

# THE TRIBUNE Sports & Leisure

## Spirit tame Tigers in Aurora

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

The Spirit of Stouffville played the Grinch in Aurora on Sunday. But it didn't seem to bother Spirit coach Dan Larmer and his staff at all.

The Spirit closed out 1997 with a well played 6-5 victory, with the upset sending the Provincial Junior A Hockey League's Phillips Division second-place Tigers and their fans home feeling less than festive.

"It was a good game," gloated Larmer. "Once again we proved we can play with anybody in this league."

The triumph was the second in three games for the last-place Spirit against divisional front runners. The Stouffville crew knocked off first-place Collingwood last Thursday night

at the Rec Centre.

However, the Spirit missed a glorious opportunity to pull even with the fifth place Couchiching Terriers when they fell 5-2 Friday in a road game Larmer described as comatose.

"It was a very boring game, there was no emotion," said Larmer, noting that each team took but one penalty in the lacklustre affair. "The fans should have been given their money back."

The Spirit showed they came to play Sunday in Aurora when they took a 2-0 lead just five minutes into the game.

The Tigers made it 2-1 by the end of the period, with each team netting a trio of goals in the middle 20 minutes.

The Spirit extended their lead to 6-4 in the third, with the Tigers closing out the scoring on a goal with just 13 seconds to play after adding a sixth attacker.

Larmer said the two big wins against the top teams in the division proved what his team is capable of when they're focussed.

"You're not going to have a tougher weekend than Collingwood and Aurora. We can stick with anybody. We just have to show up."

Kevin Edgar had two goals and two assists to lead the way in Sunday's win. Linemate Darcy King also had a pair of goals. Geoff Keillor, who has been put on a line with Randy Stolec and Joe Byles, scored twice as well, giving him 11 goals on the season despite missing numerous games due to injury. Cory Lloyd was sharp in the Spirit net, facing 40 shots. Phil Barski and Jeff Marshall each had two assists.

On Friday, it was King and Edgar scoring for Stouffville. King leads the team with 28 goals, while Edgar is one behind him. Edgar has pulled even with King in second place in the East Conference scoring race.

**HARPER TOUGH TO BEAT**

Andrew Harper was back in the Spirit goal Friday after posting his first Junior A win the previous night. The rookie saw 27 shots and was solid said Larmer, who

