake Ontario Region, at the AAA level only.

4) Any team outside of the OMHA signing a Stouffville player at the "AAA" level must

use one of their import cards.

5) A player from Stouffville who is currently in the MTHL, in order to stay there, must have been playing for the same team in both the 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons.

6) All other Stouffville residents in the MTHL must return to Stouffville next season.

7) Stouffville residents cannot play at the "AA" or "A" levels anywhere else but in Stouffville.

8) All players trying out for Richmond Hill (Stars) must have a "permission to skate form" from the WSMHA.

A big thank you to Andy for taking the time to straighten out these grey areas.

Hopefully this will help clear up any misunderstandings.

Anyone who is still uncertain should contact Andy at 640-6796.

BRUINS TO HOLD NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Bruins Alumni are holding a New Year's Eve dance at the Uxbridge Community Centre, which is part of the arena building. For ticket information call Tim Evans at work at 1-800-263-2000.

Spirit come up empty handed

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville will be out to hand the near-invincible Collingwood Blues a rare defeat when the two teams face off Thursday evening at the Rec Centre.

The Spirit are looking to get back on track after a pair of weekend losses in Provincial Junior A Hockey League action.

The Stouffville crew was blanked 4-0 Friday night in Lindsay by a Muskies squad that has mastered the art of boring but effective hockey.

At the Rec Centre on Saturday night, the Spirit couldn't hold an early 3-0 lead as they were upended 8-5 by the Sturgeon Falls Lynx in a Northern Ontario Junior Hockey Association interlocking match.

The Muskies, who are owned by former National Hockey League coach Roger Neilson, caught the visiting Spirit in the "trap", a term used to describe the defensive style of play made famous by Neilson as a coach.

Spirit head coach Dan Larmer said while the method may be effective for teams without an abundance of talent, it's the best way to kill both talent development and fan interest.

"It wins hockey games, but it doesn't develop hockey players," mocked Larmer. "It might keep you at the .500 level, but no one's ever won a champi-

onship with it."

The Spirit were done in by a pair of no-show second periods in both weekend matches.

The Muskies outscored the Spirit 2-0 while holding a 22-7 edge in shots on goal in the middle stanza Friday, while Sturgeon Falls collected a quintet of markers to carry a 5-4 edge into the third.

The Spirit attempted a rally in the third, but surrendered a pair of empty net goals in the dying moments.

"The second period has been our nemesis all season," lamented Larmer. "We were okay in the other four periods."

The good news for the Spirit on Saturday was the pair of shorthanded markers picked up by the team's bulldog centreman Ed Kearney.

The goals gave the player dubbed "the fireplug" five on the season as he continues to bedazzle the spectator and befuddle opponents with his hustling, effective and entertaining style of play.

Kevin Edgar also netted a pair, giving him 22 on the year. Edgar earned an assist as well.

Darcy King picked up his team-leading 23rd marker, while adding an assist. Defenceman Jeff Marshall had two set ups as well.

The Spirit begin a four-game week when they travel to Ajax tonight to play the Ruddock Division cellar-dwelling Axemen.

After Thursday night's home date with Collingwood, it's off to Couchiching to play the Terriers Friday. The Stouffville team is in Aurora to play the Tigers Sunday.

The Spirit are in last place with 22 points, just two behind the fifth place Terriers.

Bantam girls ice victories

It was a winning weekend for the Transamerica Life bantam AA girls' rep hockey team.

Gillian Apps scored with just seven seconds to play as the Stouffville girls edged Burlington 3-2 Saturday on the road.

Shannon Ingall was perfect in the Stouffville net in a 3-0 win over Aurora at home Sunday.

Lindsay McCafferty and Laura Johnston had the other Stouffville goals against Burlington. Julia Summerhill was called upon to make several key saves in the Stouffville net, including one on a breakaway with 30 seconds left in the game.

Against Aurora on Sunday, Christina Anderson led the way with two goals. McCafferty had the other.



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