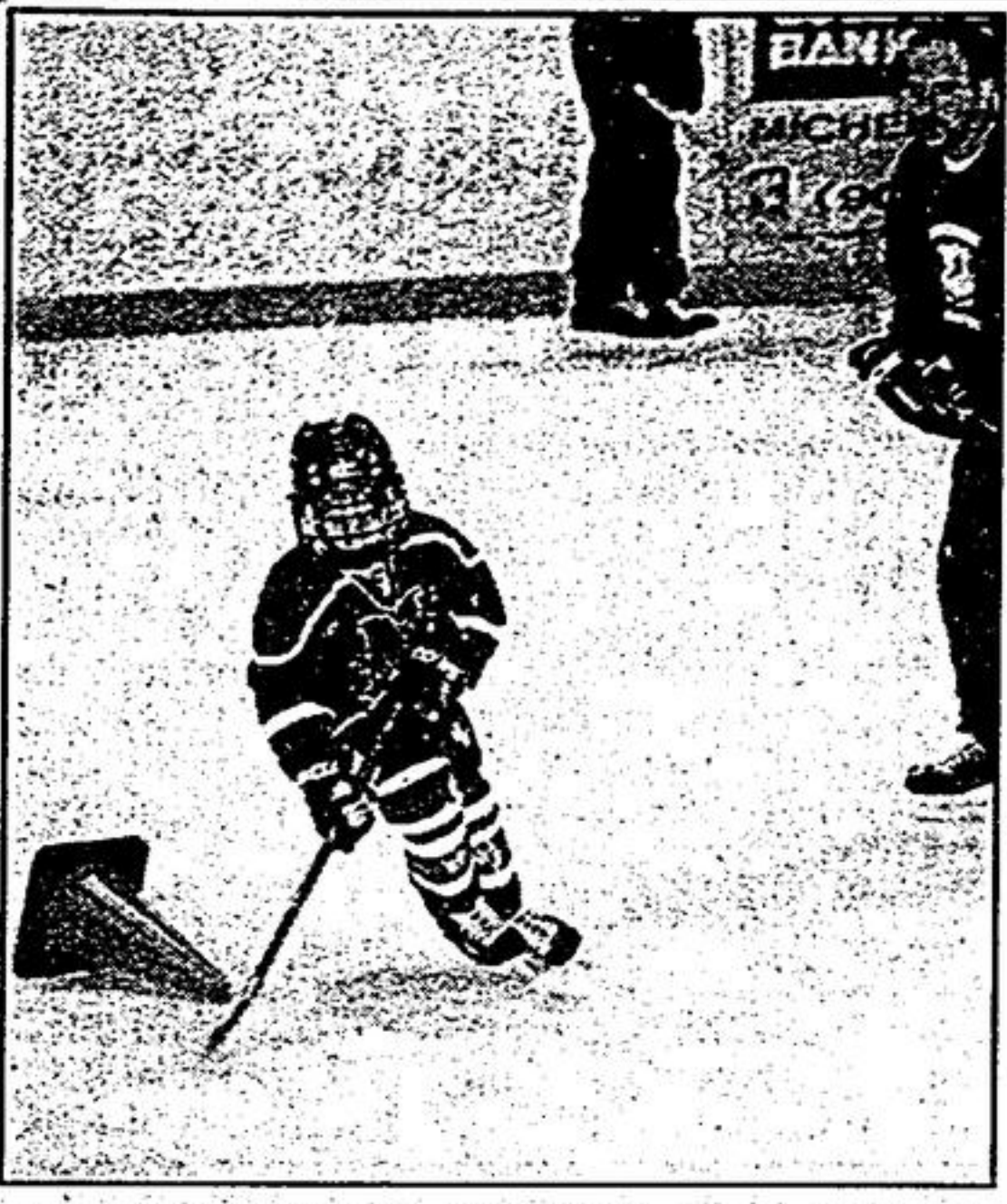
has been impressed with what he's seen from Harper.

"He plays the puck better than any goalie in our division. The guys have confidence in him."

The Spirit have now won 13 games, five more than all of last season. They sit four points behind Couchiching, six back of the fourth place Lindsay Muskies.

The Spirit will take part in the 1997 Newmarket Junior A Showcase Tournament which gets under way Saturday. The Stouffville squad plays Bramalea of the West Conference 11 a.m. Saturday at the Ray Twinney Complex. They face off against the Cobourg Cougars at 6 p.m. the same day at the Aurora Community Centre, then close out the preliminary round Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Newmarket against Georgetown of the West Conference. The playoff round goes Monday and Tuesday with the final Tuesday night at the Twinney Centre.

The Spirit return to league action Jan. 2.



**FEET DON'T FAIL ME NOW:** Brent Neilly, a member of the Newmarket minor novice select team, gets some words of encouragement from power skating instructor Gary Unitas (right), as he turns the corner during this power skating drill that he participated in at the Rec Centre on Saturday.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

## Savery nets three to help Rangers cool off Flames

Mark Savery took over the Under 40 divisional goal scoring lead when he netted a trio of markers to power the Rangers to a 4-3 win over the Flames in Stouffville Amateur Hockey League play at the Rec Centre on Dec. 10.

Savery's outburst gave him 17 goals on the season. Dave McNaught notched the other Rangers marker. Dave Mehaffey had three assists, with Dan Maillet assisting on two goals. Tom Hammond, Jeff King and Shawn Leonard had the Flames goals. Steve Schneider earned two assists.

The Devils got a pair from Brent Brown, and a single from Dave Beauchamp, as they managed to remain in first place with a 3-3 tie with the Kings.

Lee Brown assisted twice for the Devils. Mark Paganelli had all three Kings goals, with Chris Miller and Mike Sear each assisting twice.

The Sharks kept pace with a 3-3 tie against the Bruins. Ed Burkholder, Paul Jarko and Ross Geiger scored for the Sharks. Divisional points scoring leader Greg Roberts had a goal for the Bruins, who also got scores from Brad Stevens and Dan McNaught.

Scott Connor had two goals, to go with solos from Pat Madigan, Scott Dunsmoor and Gary Carr, as the Ducks downed the Canadiens 5-2.

Madigan and Carr each had two assists. Terry Porter and Dennis Zuccolin had the Habs goals.

The Red Wings upset the Nordiques 4-3 as Steve Balsdon, Bob Smith, Steve Ryan and Steve Schell clicked for the winners.

Ryan Burkholder picked up two assists from the Wings. Scott Taylor, Dave Manilla and John Barnett replied for the Nords. Ian Billich, Joe O'Connor and Lee Wideman scored to lift the Flyers past the North Stars 3-1.

Steve Avoleto set up a pair for the Flyers. Brian Zeigler had the lone Stars score.

### BLUES DROWN DUCKS

In Over 40 Division action Sunday, the Blues continued to run off and hide with a 4-2 win over the Ducks.

Steve Del Zotto, Bruce Gribbon, Wayne McMann and divisional scoring leader Rick Glen clicked for the Blues. Bill Corner and Paul Robinson were the Ducks marksmen, with Dave Vick assisting on both scores.

Frank Wildman had both Flyers goals in a 2-2 tie with the second-place Senators.

Dave Farlow and Al McNaught countered for the Sens.

Gary Husbands lit the lamp twice, to go with singles by Dean Tremaine and Graham Williams, as the Lightning harpooned the Whalers 4-1.

Doug Gornall earned two assists for the Lightning. Peter Turner had the Whalers goal. The Black Hawks got a two goal effort from Ron Martyn in a 5-2 win over the Maple Leafs. Frank Jago, Joe Infurari and Don Lloyd rounded out the Hawks, scoring. Bob Smith and Dave Deeley each collected two assists for the Hawks. The Leafs goal came from Charlie Ramsey and Bill Anderson.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**ANDREW HARPER**

Andrew, a Stouffville minor hockey product, was razor sharp in his first ever Provincial Junior A Hockey League goal tending start as he helped the Spirit of Stouffville to a 6-3 win over the Phillips Division leading Collingwood Blues Dec. 18 at the Rec Centre.

*The Puck Stops Here, Andrew!*  
Sponsored by:  
Stouffville IGA 6327 Main St., Stouffville

## Public skating this Friday and Saturday

The Stouffville Amateur Hockey League (SAHL) is playing Santa Claus.

The men's hockey league has decided to cancel its Christmas week tournament and offer the ice time for free public skating, and some pick-up hockey for its members. As a result, there will be free family

skating this Friday from 5-8 p.m., and Saturday from 5-7 p.m.

SAHL players will be invited to play some pick up hockey from 8-10 p.m. both nights.

With enrolment light for the SAHL tournament, league president Don Moore said

his executive decided to cancel the event and donate their ice time for public skating, and for league players to have some fun.

"The ice time was all paid for, so we thought it would be nice to do something for the town," said Moore.

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# BOXING DAY BLAST

SEE MARKHAM STORE AD ON PAGE A8

## DECEMBER 26TH, 27TH, 28TH

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Markham  
5328 Highway #7  
(905) 471-4653

Scarborough  
505 Ellesmere Road  
(416) 285-9717

Thornhill  
84 Doncaster Avenue  
(905) 731-4424

Whitby  
1916 Dundas Street, East  
(905) 723-4653

Hours: Friday 26th, Saturday 27th: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sunday 28th: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm